



American Association of University Women

July/August 2014

AAUW-Chapel Hill

From the President: Bea Keller

When I was first hired to teach in a county school system, I asked to see the curriculum for my subject. The assistant superintendent in charge of curriculum was startled, and a week later, I received a copy of the state curriculum. It was, essentially, a list of goals. The “how” was left up to the teacher. In foreign language, four skills were emphasized: listening, speaking, writing and reading. Each lesson and test involved all of these. Very good students who had mastered good rote learning skills hated the listening and the speaking parts because these required more time and different skills.

At the beginning of my career, I observed among my colleagues that some followed the curriculum and others did whatever they pleased. After end-of-course testing was mandated in a large number of subjects by the

state of North Carolina, suddenly curriculum was taken seriously by everyone.

So it is with interest that I read about the agitation and the foofaraw that surrounds the Common Core Curriculum.

AAUW supports the Common Core State Standards initiative – a state-led, voluntary effort that established a single set of educational standards for K-12 students. These standards exist already in the states’ curricula, but sometimes are sequenced differently, particularly in math. Common Core emphasizes learning through reading, writing, speaking, and listening. According to Common Core’s website, the standards are: 1.) research and evidence based, 2.) clear, understandable, and consistent, 3.) aligned with college and career expectations, 4.) based on rigorous content and the application

of knowledge through higher-order thinking skills, 5.) built upon the strengths and lessons of current state standards, and 6.) informed by other top-performing countries to prepare all students for success in our global economy and society. The methodology and materials are left up to the teachers, which, in most cases, involve states and districts choosing textbooks and ancillary materials. The curriculum would be used nationally, and teachers could share ideas and lesson plans. Factors in states that consistently scored high could be studied, and used to improve lower scoring states. Its intent is to level the playing field among all school districts, large or small, wealthy or poor, and their constituents.

The critics claim that

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Summertime

AAUW–Chapel Hill Calendar of Speakers for 2014–2015

Thanks to outstanding recommendations from our Chapel Hill Chapter membership, the Program Planning Committee Donna Wilson (Chair), Bea Keller, Donna Hammersly, Michele Hoyman, Nan Nixon, and Lisa Price, convened in June to begin planning and confirming speakers for this year’s monthly meetings which begin in September. From this meeting, your Program Planning Committee has selected and extended invitations to an excellent and diverse array of speakers for this next year. Below is a list of dates and confirmed speakers and/or topics scheduled for our meetings. The Committee’s program planning work is currently ongoing and updates about future speakers and confirmations will be forthcoming for all

September 20 – Sue Tolleson-Reinhart, “Women & the Vote in North Carolina”

members in upcoming newsletters. All programs, unless otherwise noted, are the 3rd Saturday of the month. Social hour is from 10:00 -10:30 AM. Programs and business meeting begin at 10:30 AM. Please check the monthly newsletters for confirmation and dates for all scheduled speakers. We look forward to seeing everyone this year and know that you will enjoy the diverse group of speakers whom we have invited to speak on pertinent North Carolina, national and international issues.

September 20 - Sue Tolleson-Reinhart, “Women and the Vote in North Carolina”

October 18 – Janet Hoy, “North Carolina-Take the Money”. The real facts about Medicaid Expansion in

North Carolina.

November 15 – Dr. Bill Rohe, UNC, “Research Triangle Park: Then and Now”

December 6 – Ratma Swaminathan, “Women in India”

January Date TBA – Panel: Women in the Clergy. Speakers: Emma Akpan, Jen Feldman, Susannah Smith.

February 21 - AAUW Research Fellows in the Triangle. Our branch will host 2-3 Research Fellows who are studying at nearby universities. Speakers TBA a later date.

March 21 – Environmental Issues in North Carolina. Speakers TBA at a later date.

April 18 – Panel Discussion: Role of the Arts in Chapel Hill. Speakers TBA at a later date.

– Donna Wilson Vice President for Programming

Membership Report

Twenty two members have renewed their membership plus we have four new members as of 6/22/14. Thank you! For those who haven’t renewed, we extend a gentle reminder to send a check made out to: AAUW-CH Branch and send to: **Genoveva Aguirre, 709A West Main St., Carrboro, NC 27510.**

Bernlohr, Doris

Clarke-Pearson, Kathleen

Effron, Marion	Holland, Jan	Rapoza, Morita
Ruth Freed	Jeroloman, Amy	Riley, Margaret
Green, Jean	Keller, Bea	Rosser, Randye
Hamilton, Lelia	Koeberl, Dona	Samulski, Ricka
Hammersly, Donna	Minette, Linda	Smalley, Sandy
Hendricks, Caywood	Mitchell, Norma	Whisnant, Anne
Herndon Elaine	Passero, Sandra	White, Kay
Herring, Margaret	Piplani, Karen	Wilson, Donna

– Genoveva Aguirre

Member of the Month – Sandy Passero

Our new recording secretary, Sandy Passero, is a classicist at heart. Originally, Sandy wanted to major in Greek and Roman Literature, but was concerned that such a degree might make it difficult to find a job. She combined her love of reading with an interest in how different cultures think, deciding on a major in comparative literature. After completing her undergraduate degree, she worked as a researcher for *MD Medical News-magazine*, a cultural magazine for physicians. She also freelanced a story on Graham Greene and Manuel De Falla for the magazine. This job was followed by a short



stint writing for *The Rockland Review*, a local paper in Rockland County, NY, which led to jobs with two jewelry trade magazines, *National Jeweler* and then *Modern Jeweler*. Both of these magazines required travel; with *Modern Jeweler*, she traveled to Paris and Arezzo, Italy, to report on jewelry shows.

In the late 70's, Sandy went back to school and completed her M.A.T. in Applied Linguistics at Fairleigh Dickinson University. She taught English as a Second Language for many years. After her retirement, she continued teaching English to Students of Other Languages (ESOL) at the Carrboro Literacy Center on a volunteer basis.

Sandy drives frequently to

McLean, Virginia to spend time with her daughter and her family which includes three grandchildren (a grandson at Madison University, a granddaughter at Miami University in Ohio, and a granddaughter in high school).

About ten years ago, Sandy started taking piano lessons. She played "Blue Skies," at the Palisades Mall in Rockland, NY to help raise funds for a Hospice group. Bravo, Sandy! She loves going to plays and concerts, and even named her newly adopted puppy mill dog Jazzy in honor of one of her favorite music genres. We are pleased to welcome Sandy to our board, and look forward to her participation and contributions.

— Bea Keller

Treasurer's Report, June 27, 2014

Our Checking Account currently has a balance of: \$1826.69. Of this amount, \$500 is being reserved for Tea fund-raiser expenses for next year, leaving a balance of \$1326.69 for general expenses. Our Money Market Savings Account has a balance of \$1,504.03, and our CD amount is \$6,433.27.

We have donated \$1,600 (out of a profit of \$2,100.00 from the fund-raiser "Tea with Jill" last March) to the AAUW Educational Opportunity Fund. As mentioned before, \$500.00 of the profit is being held for expenses for next year's fund-raiser.

We will be contributing to the

AAUW Legal Action Fund before the end of the year. The amount of that donation has yet to be determined, but has been \$100.00 in the past

— Karen Piplani, Treasurer

April 12, 2014 Plenary Meeting Minutes

After introductory remarks by President Bea Keller, *Carrboro Poetica*, five local poets, read from their poems. Susan Spalt commented in her poems that without poetry, we read life like a map. Barbara Kenyon spoke of life as a minister's child, and read Phyllis Green's poems as well. Sara Claytor gave us an aperçu into growing up in Warren County. Celia Steele likened shooing away a swallow making its nest on her porch to the

mass dispersal of undocumented immigrants in Calais, France last year. Branch members were able to buy their books if they so wished.

Genoveva Aguirre, Membership Vice-President, introduced guests and our newest members: Caywood Hendricks and Randye

Rosser.

Kay White inducted Donna Wilson as Program Vice-President and Sandy Passero as Recording Secretary. Bea Keller thanked Kay and Sandy Smalley for all their help and welcomed Donna and Sandy as new members of the board. The branch then enjoyed a wonderful potluck lunch.

Submitted by: Mary Paterson/Bea Keller

April Minutes

Presidents Message (continued)

there is already too much testing in the schools. In North Carolina, before I retired, in subjects requiring end-of-course testing, students were tested, and if they failed, they could elect to attend review classes and be tested again. Days of testing mean fewer days of instruction each school year. It is unclear if the Common Core Curriculum would add tests or not. However, without testing, how else can you efficiently and fairly judge if learning is taking place? The additional testing, critics argue, would be a boon to the testing industry, and cost more. Other criticisms are more political: one western website claimed that the dictatorial Federal Government was taking over the schools and

that no voters in the state had endorsed the curriculum. Our own legislators voted to repeal any reference to the Common Core standards in the state curriculum because of overreach by the government in Washington.

The following paragraphs are taken from the national AAUW website. "AAUW's own research has shown that large discrepancies exist in student achievement by income level and by race or ethnicity. Students who graduate from high school in states with lower math standards may be ill prepared for the rigors of college and science, technology, and math careers. For girls, this disadvantage, combined with stereotype threat, can mean shying away from

STEM fields completely.

The Common Core will help close that achievement gap by ensuring that all students in the United States are held to the same expectations in reading and math. Lisa Maatz, AAUW vice president of government relations comments that, "We will not stand silent in the face of political shenanigans that seek to undermine the Common Core's promise of educational equity for all students regardless of their zip code."

I hope all of you are enjoying your summer, and look forward to seeing you at our first meeting, Saturday, September 20th.

— Bea Keller



CHAPEL HILL BRANCH, AAUW

DUES BREAKDOWN

National \$49

State \$11

Branch \$10

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: _____