

American Association of University Women

November 2014

AAUW-Chapel Hill

From the President: Bea Keller

The Supreme Court's *Citizens United* Decision has made campaign season more unbearable than ever, but we cannot afford to be blasé about this election, Tuesday, November fourth. If we share the vision of equal opportunity for all in our country, we must be informed and persuasive on the issues at stake.

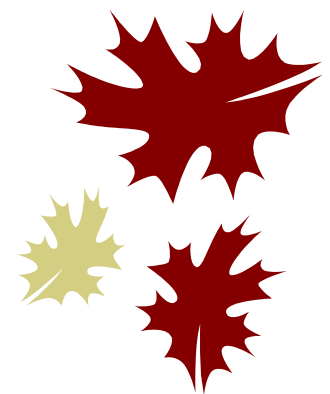
Education—early childhood education and quality affordable day care are essential for all children to achieve success in school. The State Legislature has systematically restricted the number of children who are eligible for state sponsored programs and has decreased funding for those programs. The state budget cut one billion dollars from education funding impacting education at all levels: primary, secondary, and higher education. UNC-CH's budget alone has been cut 235 million since 2008.

Domestic & Other Violence—in the last 10 years, almost 800 homicides have been the result of domestic violence in NC. Domestic violence is often witnessed by children and its patterns pass from one generation to the next. In 2012, our legislators cut the amount given to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families—many counties use the money to provide temporary shelter to battered women and their families—from 2.2 million to \$900.00 (NC Women Matter). On July 1, 2014, the state cut all funding for Displaced Homemakers Programs after several years of sharp reductions. These cuts affect all counties but especially the poor, rural counties which depend entirely on state dollars to operate. And our lawmakers saw fit to permit concealed weapons in public spaces --including bars— and put innocent people at risk.

Economic Issues—almost 43% of working mothers are their family's primary breadwinner and 3 out of 4 women in the labor force have children under the age of 18. Legislators' decisions to cut teaching positions and teacher's aides positions have affected the classroom but also mainly impacted women. Equal pay for equal work is not written in the law. Most of the jobs added since the *great recession* have been low paying. The trade agreements have taken our manufacturing jobs overseas leaving low-paying service jobs as the only option for many unskilled, semi-skilled and educated workers. The arguments against raising the minimum wage are not backed by research. And all workers need some paid sick leave and access to affordable health care. Since the 1980s, with the gradual gutting of the

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

Dr. William (Bill) Rohe is the Cary C. Boshamer Distinguished Professor of City and Regional Planning at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He also directs the Center for Urban and Regional Studies, one of the oldest university based urban research centers in the country.

Chapter members are most likely to be enthusiastic about and captivated by Dr. Rohe’s insightful lecture and discussion this month. His remarks will focus on central North Caro-

lina’s Research Triangle Park (RTP), which began as an audacious idea in the 1950s. RTP has

been the major driver in the transformation of the Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill area from a collection of small towns to a thriving metropolitan area. Moreover, newly adopted

development plans are designed to see that the RTP continues to play an important role in the region’s growth.

Dr. Rohe received his Ph.D. and Master of Regional Planning

degrees from Penn State University. He is the author or co-author of several books on regional and urban

planning, including *The Research Triangle: From Tobacco Road to Global Prominence* (University of Pennsylvania Press). Dr. Rohe’s research has been supported by government agencies and foundations including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Ford Foundation, and the MacArthur Foundation.

Dr. Rohe’s book, *The Research Triangle: From Tobacco Road to Global Prominence* will be available for purchase (\$20 cash or check) at the conclusion of the meeting.

Please mark your calendars for what promises to be a most insightful discussion of the area in which we reside and work.

--Donna M. Wilson, Vice President, Programming

Mark Your Calendars

Sat. November 15 – Dr. Bill Rohe, UNC, “Research Triangle Park: Then and Now”
Sat. December 13 – Madhu Sharma, Shayela Suvarna, and Ratma Swaminathan “A Conversation on Women in India”
Tues., January 20, 2-4 pm – Emma Akpan, Jan Feldman, and Susannah Smith “Women Clergy”

All these programs are held in the Carolina Room, Carol Woods

We Extend a Warm Welcome to Our New

Member

Caywood Hendricks joined our branch last spring. She earned her BA in English Literature at Westhampton College, University of Richmond. She completed her MS in Library Science at UNC-CH during which she did an intern-

ship in medical librarianship at the UCLA Biomedical Library. Caywood is currently retired. Please extend a warm welcome to Caywood!

–Genoveva Aguirre



Member of the Month – Sandy Smalley

I recall my first visit to the monthly meeting of the Chapel Hill Branch of AAUW in September 2013. An outgoing and very gracious woman noticed me as a newcomer, and immediately greeted and welcomed me, as if I had been a member for some time. Those welcoming remarks and an engaging smile are just two of Sandy Smalley's attributes that make you want to learn more about and to include her in your circle of friends. Sandy is also the recent past president of our Chapel Hill Branch, 2011-2013.

Suzanne "Sandy" Smalley is a native of Wilmington, Delaware. She earned a B.A. in Art History from Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, VA, in addition to beginning graduate studies in Art History at Boston University. Through the years, she has blended passion for Art and her pursuit of learning, aptly linked to credentials in her positions, at some of the nation's premiere academic institutions, spanning New England and several southern states: Harvard University, Vanderbilt Univer-



sity, University of North Carolina and University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. Most recently, she retired from her position as the Events Coordinator for the Institute for the Arts and Humanities at the University of North Carolina.

Sandy's love of the Arts and Humanities continues to extend into her personal life through passions for reading, bread making, and quilting. She loves making charity baby quilts for unwed mothers, delivered to hospitals. In addition, Sandy's passion for domestic and international travel is second nature and certainly complements her continued quest to learn more about others and different cultures. Her U.S. trips have included New England, mid-Atlantic, the South, and most of the western National Parks. International destinations have included most of Europe, Canada, Bermuda, and China. In

September 2014, Sandy and husband Jim returned from a 13-day trip to Germany. A highlight of this trip was visiting beautiful, historic castles and cathedrals.

In between packing suitcases, trains and planes, Sandy loves spending time with her grown daughters, Anna, Sallie, and Martha, their wonderful spouses, and her seven grandchildren, none of whom live locally. More than likely this beautiful family has inherited Sandy's love of the Arts and her love of travel.

So, the next time you attend one of the AAUW Chapel Hill Branch meetings, be sure to look for Sandy Smalley's engaging smile and listen well to her wonderful and welcoming greetings. It will make your day!

-Donna M. Wilson

Good Morning Book Club will meet
Nov. 6th at the home of Annette
Jurgelski, 3211 Oak Knob Court,
Hillsborough. They will be discussing
Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Lowland*.

Presidents Message (continued)

unions, the corporations have gained enormous power. Post-secondary education is becoming more expensive. The rapid growth of income disparity is alarming, and does not bode well for our society.

Criminal justice issues are related to economic factors and education accessibility. One in three black males born today will be incarcerated in his lifetime. Our nation incarcerates more young men than any other nation on earth mostly for non-violent crimes.

Health Care—Janet Hoy, our last speaker, gave us a glimmer of hope that our state, pressed by financial woes, will possibly accept Medicaid expansion as provided by the Affordable Care Act. As things stand now, 320,000 adults in NC do not have health care because their (sometime multiple) jobs add up to an income level below the threshold for subsidies. Also, choice regarding unplanned pregnancy is under attack, the result of which may be a return to unsafe abortions and loss of life. One of the candidate's ads shows a couple who chose to continue a high-risk pregnancy which resulted in a premature birth. Those parents exercised their choice. Many premature children have learning disabilities requiring some of the very early childhood education intervention programs

that the candidate had voted to curtail or abolish.

I know our membership will vote, but if you know someone who has difficulty getting to the polls, or a young person who needs some encouragement regarding the importance of his or her vote, please help in any way you can. Be sure to inform yourselves on the judges' races and the constitutional amendment waiving a person's right to a trial by jury. Apparently NC is the only state in the union that does not have such a provision.

I look forward to seeing you at Bill Rohe's talk on **November 15, at 10 a.m. at CAROL WOODS**, in the Carolina Room.

— Bea Keller



Treasurer's Report - October 19, 2014

Current Account Balances:

Checking account: \$2072.69

Money Market Savings Account: \$1504.08

CD: \$6,435.44

Karen Iplani, Treasurer

December 13 Schwenning Scholarship Program: A Conversation on the Women of India

With Madhu Sharma, Shayela Suvarna, and Ratna Swaminathan (moderator: Lisa Price)

Many of us have read books on India or watched documentaries on India – and are fascinated by this complex country. We are very pleased that 3 very talented women who currently make their home in the US will talk about aspects of Indian culture at our annual Schwenning Scholarship Program. Member Lisa Price has kindly agreed to moderate the session.

Madhu Sharma was born in India, raised in Africa, and has spent her adult life in the USA. She completed her undergraduate education in chemical engineering at NC State and her masters in social work at the University of Iowa. She has taught at Indiana University and St. Ambrose University in Davenport, IA. Her careers at two Fortune 500 companies and running a small international business involved worldwide travel. She has extensive community leadership experience and formal executive and personal coach-

ing experiences. She is currently Hindu Chaplain at Duke University.

Shayela Suvarna received her master's degree from Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA, in biology. She then completed her PhD in Physiology with a minor in Biotechnology from NC State University in Raleigh. She has completed two postdoctoral fellowships from Duke University Medical Center in Cardiology and Hematology. She continued working as a senior research scientist in hematology and immunology at the Duke University Medical Center for over 7 years.

Ratna Swaminathan earned her degree in psychology at Delhi University followed by a post-graduate diploma in Journalism from The Times Center for Media Studies, a school of journalism run by *The Times of India*, which is the largest circulated English daily newspaper in India. She worked at the news

service desk of the Times of India rewriting correspondent and stringer copy for 5 years. Afterwards, she joined Outlook magazine, a premier newsmagazine in India, as a senior copy-editor in Delhi and was involved in its launch. As a young mother, she also worked from home in her father's news agency. Ratna and her husband left India for Belgium in 1998 and then went on to Northern Ireland for two years where she had a short stint of work in The Belfast Telegraph. After moving to the US in 2000, she has freelanced intermittently for the News and Observer in Raleigh and for Duke. We hope you will join us at in the Carolina Room at Carol Woods at 10 a.m. on Dec. 13.

– Bea Keller

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 2015-16 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

October 18, 2014 Plenary Meeting Minutes

President Bea Keller welcomed members of AAUW and the League of Women Voters. She noted that a sign-up clipboard for hospitality was circulating, and then introduced the speaker, Janet Hoy.

Janet Hoy's topic, "Take the Money! The Real Facts About Medicaid Expansion" made the following points. Almost 8 million seniors have saved 10 billion dollars on prescription drugs due to the closure of the "donut hole". Nationally, 5.7 million people will be uninsured in 2016 because 26 states have not expanded Medicaid – approximately 320,000 left in the gap in NC. These people are below the income cut-off point and would, under the ACA, normally be eligible for Medicaid. With income above the cut-off point, a low income person could qualify for a subsidy. Medicaid currently covers 30% of low income adults. Those covered fall in one of these groups: pregnant women, the disabled, children, and parents of young children. Older adults and disabled adults must have no more than \$2000 in accountable assets. In 2009, there was a 50% increase in NC of people eligible for Medicaid.

Currently, the Federal Government covers 65.88% of Medicaid costs, NC 34.12%. Adults account

for 13%, children 24% (through CHIP), with the aged and disabled accounting for 63% of all costs. The Federal Government pays a lot of medical costs. NC is forfeiting \$4.9 million dollars a day. This money will be used in other states, and rural hospitals will suffer. It is estimated that if NC did expand Medicaid, it would bring 13 to 15 billion dollars into NC for the 1st 6 years. NC would gain 25,000 new jobs. Due to the ACA, health care costs are at the slowest pace on record; premiums will remain 15% below projections through 2016. There were 370,000 ACA enrollees in NC.

Due to budget constraints, Janet is hopeful that NC will expand Medicaid.

Donna Wilson, Vice-President Programs, announced that our next speaker would be Bill Rohe. He will speak on "The Research Triangle Park: Then and Now" on Nov. 15 at Carol Woods in the Carolina Room at Carol Woods at 10 a.m. He will bring copies of his book which will be available for \$20.

Genoveva Aguirre, Vice-President Membership, welcomed guests from the Women's League of Voters of Orange, Chatham, and Durham County.

Annette Jurgelski announced that the Book Club would meet at her house on Nov. 6th. They will be discussing Jhumpa Lahiri's **The Lowland**.

Another appeal was made on behalf of the hospitality chairs for assistance with this task. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Bea Keller

