



AAUW-CHAPEL HILL BRANCH

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FROM THE PRESIDENT: BEA KELLER

Recently, WRAL ran a program entitled "Every Fourth Child . . . Still." We are introduced to a family (a mother and 3 girls) who 20 years ago lived in a rundown shack in Halifax County, NC, with no electricity, no running water or inside toilet. Today, the mother lives in a manufactured home with one daughter and her 3 children. The mother has a job, and clears \$500 each week. Her daughter struggles to find jobs, and at best, works part-time jobs. Jobs are rare in their rural county. Had the family's situation improved? Yes! Was the cycle of poverty broken? No, but the mother's 8th grade education was bettered by her daughter's 10th grade education, and one could hope that her grandchildren would graduate from high school and get more education beyond that level. A second family lived in Durham. Neither parent worked in the four member household. They relied on the 3 year old's social security check (\$710 per month) and \$500 in food stamps to survive each month. They owned no car and with careful planning could make it through the month. The parents could

only find jobs at the minimum wage, but by hiring on, they would lose more benefits than they would gain from their salaries. Furthermore, childcare costs would be prohibitive. The mother wanted to go back to school for training at some point in the future, but would clearly need financial support.

J. Larry Brown, an academic who has served in many capacities including professor of the Harvard School of Public Health, has studied hunger throughout his career. According to his research, 40 million people are going hungry every night in the U.S.; it is "clearly a silent condition." He states further that "we hurt people who are trying to get back on their feet" by punishing them for getting jobs and taking away their benefits when they won't be able to manage to make ends meet on their minimal salaries. "Poverty is a stubborn cycle in families." Both Brown and Robert Korstad, the Kevin D. Gorter Professor of Public Policy Studies and History at Duke University, feel that government policies play a crucial role in helping people out of poverty. Larry Brown—"The government needs to make an investment in people." Both Brown and Korstad specifically feel that HeadStart/

SmartStart are programs that do just that. Korstad says that N.C. has suffered from a decline in 3 industries: tobacco, textile and furniture, and the great recession in 1998 was an added burden on the state's workers. He strongly believes that cutting school budgets and other programs aimed at improving people's lives has diminished opportunities for the state's poor. Also, he says, communities must find creative solutions to helping the poor.

An interesting study by scholars from UNC-CH, Duke, and UCLA, "What Happens When the Poor Receive a Stipend?" demonstrates the social consequences of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988. In short, when tribes elected to distribute a proportion of the profits equally among its members, the supplements seemed to benefit the mental health of the poorest children most dramatically. Vickie Bradley, a Cherokee tribal health official said that the supplements eased the strain of that feast-or-famine existence. That "helps parents be better parents," she said. There are other studies that

I hope to see all of you at the library on February 15 to welcome our 3 AAUW fellows. We can be proud of our branch's contribution to the Education Opportunity Fund! Happy Valentine's!
—Bea Keller

FEBRUARY 15 MEETING (CHAPEL HILL LIBRARY) AAUW FELLOWS

Candice Jansen was a South African journalist and the founding Media Officer of the Impumelelo Social Innovations Centre before moving to Durham in 2012. Impumelelo is a national think tank for leading nonprofit ventures that solve public problems. Candice unearthed stories of the lesser known men and women behind these successes of post-Apartheid South Africa. Candice will be presenting her dissertation she is working on to complete her MA in Liberal Studies Degree at Duke University as an AAUW Fellow. Entitled *Living Rooms*, it documents the material histories of six families who live in the Cape Flats community of Retreat where she was born in Cape Town. *Living Rooms* uses the art of documentary photography to personify architec-

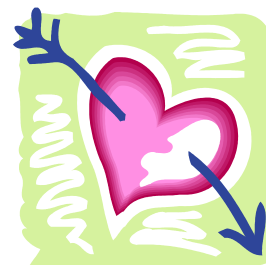
tures of poverty and the cultures of ordinary triumph that it conceals.

Melissa Guzman was born and raised in Raleigh, North Carolina. She attended Davidson College where she studied physics and dabbled in creative writing and performance poetry. After college, she moved to Jordan to teach physics at a private boarding school. In her spare time, she enjoyed learning Arabic and hiking through some of Jordan's beautiful geography. After coming back to the U.S. in August, she took a semester of courses at NC State in Aerospace Engineering as part of the Selected Professionals scholarship from AAUW. Currently, she is planning a move to a school in France focused in international space exploration and collaboration. She

will speak on *The Early Pursuits of a Space Enthusiast*.

Jessica Wilkerson is a PhD Candidate in History at UNC-Chapel Hill. Her dissertation "Where Movements Meet: Women's Activism in the Appalachian South, 1965-80" examines how women in Appalachian communities used resources from and skills learned during the War on Poverty to mount new campaigns to address welfare rights, labor rights, and gender justice. She hopes to someday teach at a college or university and to continue work on public history projects that focus on women's history. She will focus on a portion of her dissertation about *Women's Rights Campaigns in Appalachia*.

— Bea Keller



**New Member
Bernadette Pelissier
completed her
undergraduate at
Virginia
Commonwealth
University, majoring
in Sociology. She
received her
graduate degree
from
UNC Chapel Hill in
the same area.
Welcome
Bernadette!
—Genoveva Aguirre**

FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)

show that nurturing levels by a highly stressed parent suffer. UNC-CH's and Penn State's Family Life Project studies have demonstrated this theme, "Early-life poverty may harm, in part, by warping and eroding the bonds between children and caregivers that are important for healthy development."

So, what can we do as individuals? We can donate to

food banks, but we can also mentor at-risk children to get them on the path to success, and give them inspiration and hope. And, I will quote from WRAL's site because it is so well said.

"There's something else we can all do too. We can support and elect leaders who understand that public office is about serving the public and the collective greater

good, not just serving themselves and the few constituencies who supported their campaign. Poverty will only be solved when we have elected leaders who understand that investing in our poor and lifting them out of poverty can benefit all of us and our society as a whole."

— Bea Keller

MEMBER OF THE MONTH - DONNA WILSON

Donna Wilson moved to the Triangle area from Amherst, M.A. in 2011. She has had a distinguished career in higher education, both in teaching and research. In fact, she remains active in her teaching pursuits - holding two academic positions since she moved here. Currently she holds positions with Cappel University supervising many dissertations in an online program. She also is adjunct Associate Professor of Spanish Language and Literature at the University of Maryland College at Adelphi, M.D. With such a busy schedule, we really don't know when she sleeps or eats!

Dr. Wilson, a native of Columbus, O.H., received her B.A. in Spanish as well as her M.A. in Spanish and Romance Linguistics from The Ohio State University. She earned her Ph.D. in Higher Education Policy and Leadership at University of Massachusetts - Amherst. She also earned a *Certificado de Filología* from the Universidad de Salamanca in Salamanca, Spain. From 2004 to 2011 she served as Foreign Language Test Development Editor for Evaluation Systems (a division of Pearson Education) in Amherst, M.A. From 1998 to 2002, she was Associate Dean of Humanities at Greenfield Community College

in Greenfield, M.A. From 1986 to 1998 she worked first as a Professor of Spanish, Chair of the Foreign Language Department, and Chair of the Arts & Humanities Division at Highline Community College, in Des Moines, W.A. (a Seattle suburb). She also handled the college's accreditation self-study there and designed the outcomes and assessment center. She has published extensively in the journals in her field.

Donna's hobbies and interests include gourmet cooking (especially French). This is an important milestone because, "I did not know how to cook when I was first married—such a journey." In fact, one of her wedding presents was a copy of Julia Child's *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. The rest is history. She also has a keen interest in genealogy and has traced her families back 11 generations to Great Britain and western Europe. Donna and her husband, Steve, have traveled extensively in the United States, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and parts of Europe. While

teaching, Donna led several student study tours to Mexico and Spain.

She married Steve Wilson in 1968 and they recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. Steve is semi-retired from positions in municipal finance and budgeting. She and Steve are the "parents" to two black and tan dachshunds, Greta and Franz. In Donna's words, "they own us—we just live in the house."

She and her husband decided to come here because they wanted to return to a major metropolitan area, be near universities, cultural events, and be in a much warmer climate. Quoting Donna, "We are so very pleased to have moved to the Triangle. Everyone we have met is so very gracious and genuinely interested in moving forward." We are so pleased to have Donna and her family here. We hope you all will seek her out and welcome her!

—Michele Hoyman, Program Chair



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



AAUW BRANCH MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 18, 2014

Bea opened the meeting at 10:30. She introduced speakers, Robbie Madden and Florry Glasser, both active in the 1972 drive to ratify the ERA in North Carolina.

Program: Robbie reviewed the national drive. 35 states have passed the amendment. Five have rescinded their pro vote. It must have the approval of three more states to become law. In 1978 the deadline was extended.

Florry described the effort in North Carolina. In 1972 women political leaders were optimistic. However, not enough women supported it. Arguments concerned the proper role of women. They feared the loss of alimony, protective labor laws, social security and draft exemption. Phyllis Schlafly said children would be

taken from their homes. She said that the ERA was anti-male and anti-family. Sam Ervin, popular senator from NC joined her opposition. The Amendment failed in North Carolina.

A new effort to pass it is now underway. We need to recruit rural women, married women and immigrant women to assure successful passage, Go to Website ERA to follow current efforts.

Business Meeting: The local AAUW Fellows will speak at the February meeting.

This was a joint meeting with the League of Women Voters. Many of their members were also present. Genoveva introduced a new AAUW member, Bernadette Pelissier.

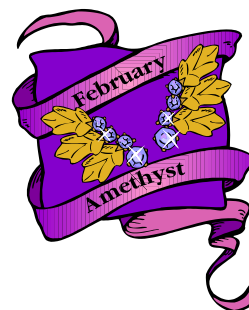
Kay White announced the plans for the Annual Literary Tea. It will be held at Extraordinary Ven-

tures, 299 S Eliot Rd. on March 5. Tickets will be \$20 each; tables for six or eight may be reserved. Posters are now available. Directions to Extraordinary Ventures will be on the tickets.

The Branch has received a grant for \$300 to be used to provide collegiate women attending an AAUW Elect Her Workshop ancillary materials. The workshop teaches young women how to campaign for political office. Many students are involved. 75 have signed up.

The March 15 program speakers will be Ellie Kinnaid, Susan Young and Jessica Porta. The subject is Sex and Female Trafficking.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30. — Mary Paterson



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.

ERA INFORMATION BY BEA KELLER

If you neglected to give Robbie Madden your information on the pink slip she handed out, there are 2 ways to do it. One is to email robertamadden@era-nc.org or you can mail it to RATIFY ERA-NC, P.O. Box 758, Black Mountain, NC 28711.

For those who missed our last meeting, Robbie is working to extend the deadline for ratification of the ERA which expired in 1982. There is precedence for this; the 27th Amendment, concerning congressional pay raises, became part of the Constitution after 203 years. It is

interesting that the U.S. has insisted that all new constitutions adopted in other nations since WWII—including Afghanistan and Iraq—include equal rights for men and women. However, our own constitution guarantees only the right to vote to women.

This is the text of the ERA. Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provi-

sions of this article. Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

If you want to take part in this effort, write or call your U.S. Senators and Representative and urge them to cosponsor SJR 15 and HJR 43 to eliminate the deadline and make ERA part of the Constitution after three more states ratify. Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard: .877.762.8762 (toll free). Explain why you support the ERA and urge them to support it when it comes up in 2015.



ANNUAL TEA MARCH 5, 2014 WITH JILL MCCORKLE

AAUW-Chapel Hill is again sponsoring a tea to raise money for fellowships/scholarships that AAUW-National gives ONLY to women. I hope all of you will once again help to make this a success. Tickets are only **\$20** each. So buy one, buy two, buy eight! We will have round tables of 8, so if you sell 6-8 tickets for a group, we will reserve a table for you. All the food, coffee and tea will be served buffet style, so you can go back as often as you want.

We will need donations of food from our members to cut down on costs. If you want to donate some food, I would suggest some of the following: finger sandwiches,

mini cupcakes, cut-up fruit, bite-sized brownies or cookies, candies, nuts, cheese and crackers or any other wonderful ideas you may have. Please call me or email me (kaywhite@earthlink.net) or sign up at our February 15th meeting.

If you need tickets to sell, please call Kay White, 919-542-1138. I can mail to you. Or you can come to our next meeting, February 15 (2 ½ weeks before the tea) to buy more tickets. You can take tickets on consignment or pay me by cash or check. Checks should be made payable to AAUW-CH. Please make sure to note the names of people who are buying tickets so we can make a name tag for them.

Last year we gave \$1,500 to AAUW-National, triple our usual donation of \$500. Let's see if we can match the \$1,500. Donations will also be graciously accepted if you cannot attend.

— Kay White



TREASURER'S REPORT, JANUARY 22, 2014

Balance in Accounts:
 Checking Acct: \$ 1,739.19
 Money Market Account:
 \$1,503.96
 Certificate of Deposit:
 \$6,610.02
 Twenty two of our members have donated \$1,320 for the 2014-2015 Carrie Heath Schwenning Scholarship

Fund. We only need \$180 to meet our obligation for the next academic year. I encourage those who have not yet donated to consider doing so. Checks should be made out to UNC- Chapel Hill, with "Schwenning Fund #6725" in the memo area.

— Karen Piplani



Book Club

The February 6th discussion of the book *My Beloved World*, by Sonia Sotomayor might be a good time for your first visit. This very real account of Judge Sotomayor's life is a great contrast to *Life After Life* by Kate Atkinson which we discussed last month. We will meet at 10 a.m. in the home of Kay White, 875 Fearington Post, 875 Millcroft, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Call Kay at 919-542-1138 for directions. In March we meet in the home of Donna Hammersley to discuss the book *The Madonnas of Leningrad*, by Debra Dean.



AAUW ANNUAL TEA WITH NC WRITER JILL MCCORKLE

MARCH 5, 3-5p.m.

at EXTRAORDINARY VENTURES

200 S. Eliot Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514



Jill McCorkle has had 5 of her books named New York Times notable books. McCorkle has received the New England Booksellers Award, the John Dos Passos Prize for Excellence in Literature and the North Carolina Award for Literature. She is a member of the Fellowship of Southern Writers.

McCorkle has taught at UNC-CH, Tufts, and Brandeis where she was the Fannie Hurst Visiting Writer. She was a Briggs-Copeland Lecturer in Fiction at Harvard for five years where she also chaired Creative Writing. She currently teaches creative writing in the MFA Program at NC State University and is a core faculty member of the Bennington College Writing Seminars. She is a frequent instructor in the Sewanee Summer Writers Program.

ALL PROFITS GO TO AAUW'S EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY FUND WHICH FUNDS FEMALE GRAD STUDENTS IN THE US AND AROUND THE WORLD

NAME: _____

NO. OF TICKETS @ \$20 _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TEL: _____

SEND TICKETS _____ OR WILL PICK UP TICKETS AT EVENT _____ (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

NAMES OF MY GUESTS: _____

Make checks out to: **AAUW-Chapel Hill** Send checks out to
Karen Piplani, 1502 Halifax St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514
email: chapelhillncaauw@gmail.com phone: 919-929-4432

