



AAUW-CHAPEL HILL BRANCH

FROM THE PRESIDENT: BEA KELLER

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A new year always brings assessment, hope for improvement, and a plan for action. During 2013, we saw a gradual improvement in the world economy, the passage of the Violence Against Women Act which widened the law's purview, and a wide variety of people joining Reverend Barber and the NAACP's Moral Mondays protest against current NC public policy. The Affordable Care Act, after a bumpy start, is finally making health insurance more accessible to Americans. We also saw, on the federal level, one of the most unproductive sessions of Congress in history. In spite of heart wrenching violence, the National Gun Association's lobby proved too strong to overcome. The North Carolina General Assembly was very productive, but one could have wished for more compassion and science in their decisions. I was pleased to hear a religious leader, Pope Francis, address the current economy of exclusion and inequality, the fallacy of trickle-down theory, and even speaking to the ideologies that would erode . . . "the right of states, charged with vigilance for the common good, to exercise any form of control". These same ideologies "defend the absolute autonomy of the marketplace and financial speculation". We have seen the effects of these ideologies this past year in

North Carolina, and NC students, the poor, the aged, and the sick will face more hardships this year. This message needs to be repeated more often.

We are all aware that manufacturing jobs in NC have been largely replaced by jobs in service-providing industries—food preparation, home health care, and retail sales. These low wage jobs don't usually provide benefits, and workers in these fields frequently require public assistance. There is a growing awareness that billion dollar businesses that pay their workers low wages are being subsidized by taxpayers. While we have seen the rosy headlines that tout that more women than men may hold jobs, more women than men live in poverty—19.5% NC women versus 16.5% NC men. North Carolina has been historically anti-union, but unionized women workers on average make 12.9% more than their non-union counterparts and 30.8% are more likely to have employer health insurance and participate in an employer sponsored retirement plan.

Our plan of action should include in part: 1.) advocating for a strong public school system at every level—elementary, secondary and higher education. Studies show that early childhood intervention helps disadvantaged children catch up. A nation that offers opportunity for all will reap the benefits of its policies. 2.) During the Reagan presidency, corporations succeeded in substantially changing public policy to facilitate outsourcing

jobs and satisfying their shareholders with bigger profits and dividends. However, this came at a cost. We need to advocate for American jobs that pay a living wage (or better) and provide basic benefits, and equal pay for equal work. 3.) Few Americans today have retirement pensions. We must safeguard Social Security as more people will depend on this monthly income. 4.) We must support fair voter rights laws which are inclusive, not exclusive. 5.) We need to work toward a fairer tax system for individuals and corporations.

I hope 2014 brings each of you good health, joy and serenity. And I hope to see you at our meeting January 18 and all our spring meetings—we have an interesting slate lined up for this spring. Please come! I leave you with two quotes as food for thought.

In a country well governed, poverty is something to be ashamed of. In a country badly governed, wealth is something to be ashamed of. Confucius

Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty, knows how extremely costly it is to be poor. James A. Baldwin

January 18 Meeting will be held in the Chapel Hill Library at 10 a.m.

"To Form a More Perfect Union" — Now is the time for the Equal Rights Amendment."

JANUARY 18 MEETING (CHAPEL HILL LIBRARY) ROBERTA MADDEN AND FLORRY GLASSER “TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION”—NOW IS THE TIME FOR THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Roberta Madden is on a mission—before her time is up on this earth, she wants to see the Equal Rights Amendment ratified. A woman of conviction and courage, Roberta served as Director of Racial and Social Justice at the YWCA of Greater Baton Rouge where she directed racial justice programs. She lobbied for the ERA in the 1970’s and testified before legislative committees. Since moving to the area in the fall of 2009, Roberta has organized the Stand Against Racism in Black Mountain and subsequent Dialogues on Race. As co-director of RATIFY ERA-NC, she is helping to organize a statewide grassroots move-

ment for the Equal Rights Amendment.

Throughout her life, local ERA activist Florry Glasser has worked tirelessly to promote family-friendly personnel policies in public, private and non-profit workplaces across the state. Florry spent a decade in state government working as a Senior Policy Analyst in the Office of Policy and Planning, NC Department of Administration. In 1997, she retired from her position as Director of the Work and Family Center at NC Equity. Florry has written numerous publications on the subjects of workplace equity, child care, gender

balance on boards and commission, and needs of women and children.

We are very fortunate to have these two exceptional women who were both involved in the earlier effort to pass the ERA speak to us. Both Roberta and Florry will help us understand the importance of this law for the women of our country.

Don’t forget—we are meeting in the Chapel Hill Public Library which is on 100 Library Dr. right off N. Estes Drive.

— Bea Keller



Good Morning Book Club will meet Thursday, January 9th at 10 a.m. at the home of Sally Rohrdanz, 750 Weaver Dairy Road, # 210, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, 919-918-3573. The book we will discuss is Life after Life, by Kate Atkinson.

REPORT ON THE SCWENNING SCHOLARSHIP

Our treasurer, Karen Piplani, reports that our members have donated \$875 to the Schwenning fund. Thank you for your generosity! In 2011, members voted to increase the amount from \$1000 to \$1500 to help cover the rising cost of tuition. Money raised this year will be for our scholarship for the 2014-15

school year. We are very proud of this scholarship; our chapter has continued the tradition of giving it to a female graduate student at UNC since 1928. It is administered by the Financial Aid Office of UNC-CH.

We are \$675 short of our intended goal of \$1500. If you haven’t donated and

intend to, please make your check payable to: “**UNC-Chapel Hill**” and put the note “**scholarship # 6725**” in the memo field on your check. Mail your check to **Karen Piplani, 1502 Halifax Rd., Chapel Hill, NC, 27514-2728.**

— Bea Keller



MEMBER OF THE MONTH - KAY WHITE

Kay White has a family connection to an interesting part of American populist history. Her maternal Grandmother spent her summers in upstate New York at Chautauqua, where the family enjoyed that program of lectures and concerts sponsored by the Chautauqua Institution. These were programs that were designed to enlighten, entertain, and educate, and were especially important in the days when the majority of the population lived in rural areas. The family had a house there, and has continued to gather there during the summer vacations to enjoy the Chautauqua programs.

I asked Kay when she had first joined AAUW. She noted that when she and her husband, Gerry, first moved to Ferrington in 2002, the community sponsored an "Organization Fair" for newcomers, in which various local clubs would explain their programs. As she passed the AAUW table wearing her Chautauqua sweatshirt, the AAUW representative came around the table, grabbed her, and told her she must join AAUW. The AAUW representative was former Chapel Hill branch President, Clara Allen.

Kay grew up in Kenilworth, Illinois, a pleasant small community north of Chicago on Lake Michigan. She was the youngest of 5 children, and had 3 brothers and one sister. Both Kay and her sister graduated from Connecticut College for Women in New London, where her mother had gone to school. After her graduation, Kay landed a job with a brokerage

firm, and during her career, worked for several investment management and brokerage firms. She had a variety of positions in 4 firms including account administrator, Treasurer, and Vice President of Operations. Kay notes that she was fortunate to have finished her career in the investment management firm where she worked for 19 years. Although brokerage firms seemed to have a certain cachet, they were dominated by a kind of macho attitude that usually prevented women from advancing. In 1990 Kay was the first woman to become a principal of her investment management firm.

In 1987, Kay went to the 30th reunion of her 8th grade class of 70. She became reacquainted with Gerry White and they discovered that they had a lot of interests in common. After a 7-year courtship, Gerry and Kay were engaged. Gerry was working in Chicago at a less-than-consuming job, and Kay was in New York working at a job she loved, so Gerry moved east to be with Kay. They were married in Chautauqua in June, 1998. Kay's sons from her first marriage walked her down the aisle.

Kay and Gerry lived in Jersey City, New Jersey, and commuted to their jobs. Kay worked in mid-town, Gerry worked in lower Manhattan.

On September 11, 2001 as Gerry was walking from his PATH train stop in the World Trade Center, he noticed flurries of paper falling from the skies, and assumed that there must be some sort of ticker-tape parade going on. When he arrived at work, he was told about what was causing all that paper in the air. Kay and Gerry had been looking for a place to retire for some time, but the attack on the World Trade Center was the catalyst that pushed them into making a final choice. They moved to Ferrington the following year.

Gerry had been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in 1995. Gerry died in May, 2012, while he and Kay were vacationing in Canada.

Kay has been a wonderful member of the Chapel Hill Chapter of AAUW. She has been Treasurer, Vice-President - Membership and President, as well as serving on committees for AAUW-Chapel Hill branch. This spring, Kay is chairing the committee for our fundraising Tea in 2014 for the AAUW Fellowships. I'm so glad that I have had a chance to get to know Kay, and to know that beneath that calm exterior lives an interesting, perceptive person with the heart of a romantic. Our branch is fortunate to have Kay as one of our members.

— Karen Piplani



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

AAUW BRANCH MEETING MINUTES, DECEMBER 7, 2013

Bea Keller called the meeting to order at 10:00.

Lisa Price introduced the speaker, Samia Saragelder, who revealed the history of the recent Egyptian Revolution.

Business Meeting

Bea announced the annual appeal for the Schwenning Scholarship. Members should send their checks to Karen

Piplani, 1502 Halifax Rd, Chapel Hill, 27514.

Bea read a brief tribute to Nelson Mandela for increasing women's rights in South Africa.

Genoveva Aguirre welcomed guests.

Karen Piplani reviewed the history of the Schwenning Fund. It was begun in 1928 as a \$100 loan. In 1950 the fund

was named the Schwenning. 1924 - the loan became a scholarship. 2012 - the amount was changed to \$1500. Women who receive the scholarship are usually from North Carolina. Hilary Owens is the most recent recipient.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35.

— Mary Paterson, Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance in Accounts:

Checking Acct: \$ 1,739.19

Money Market Account:
\$1,503.96

Certificate of Deposit:
\$6,610.02

We donated \$50.00 to the Education Fund memory of

Esther Flashner and Diane Henderson.

Our members have donated \$800.00 since the December

7 meeting to the Carrie Heath Schwenning Fund.

— Karen Piplani



IN MEMORIAM: DIANE D. HENDERSON

Diane D. Henderson was a thinker and a doer—she was valedictorian of her high school class and first in her class at Syracuse University. Upon graduation, she was granted a Fullbright Scholarship and spent a year in Strasbourg, France. After earning an M.A. in Ancient French, Diane taught French through the University of Virginia Extension Department. She became interested in computer languages, and thus began a second career at Mitre Corporation. At Mitre, she was chair of the affirmative ac-

tion committee, and among other things, addressed pay disparity between male and female employees. She was active in the Unitarian Church. She saw a need and helped found the Westgate Child Center which provided childcare to employees of Westgate Research Park. She was appointed member of the Arlington County School Board and served four years. Diane and her husband, Nelson, moved to the North Carolina Outer Banks. There, she started a chapter of the League of Women Voters and

chaired it for 5 years. Diane was elected to the town council of the Outer Banks and was instrumental in setting up recycling for the town. At Carol Woods, she was president of the Carol Woods resident association. Diane leaves behind her husband, Nelson, two daughters and a son.

—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.





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

