



American Association of University Women

From the President: Sandy Smalley

November Calendar

- November 17:
Branch Meeting
- Book Club:
November 1
- Bridge Club:
November 15

December Calendar

- December 1:
Branch Meeting
- Book Club:
December 6:
- No Bridge Club
in December

.Please note the newsletter date is for two months, November/December 2012. This is a double issue. Changing the third Saturday meeting format, we moved the Branch gathering to Saturday, December 1st, to have us assemble before many members leave town for the holidays. If we published a December 1 newsletter, some people would not have it before that program.

On the education theme, I had a letter from our US Senator Kay Hagan, saying that the Senate approved a bipartisan resolution designating the week of September 24, as "National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week." She introduced this bill to recognize the 105 of them in the nation.

There are ten HBCUs in NC, which is the most of any state. She believes it is "... important that we remain committed to supporting these institutions at the federal level so we can continue North Carolina's history of trailblazing African American leaders. Our future success as a state and a nation depends on insuring that our students are well educated and ready to compete in our global economy." Half of the US African American professionals are alumni of these historically Black schools, including half of the Black teachers and 40% of those in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) careers. HBCUs have always had talented

students and excellent academic programs.

Briefly, on November 17, our Branch program will be Ernie Dollar speaking on "Women's History in Chapel Hill." On December 1, Dr. Maureen Quilligan will address us with "When Women Ruled the World: the Glorious 16th Century." Also please remember that the December 1st, meeting will be the annual fundraiser for our own Branch scholarship, the Carrie Heath Schwenning Fund. Inside this newsletter there is more information on both programs and the Schwenning Scholarship. I look forward to seeing you at our Branch gatherings.

November 17 Program: Women's History in Chapel Hill

Ernest Dollar will present **Women's History in Chapel Hill**. Many of us know our next presenter through his work as CEO of the Preservation Society of Chapel Hill. Dynamic and passionate about his subject, Ernest Dollar believes that the past informs the future and works tirelessly to make history relevant. A North Carolina native, he earned his B.A. in History and his BFA in Design from UNCG. He completed his MA in Public History at NC State in 2006. He has published a photographic history of Morrisville, NC and is currently working on a history of the end of the Civil War in North Carolina. He is now Director of the Raleigh City Museum. He has stated that one of his biggest goals is to get the museum out of its four walls and to use Raleigh's trolley to connect to other historic sites in Raleigh. — Bea Keller



Genoveva Aguirre & Morita Rapoza

Conversation, Coffee & Snacks 9:30 a.m.

Presentation 10:00 a.m.

December 1 Program: Carrie Heath Schwenning Scholarship Fund Raiser

Dr. Maureen Quilligan will speak on **When Women Ruled the World: the Glorious 16th Century**. Dr. Quilligan is the Florence R. Brinkley professor of English and chair of the English Department at Duke University. She earned her BA and MA degrees at UC at Berkley and her PhD at Harvard. She has published three books including *The Allegory of Female Authority: Christine de Pizan's Book of the City of Ladies*, and is currently at work on three interrelated projects, one of which is the subject of this month's program. Dr. Quilligan will examine the relationship between Elizabeth I of England, Catherine de Médicis of France, and Mary Queen of Scotland. For a time, Mary was Queen of France and Catherine's problem. However, when she became a widow, and ascended Scotland's throne, she became Elizabeth's problem. Power, strong women and historical Intrigue—prepare to be mesmerized! — Bea Keller



Sally Rohrdanz & Norma Mitchell

Conversation, Coffee & Snacks 9:30 a.m.

Presentation 10:00 a.m.

Are You Receiving AAUW - Washington Alerts?

This is a reminder to those members who are NOT as of yet receiving emails from AAUW regarding issues important to AAUW, please let me know. I can register you. Also, if there are those who do not want to receive these emails and would like to be un-registered, I can handle that for you too. These emails from AAUW inform us of the issues and show us how we can contact our legislators by email. Please call Kay White at 542-1138 or email me at kaywhite@earthlink.net

Member of the Month

Syd Elstran

Sydney Elstran would surely agree with Seneca who thought that "travel and change of place impart new vigor to the mind." Born in West Point, NY, even kissed as a baby by Mayor LaGuardia looking for a photo op, Sydney's nomadic life continued until she and her husband settled in Chapel Hill. Her family relocated whenever possible to be with her father, a military officer. Sydney's family had hardly settled in Hawaii when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Sydney, her mother, and her infant sister returned to NY to live with her grandparents awaiting her father's return from the war. Her father never spoke of his experiences in the war.

After the war, Sydney's father was stationed in Europe. Sydney graduated from Madrid High School. At the time, children of servicemen could attend Dependents' Schools (DODDS) operated by the Department of Defense. After graduating from the University of New Mexico with a BFA in Art, she taught primary school in the states. Then, her father received orders to relocate in Naples, Italy. Sydney decided to move to Naples and get a job teaching in a primary school in the DODDS system.

While teaching in Berlin, she met her husband, Bill. He was

a football coach, as well as a math and physics teacher. Their son, Clete, and daughter, Linden, were both born in Germany. In the DODDS, there was a big demand for football coaches, so Sydney and her husband taught in Spain, England (twice), Belgium, and Turkey. The Turks loved the children's blond hair, and couldn't resist patting their heads. Their Turkish nanny would not let them out of her sight – she claimed the gypsies would kidnap them! After the birth of their two children, Sydney and Bill bought a VW camper and went on camping excursions throughout Europe on weekends. "I had so much fun with my husband; he believed in living life to the fullest!" says Sydney.

Life in Europe was interspersed with various stints in the U.S. where both Sydney and Bill earned advance degrees. For Sydney, her most stressful time was finishing her masters, teaching and tending to two children. Bill retired from DODDS in 1989, and was hired by a sports tile company. He was told that he could headquarter the company wherever he wanted; a drive down Franklin St. convinced him that Chapel Hill was the place. Sydney's stellar record and various teaching awards helped land a job teaching in the Orange County

Schools, but eventually she felt the need for a change. Thus began 16 years as a real estate broker in Chapel Hill.

Sydney's husband died in 2004. In his honor, she established the William Elstran Memorial Scholarship at UW-Eau Claire to be given to a graduate of Chippewa Falls High School. Bill had been a graduate of both schools.

Among the scholarship criteria, the recipient needs to exhibit a zest for life – a quality Sydney really admired in her husband.

Sydney enjoys plein air painting. Wanderlust is still a big part of her. After her husband died, she traveled to Egypt, China, Machu Picchu, and the Galapagos. What is her favorite spot of all? After some thought, she said, "Put me down anywhere in the Mediterranean!"

Next year will be Sydney's 20th year as a member of our branch, and for two of those years (2001-2003), she served as president. It is our good fortune that our traveler settled in Chapel Hill!

– Bea Keller



Bridge Club
Thursday,
November 15,
1 p.m..
Hostess:
Sharon
Anderson,,
420 Ridgecrest
Dr., Chapel
Hill, 919-960-
6191.

Public Policy Program

AAUW NC manages the Public Policy Program for all the NC Branches. Chapel Hill Branch is continuing with the program again this current year. We are keeping the same two topics:

1) Provide an alternative “clean” source of funding for campaigns, so candidates do not have to rely on large donors or special interests.

2) Increase public awareness of how money flows into election campaigns.

Currently involved in state and national elections, we all know how important these topics are.

Our Branch Sender is Lisa Price. We have seven Receivers: Donna Hammersly, Annette Jurgelski, Bea Keller, Sandy Passero, Karen Piplani, Sandy Smalley, and Kay White. If you would like to join this group, please let Sandy Smalley know.

Since Congress is not in session at the moment, there is not much activity now, but after the election, surely there will be a lot of legislation before both the Senate and House. We will then get busy again focusing on current bills and issues. — Sandy Smalley

Report from Kay White, Treasurer

As of September 30, 2012, our checking and savings accounts totaled \$3,205 and our Scholarship CD totaled \$6,574.74.

We have 50 paid members and 1 e-affiliate, which means our dues brought in \$500. That \$500 together with \$5

from other sources brings our total income to \$505 for this fiscal year. Our estimated expenses for the year of \$705 means we will need to use reserves in our accounts to cover the projected shortfall of \$200. Our branch is in good shape financially.

Elect Her — Campus Women Win

Colleges and universities throughout the country can apply to AAUW to help them organize an *Elect Her – Campus Women Win* workshop. In order for a school to get accepted to this program, a local branch must provide a liaison. I was contacted by Natasha Plumb, Asst. Dir. for Student Involvement and asked if I would agree to be the liaison. I signed on and

AAUW will send facilitators to help the NCCU team organize and provide a five hour workshop this spring.

The purpose of this program is to encourage young women to run for office at the university level. It is our hope that this introduction will spark a desire to continue to run for public office as adults. Women are underrepresented in elected positions throughout the U.S.

AAUW will send an *Elect Her* core

campus team, but the local team must provide three speakers: a female elected official, an expert in communications, and a panel of elected student government officials from area colleges. The speeches will be interspersed with sessions on campaign strategy, networking, message making, and culminate in a faux campaign and election tabulated at the end of the day. — Bea Keller

Book Club

Thursday,
November 1,
10 a.m..

Hostess:

Donna
Hammersly,
220 Callum
Place, Cary,
919-267-4339

Book: *Half the
Sky: Turning
Oppression into
Opportunity for
Women*

Worldwide by
Nicholas D.
Kristof and
Sheryl
WuDunn

M i n u t e s : A A U W - C H B r a n c h M e e t i n g , O c t o b e r 2 0 , 2 0 1 2

President Sandy Smalley opened the meeting at 10: a.m., welcomed members and guests, and thanked the people who brought the refreshments. She spoke briefly about the next book club selection, *Half the Sky*, noted that it was recommended by the National AAUW and encouraged members to read it.

Program

The speaker, Dr. Erica Field, was unable to be present. Sandy opened the floor for a general discussion of the topic, Micro Lending.

The following points were made:

1. Micro-lenders found women given small sums to

use were more reliable than men in putting the money to use.

2. Educating women is good both for improving the economy and for improving the health of the community.

3. A local organization, Self-Help Durham, is presently making small loans to people who want to start businesses

4. Donna Hammersly described the Heifer Project which donates farm animals to poor communities to improve the quality of life. The project has been successful in many instances.

Announcements

There will be one newsletter for November and December.

Ernest Dollar will discuss "Women's History in Chapel Hill" in November.

The Schwenning Scholarship meeting will be December 1. Dr Maureen Quilligan, Duke English Department, will speak on "When Women Ruled the World: The Glorious 16th Century".

The March program will feature the local AAUW Fellows.

A Voters Guide prepared by Votesmart featuring candidates' voting history was distributed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Mary Paterson, Secretary.



Annette Jurgelski

S c h w e n n i n g S c h o l a r s h i p A n n u a l A p p e a l

Our December 1 meeting at Carol Woods is the time we are asking our members to donate to our Carrie Heath Schwenning Scholarship Fund. Last year with the help of our members, we were able to increase our annual donation from \$1,000 to \$1,500. With the rising cost of tuition, every

dollar helps. The Chapel Hill branch began this scholarship in 1928 to help a female graduate student at UNC-Chapel Hill; at that time it was a loan of only \$100 a year. Money raised now will be for our scholarship for the 2013-14 school year. To make a tax-deductible donation, make the

check payable to "UNC-Chapel Hill" and put the note "scholarship # 6725" in the memo field on your check. Give or mail your check to Kay White, 875 Fearrington Post, Pittsboro, NC 27312. We are very proud of this scholarship. —Kay White

Book Club
Thursday,
December 6,
10 a.m.
Hostess: Dona
Koeberl, 2749
McDowell
Rd., Durham,
919-403-6643
Book: *Caleb's*
Crossing by
Geraldine
Brooks.

W e b s i t e N e w s

Just a reminder – visit our site if you need information about the Good Morning Book Club, our programs or to see pictures of our meetings. chapelhill-nc.aauw.net. —Bea Keller