

AAUW-Chapel Hill Branch



From the President: Bea Keller

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Signs of spring abound and, in spite of a long lasting warm fall, we are ready for it. But we have serious business this spring—primary elections that may be more complicated than ever and an ugly fight that appears to be looming regarding the ninth Supreme Court justice.

Today, as I write this, another mass shooting has occurred. It is past time for our elected officials and the citizenry to recognize the incredible price that our society pays every day for the lack of reasonable regulations. For every individual shot by a firearm, there are hidden costs. If an individual survives a shooting, there are medical bills, often a lengthy rehab, lost wages, post-traumatic stress disorder, and a total disruption of one's personal life. And when the shooting leaves the victim permanently disabled, the cost is even greater to both the victim and his or her family. If the victim dies, the family is often faced with having to reconfigure its life often without a network of

support (moral or financial) in addition to an enduring grief and loss.

In the space of time it took me to write the first paragraph, another mass shooting has occurred, the second in 5 days. This time three workers were killed and fourteen were wounded. Seventeen families must face the wounds inflicted by the psychological trauma of sending a loved one to work—an ordinary, everyday activity—and having the workday interrupted by gunfire. Indeed, the community at large must confront the reality that no one knows a murderer's dark intentions even when working alongside this person.

“What Does Gun Violence Really Cost?” asks an article in *The Atlantic* (May-June 2015). Until 1996, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention collected data concerning gun violence but the National Rifle Association used its considerable influence to ban the CDC from collecting such data. “Through executive order, Obama lifted the ban two years ago, but the funding still has not

been made available. Last month, the House Appropriations Committee rejected an amendment that would allow the CDC to study the causes of gun violence” (*U.S. News and World Report*, Kimberly Leonard). Violence is a public health threat whether involving firearms or not, according to the CDC and the World Health Organization. We can use any of the following verbs—coerced, bullied or bribed, but the majority in Congress is acquiescing to the belief that ignorance is bliss when it comes to understanding the scope of the destruction wrought by gun violence. Research by Ted Miller, of the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, estimates that each murder, on average, costs \$441,000 through direct costs. Miller factored in costs of police response, emergency transport, medical and mental health expenses, legal services and adjudication, and incarceration. Taxpayers pay 87% of the costs—mostly for incarcerating the accused (**Mother Jones**). Indirect costs include potential wages

“Pros and Cons of the Trans Pacific Pact: Effects of Trade Agreements” — Frederick “Fritz” Mayer

March 19, 2016, 10 a.m.-11:30 A.M. Chapel Hill Public Library, Rm. A

Mark Your Calendars:

*Saturday, April 16th,
10:00 - 11:30 AM
Carolina Room in Carol
Woods
"Animal Welfare: Why
It Matters" Speakers:
Suzanne Roy and Lisa
Price
— Donna Wilson*

Much has been said about the Trans Pacific Pact (TPP)—on both sides of the issue—by people whose opinion we respect. Dr. Fritz Mayer will explain the positive and negative effects of trade agreements so that we might better understand the issues. Dr. Mayer is Professor of Public Policy, Political Science, and Environment at Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy. He teaches courses on a wide variety of subjects: the political economy of public policy, globalization and governance, political analysis, and leadership.

A major area of Dr. Fritz Mayer's research focuses on globalization and its effects, with special emphasis on labor and environmental impacts of economic integration. He explores the political implications of a world in which most international trade is conducted within “global value chains,” in which relatively few large firms enjoy considerable power in defining terms of trade. In 1998, he wrote a book on the history of NAFTA and policy processes within and among Mexico, Canada and the US.

He received an A.B. in history and literature from Harvard College and M.P.P. and Ph.D. in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government from Harvard University.

All aspects of our lives are affected by globalization—the foods we eat, the clothes we wear, the furniture and appliances in our homes and the cars we drive. We hope you will come to our next meeting to better understand the complexities of global trade.

— Lisa Price

Induction Announcement

At our April 16 program, we will formally install two positions on our branch board. We are fortunate that Program Vice-president Donna Wilson, and Recording Secretary Mary Kolek have agreed to another term. Bea Keller, President, Karen Piplani, Treasurer, Alice Parsons, Newsletter Editor, and Shirley Ahmed, Membership Vice-President, will stay on another year to fulfill their terms.

Our branch continues to develop new directions thanks to their leadership. We should also acknowledge Annette Jurgelski, our Publicity Chair, Pam Stephens, our STEM chair, and Ruth Freed, our Hospitality Chair for their excellent work.

POTLUCK LUNCH, April 16

We will meet at Carol Woods on April 16. After the meeting, we will enjoy our annual potluck

lunch. We will have a signup sheet for dishes for the potluck lunch at our March meeting. We will also have a signup sheet for our tea on April 28 as well.

—Bea Keller



Member of the Month: Margaret Herring

I first had a chance to meet Margaret Herring last month when we discussed material for this profile for the AAUW Chapel Hill Branch Newsletter. Margaret is an attractive, petite woman, with short white hair and delicate features, a Southerner who was raised in Winston-Salem. As we talked, I discovered that she has spent all of her adult life in the pursuit of racial and economic justice, and was in the midst of the Civil Rights Movement during its most challenging, fruitful, and dangerous period.

Margaret started her working life in 1961, in Washington, DC, as a secretary to the political columnist Drew Pearson, author of "The Washington Merry-Go-Round". During the course of her work for Pearson, her task of reading fan mail and typing memoir material exposed her to even more information, and first-hand contact with people who had been persecuted and were fighting for justice. She became convinced that she must aid in the fight for equality. In 1964 she quit her job with Pearson, left her children with her first husband, and started working in Mississippi. She later joined

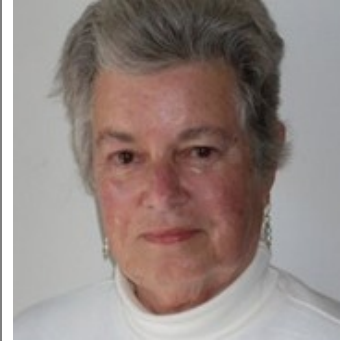
the staff of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) national office in Atlanta. Margaret says that in many ways she was useful then because she was a white woman, and "could talk Southern". She worked to acquire support for the students, both financial and organizational, and as more students were involved, their work became more visible in the media. By 1966, The Black Power Movement was emerging, and the organization had enough experience to rely completely on its African-American members to lead it. Margaret notes that it made sense for her to change her focus to help poor and working-class whites get the protections and benefits due them, and to work to stop the Vietnam War.

Margaret met her second husband, Alan McSurley, earlier while working for an anti-poverty agency. They married and by 1967 had both joined the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF).

In the spring of 1967, they moved to Pikeville, KY. They intended to form a workers' party which would be anti-racist, anti-war, and which would fight against

strip-mining and for taxing the coal companies, so they would be forced to return resources to community. Unfortunately, they had no local base of support. They would have to create that themselves. And in a poor mountainous area, that meant visiting local homes, driving up long winding roads (no telephones or electricity often), to personally invite residents to meetings. Local folks were wary of outsiders, so Margaret and her husband were isolated, and their efforts to organize were discouraging.

In August of 1967, their home was raided by 17 armed men, and they were arrested for sedition. (*Conduct or speech inciting people to rebel against the authority of a state or monarch.*) All of their personal papers, books, diaries, documents, address lists, etc. were seized. (The instigating party was a man who was running for Lt. Governor of Kentucky. His platform was to run the "commonists" out of the mountains.) They were in jail about a week until the case was moved to a federal court by civil rights lawyers (Kuntsler and Stavis). They did have excellent support from the SCEF, and good friends in the civil rights movement put up their home



Good Morning Book Club

Thursday, March 3,
(10 a.m.) the Book
Club will meet at
Carol Zellen's home to
discuss *The Undaunted
Heart*.

dkoeberl@frontier.com

—Dona Koeberl

Plenary Meeting Minutes, February 20, 2016



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.

President Keller called the Annual Fellows meeting to order by introducing Vice President of Program Planning, Donna Wilson. Donna went on to note that the Annual Fellows meeting is in many ways her favorite in that it reflects the AAUW mission of supporting women in their academic endeavors and in using their research to improve society across the globe. Apropos to our current fund raising initiatives that include the April 28 Literary Tea, Donna reminded the audience that across the US, AAUW gave more than \$3.7 million in grants to assist 241 Fellows pursuing academic research and innovative community impact projects. Members and guests were pleased to hear presentations by 3 of this year's 6 North Carolina recipients; Tamar Malloy, Brittany Zick and Keli Diewald, each of who spoke of her project under the overarching theme of Community Leadership: Cross Cultural Access and Engagement.

Keli Diewald's presentation, *Inspiring Girls to Reach Higher*, was a detailed and inspiring look at what happens at a weeklong Triangle Girl Scout summer camp focused on developing self-efficacy and leadership in 5th grade girls who might otherwise not get the opportunity to attend summer enrichment camp. An AAUW community action grant allowed for expansion of the program from 45-100 girls. The program includes leadership development lessons supported

by community mentors; a primer on how to develop a community action goal and implementation plan- something that each camper creates and pursues with support of her mentor post camp; and finally some much deserved fun, involving outdoor recreational and community building activities that are part of the traditional summer camp experience. Campers' self reports and feedback from staff and the mentors confirm that the goals of the camp-building confidence and character- are being met and sustained as the girls move forward in their day to day lives.

Tamar Malloy provided the audience with an eye opening lesson in the *Politics of Respectability* which is the topic of her dissertation. A new concept for many in the audience, she defined the quest for *respectability* as "actions marginalized groups take to make the self be perceived as more dignified (and hence accepted)". In more recent years this has evolved into actions used by schools and other organizations as disciplinary or teaching tools- the outcomes of which can ultimately be disrespectful and harmful to those who are the intended beneficiaries of "respectability" standards, rules and teaching techniques.

Tamar focused on 2 overarching principles that undergird her research: Diversity is good (it promotes creativity, innovation and sustainability) and Respect is important to both get and give

(in that it creates conditions conducive to learning and development). Tamar went on to describe her research which examines the impact of charter school disciplinary and behavioral standards and codes that are ostensibly to promote "respectability" but which may have other consequences that limit opportunity or result in lasting negative consequences for learners. She provided examples and discussed the demands embedded in "code switching"- be it self-initiated or required by organizational expectations or rules. By pursuing and expanding on her research Tamar is hoping to make parents, educators and policy makers aware of what may be an unintended negative consequence of actions taken for what on the surface may appear to be worthy outcomes.

Brittany Zick provided a graphic and concerning examination of Neurosurgery in Uganda. A biomedical engineer, as part of her advanced study in Global Health, Brittany parlayed her interest and expertise in the area of medical equipment into a fascinating and important examination of the complex cultural, social and political and infrastructure issues related to access to effective neurosurgery and its aftercare. The audience learned that Uganda which has a population of 13 million, has 5 neurosurgeons, and insufficient numbers of nursing and other ICU staff; limited up to date medical equipment; few repair

February Minutes (continued from page 4)

technicians and communication, transportation and energy systems that are less than efficient or dependable. Generalizing from Ms. Zick's study, it is easy to imagine that many other poor or isolated regions experience similar challenges, and will benefit from research that focuses on innovative ways to address such challenges.

The audience showed their appreciation to the speakers with hearty applause and Bea and Donna were pleased to give each a small token of our thanks.

Before adjourning at 11:50 Bea provided the following reminders:

The members of the March 19

meeting when Frederick Mayer will present on the Pros and Cons of the Trans Pacific Pact: Effects of Trade Agreements. We will again meet at the Chapel Hill Library, Room A.

The Book Club is meeting on March 3 at Carol Zellen's home. The book is The Undaunted Heart.

The State Annual Meeting is being held right in Chapel Hill, April 1 and 2 at the Sheraton. Information on the event was provided in hard copy and is available on line at www.aauwnc.org/events/2016-annual-meeting. Bea urged members to attend the Friday dinner, which is at 6 PM.

The chapter annual Literary Tea, which raises funds for the Fellows

scholarship fund, is April 28, 2-4 at Extraordinary Ventures. The guest author is Stephanie Elizondo Griest who will speak about her award winning memoirs that reflect her global adventures.

Donations to the Carrie Heath Schwenning Scholarship (checks payable to UNC -Chapel Hill, fund 6725) can be sent to Treasurer, Karen Piplani, 1502 Halifax Rd, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

— Mary Kolek, Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report

2-16-16

Account Balances:

Checking: \$1,601.97

Money Market

Savings: \$1,504.29

C.D.: \$6,053.68

— Karen Piplani,

Treasurer

Presidents Message (continued from page 1)

and household productivity losses, costs to the employer, and losses in quality of life. Nationally, this adds up to \$8.6 billion in direct costs, \$49 billion in victims' lost wages and productivity, and \$169 billion in lost quality of life for a grand total of \$221 billion. Ted Miller arrived at these figures through educated estimates and assumptions about the perpetrator and victim based on age, gender, and earning capability. Consider that in 2014, Ap-

ple's net worth was \$105 billion; gun violence is costing the U.S. a tremendous amount both in human capital and dollars. The first step is electing people who will take gun violence and its repercussions seriously.

I hope all of you will come to our discussion of the Trans Pacific Pact at the Chapel Hill Public Library on March 19—a most relevant mini-economics course!



AAUW Tea Stephanie Elizondo Griest Thursday, April 28 2p.m.–4p.m. at Extraordinary Ventures



We are honored to have Stephanie Elizondo Griest, a globe-trotting author from South Texas, to speak at our tea. A renowned public speaker, she is Assistant Professor of Creative Nonfiction at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Her books include the award-winning memoirs *Around the Bloc: My Life in Moscow, Beijing, and Havana* (Villard/Random House, 2004) and *Mexican Enough: My Life Between the Borderlines*

(Washington Square Press/Simon & Schuster, 2008); the best-selling guidebook *100 Places Every Woman Should Go* (Travelers' Tales, 2007); and the forthcoming *All the Agents & Saints: Dispatches from the U.S. Borderlands* (UNC Press, 2017). She has also written for the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *The Believer*, and the *Oxford American*, and she edited the anthology *Best Women's Travel Writing 2010*. If you have a chance, please visit her website at StephanieElizondoGriest.com.

nieElizondoGriest.com.

Please make plans to come! Invite friends! It is truly a fun event every year. Sign up to bring food! 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's Education Opportunity Fund.

— Bea Keller

Member of the Month (continued from page 3)

to provide bond. These friends, the Brandens, were also arrested for sedition when they came to the courthouse to sign the necessary papers. This period was very lonely. People shunned them, and even local folk who were friends asked that they not come over; their house had been shot into, and they were afraid of being killed. They could not make any progress in their mission. They did have visits from other organizers, and received warm letters from people in the movement, both of which sustained them. Their son Victor was born during this period.

The seized documents were sent to Washington, DC to the US Senate Permanent

Subcommittee on Investigations, the old McCarthy Committee. The documents were eventually returned in December of 1968, along with a subpoena for 236 of the documents.

In December, 1968, their house was dynamited. The memories of the blast, the darkness, the dust swirling, the 10 degree cold and the baby crying are still vivid. They left Pikeville that night. Margaret would put herself on the line for civil justice, but not her baby. The civil and criminal legal battles lasted for 18 years. (McSurley V. McClellan, 753 F.2d 88 (D.C.Cir. 1985).

Those cases overturned sedition laws in Kentucky, and the damages won allowed Margaret to return to

school at the American University in Washington D.C., and graduate in 1989 with a master's degree in International Education. Margaret taught English as a Second Language, and retired to Wilmington in 2000, and later to Chapel Hill. Her major retirement activities revolve around her memberships in **The Women's League for Peace and Justice**, and the **NAACP**.

I'll always remember that I was drawn to Margaret because her e-mail address is "greatblueheron", one of my favorite birds. She remains active in both political and environmental causes.

— Karen Piplani





AAUW-CH
Annual Literary Tea
Thursday, Apr. 28 2-4 p.m.
Extraordinary Ventures,
200 S. Elliott Rd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Featuring

Stephanie Elizondo Griest

A globe-trotting author from South Texas, her books include the award-winning memoirs: *Around the Bloc: My Life in Moscow, Beijing, and Havana*; *Mexican Enough: My Live Between the Border-lines*; *100 Places Every Woman Should Go*; *All the Agents & Saints: Dispatches from the U.S. Borderlands* (forthcoming UNC Press 2017)



ALL PROFITS GO TO: AAUW'S EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY FUND WHICH SUPPORTS FEMALE GRAD STUDENTS IN THE US AND AROUND THE WORLD. Questions? chapelhillncaauw@gmail.com (919) 929-4432

Name _____

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

Telephone: _____

Name of guests: _____

Make checks payable to AAUW-Chapel Hill.

Send to Karen Piplani, 1502 Halifax Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514-2728, (919) 929-6553