

From the President: Bea Keller

As we heard from our October speaker, economist Erica Field, micro-finance has such a sterling reputation that most people assume it only creates positive change. But the story is always more complicated and nuanced. Humans tend to learn one “story”, and get attached to one set of facts. However, staying abreast of new research findings stretches our boundaries, poses new dilemmas, and encourages growth. Knowing that small loans given to women are not a panacea, and do not necessarily offer a path out of poverty won’t change my involvement with organizations that offer such loans, but I am heartened that ongoing research may improve the micro financing system. It offers hope to women and their families—and hope has value too. I think that no one was surprised that micro loans resulted in more work for women. It is no different in western nations; research shows that married women who

work are still responsible for the bulk of homemaking chores, and have less leisure time than their husbands.

Our November speaker, Betsy Bennett, is a woman of science. Prior to getting into the museum business, she was a middle school and high school math, chemistry, physics, and biology teacher. Throughout her career, Betsy was a one-woman STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) inspiration to many NC girls and women. And her legacy, the Nature Research Center, will only increase interest and exposure to scientific research in our state. Lest we forget, today only 14 percent of engineers are women, and women in computer science and math positions comprise 27 percent of the total number. We live in a world that relies increasingly on these specialized skills but fewer American students are graduating with degrees in STEM

fields. In 1985, STEM fields in the US peaked at 24% of all bachelor degrees; by 2009, the percentage had fallen to 18. Hispanics and African-Americans students (both men and women) are underrepresented; each group comprises only 6 percent of STEM fields. (For this reason, I hope that some of our members will help in our spring STEM project, providing support to NCCU). Betsy Bennett is betting that the lure of project-based science will entice the young to see the value of science. Our future depends on it.

I hope to see all our members on Saturday morning, November 16, at Carol Woods. Prepare for an insightful talk with Betsy Bennett!

Inside this issue:

November Program	2
Book Club	
Website	
Treasurer’s Report	
Member of the Month	3
Schwenning Scholarship	
December Program	4
October Minutes	



With a Focus on North Carolina, the Museum of Natural Sciences Goes Global, Betsy Bennett—November 16

Our November speaker, Betsy Bennett, served for 22 years as Director of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, retiring at the end of 2012. Throughout her career, she has never left her role as teacher—she has just expanded the walls of her classroom.

When the new facility for the \$71 million Museum of Natural Sciences opened its doors in April 2000, Betsy began her tenth year as museum director. During her tenure, she led North Carolina's natural science museum to major expansion, record attendance and national recognition. The Museum now attracts an average of 900,000 visitors per year and is typically the top fieldtrip attraction and the most visited museum in the state.

Betsy continued to expand the Museum's connection to the public in new and innovative ways, opening Prairie Ridge Ecostation for Wildlife and Learning in 2004. She opened the Museum's \$56 million new wing, the Nature Re-

search Center, with a 24 hour Opening Celebration in April 2013 that welcomed over 70,000 visitors. The 80,000 square foot center engages the public in current natural science projects and research that affects their daily lives.

Before coming to the Museum, Betsy was a consultant to the Triangle Children's Museum and was an educator/scientist at Discovery Place in Charlotte. She also served on the Charlotte school board from 1978 to 1985 and prior to that, taught high school and middle school science and math for more than eleven years.

She received masters and doctorate degrees in science education from the University of Virginia and a BA degree in Physics and Mathematics from Hollins University. Her numerous awards include the Women in Business Award, Opening Doors Award from the Business and Professional Women's groups of Raleigh and the Triangle and most notably, the

2011 Tar Heel of the Year Award from the News and Observer.

Upon retirement from the Museum, Betsy joined Capital Development Services, a fundraising consulting and executive search firm. As Strategic Counsel she works with nonprofits to engage their communities in realizing their visions and educational potential. She is helping with the campaign to build Kidzu Children's Museum on the Wallace Deck in downtown Chapel Hill.

Please come to hear our state's most indefatigable champion of the sciences!

— Lisa Price

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.

—Bea Keller

Good Morning Book Club

Please visit any Good Morning Book Club discussion which interests you. You might just decide to participate regularly!

At 10 on the morning of Thursday, November 7, Good Morning Book Club will discuss the book, *March* by Geraldine Brooks will be in the home of Annette Jurgelski, 3211 Oak Knob Court, Hills-

borough, NC 27514, 919-644-0280. I loved the characters in the book *Little Women* and wanted to know what might happen next. *March* focuses on the life of the father from the book *Little Women* as Brooks imagines his life experiences.

At 10 a.m. on December 7, *The Financial Lives of Poets* by Jess Walter will be

discussed. Carol Zellen will host at her home, 505 Clarenbridge Drive, Cary.

—Dona Koeberl

Treasurer's Report

All checks that have been received are deposited. National and state per capita have been paid. Current ac-

count balances are as follows: Checking- \$1,910.00, Money Market Checking- \$1,503.93, and Certificate

of Deposit - \$6,608.91.

— Karen Piplani

Member of the Month - Lisa K. Price

Lisa K. Price grew up near Alexandria, Virginia. She was an English major at Maryland's Goucher College and holds a MSW from Boston University School of Social Work. Lisa was very active in the civil rights movement as a college student and later worked in the "War on Poverty". Other jobs included casework with foster children and teenage unmarried mothers, Head Start, and serving as administrative assistant to two Chapel Hill mayors. Lisa was recently selected to serve on the newly formed NC Council of the Humane Society of the United States

In 1993, she and two friends founded North Carolinians Against Gun Violence, the first statewide gun

violence prevention organization in NC. Lisa served as executive director from 1996 until she retired in June 2008. One of the few southern



gun violence prevention groups, NCGV remains strong and is active in NC and nationally.

Lisa's volunteer activities have included the New Haven Board of Aldermen, Chapel Hill Public Library Board of Directors, public radio, animal welfare,

and international visitors. Lisa is married to David Price, a former Duke University professor of political science now serving in his thirteenth term as congressman from North Carolina's 4th district.

Lisa and David have lived in Chapel Hill for 40 years and have two children, Karen and Michael, daughter-in-law Jade, and two grandchildren, 7 year-old Charlie and 4 year-old Maggie.

Last year she agreed to be on the Program Committee of AAUW – Chapel Hill branch. She deserves credit for recruiting Lee Smith as our tea speaker last year, Jill McCorkle for this year's tea speaker, and also Betsy Bennett, our November speaker, and Samia Serageldin, our December speaker for this year's lineup. When Lisa calls, people answer! We are so lucky to have her in our membership. Thank you Lisa from the Program Committee and the whole branch for your service to our branch.

—Michele Hoyman, Program Chair.

Carrie Heath Schwenning Scholarship Annual Appeal

At our December meeting every year, we ask our members to donate to the Carrie Heath Schwenning Scholarship Fund. In 2011, members voted to increase the amount to \$1500 to help cover the rising cost of tuition. 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 2014-15 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 Karen Piplani, 1502 Halifax Rd., Chapel Hill, NC, 27514-2728. We are very proud of this scholarship, and we have continued the tradition of giving it to a female graduate student at UNC. —Kay White

Welcome New Member

Ruth Freed completed her undergraduate degree at City College of New York, majoring in Science in Education-History. She received her graduate degree from Hofra University in the same area. She is currently teaching. Welcome Ruth!!

— Genoveva Aguirre



Samia Serageldin : A First-hand Account on the January 25th Revolution December 7 Meeting: Our Schwenning Scholarship Meeting

Our December speaker, Samia Serageldin, was born and raised in Egypt in a political family. Samia left Egypt at the age of twenty to study at London University, where she earned a Master's in Political Science. In the early eighties she immigrated to the United States, and lived in Michigan and Massachusetts before moving to North Carolina twenty years ago.

Her autobiographical first novel, *The Cairo House*, was published in 2000 and translated into ten foreign languages. Her second, *The Naqib's Daughter*, a historical novel about Napoleon's expedition to Egypt,



was published in 2009. Her most recent book, *Love is Like Water & Other Stories*, is partly set in North Carolina both before and after September 2001.

Samia Serageldin is currently an editor of the new, UNC-affiliated online magazine, *South Writ Large*, which focuses on stories, arts and ideas from the Global South at its intersection with the American South. The magazine is an offshoot of the Global South

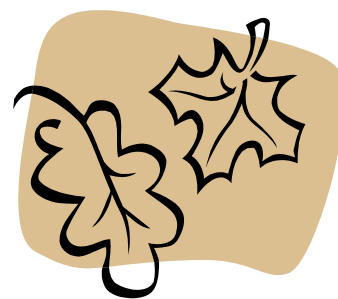
Working Group, a UNC seminar of which Samia is a member.

With family and friends on two conti-

nents, she calls Chapel Hill home but spends a good deal of time traveling. She is currently writing about her first-hand experience living through the January 25th Revolution in Egypt.

Please come! This is a unique opportunity to learn more about the emerging situation in Egypt.

— Bea Keller



Minutes of October 19, 2013 Meeting

President Bea Keller called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. Michele Hoyman, Program Chair, introduced the speaker, Dr. Erica Field. Erica Field works with the Jamal Poverty Action Lab at MIT; fifty percent of their research concerns microfinance. Five lessons were learned from these studies. 1.) Build flexibility into the micro-finance contract by introducing a grace period and flexibility in repayment. 2.) Don't over-regulate interest rates. 3.) Encourage investment directly by encouraging borrowers to state their business goals and by giving them business training. 4.) Micro-finance can be used to build social capital. Women need social networks—these provide financial and social support. Very isolated people are the most vulnerable. In India, Muslim women and Hindu women of the lowest caste were most isolated. 5.) Don't ignore indirect benefits of microfinance for development goals. For

example, women involved in microfinance had fewer children. Future studies may show that the next generation benefits from better education opportunities and health.

Following the speaker's presentation, Bea opened the business meeting. League of Women Voters' leaflets outlining the changes in the NC voting law were on the tables; members were advised to read them because there were many changes that impact voters of all ages. Michele announced that former director of the NC Museum of Life and Science, Betsy Bennett, would be our speaker November 16. Membership Vice-President Genoveva Aguirre introduced the guests. Bea said that AAUW-CH would be meeting at the Chapel Hill Public Library January 18, because Carol Woods' facilities would be unavailable. She also announced that Jill McCorkle

will speak at our annual tea and fundraiser on March 5, which will take place at Extraordinary Ventures on S. Eliot Rd. Bea mentioned that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. She applauded members' activism concerning gun violence because 38% fewer women are fatally shot by intimate partners in states that require background checks for all handgun purchases. Dona Koeberl, Chair of the Good Morning Book Club announced that she brought copies of *March*, by Geraldine Brooks, for members to sign out. Members will be meeting Nov. 7, 10 a.m., at the home of Annette Jurgelski.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30.

Bea Keller, President