



# American Association of University Women

October 2014

AAUW-Chapel Hill

## From the President: Bea Keller

In the 1970's, I overheard one of the women in the office talking about a neighbor who occasionally beat his wife. She went on to say that her teenage son wanted to call the police, but she wouldn't let him. "We would still be their neighbors after the call and I don't want to bring trouble on us." She seemed to feel no qualms about expressing this point of view publicly. What message did her lack of outrage and unwillingness to dial 911 give her son?

A friend's co-worker, a big, quiet fellow, went home from work one day and found his home empty. His wife and children had left, orchestrating their exodus in secrecy. He was stunned, and some co-workers sympathized with him. Others wondered secretly what this escape concealed.

In the past weeks, the

issue of domestic violence has been thrown into the public eye thanks to a hotel video camera's recording of an incident that would have normally been hidden. A player has been fired, other sports figures involved in domestic violence incidents have been suspended with pay from their \$600,000 per game jobs. For the moment, professional sports franchises seem to be taking this issue seriously.

We could concentrate on the statistics but I would rather explore what can be done to break the cycle of violence.

One option is couples therapy which raises many concerns. Some researchers say it is *never* appropriate as it may redefine one person's choice to be violent as a "couple problem" and give the batterer opportunity to "make up" which would make it harder to leave the relationship.

Client safety outside the office can't be monitored, and the victim may be understandably afraid to report abuse honestly if retribution is likely. Therapy may stir up deeply troubling feelings in the abuser and could worsen the abuse. (Island and Letellier, 1991) However, Holtzworth-Munroe and colleagues (1995) believe that couples treatment can work provided that certain prerequisites are met. The violence is not a pattern but rather a rare eruption, the batterer takes full responsibility for the abuse and is willing to seek treatment to gain control of his actions. The abuser agrees to allow reporting by the victim conducted without his (or her) presence. In addition to couples therapy, the batterer would have to sign an agreement of no violence or threats and attend individual therapy, anger

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## October 18 Program: Janet Hoy

### Take the Money! The Real Facts About Medicaid Expansion

Janet Hoy, Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham counties will present a program on the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid Expansion. Janet was Chief Business Development Officer at Sharp HealthCare for over five years, and before that had worked with Aetna for fifteen years. After the ACA was passed, Janet traveled throughout the area educating people about features of the program.

Janet Hoy is passionate and knowledgeable about her subject.



With over 300,000 North Carolinians too poor to qualify for subsidized coverage through the Marketplace but not eligible for Medicaid, North

Carolina has a decision on whether to expand the scope of Medicaid to cover these citizens and have it largely paid for by the federal government. She will review the law and discuss options other states have taken that offer potential opportunities for NC. We hope you

will join us and learn what options the NC Department of Human Services has.

– Bea Keller

November 15 – Dr. Bill Rohe, UNC, “Research Triangle Park:

Then and Now”

December 6 – Ratma

Swaminathan and Shayela

Suvarna “A Conversation on

Women in India”

## We extend a warm welcome to our new member!

**Randy Rosser** earned her BA in Sociology from University of Kansas. She went on to complete her JD from the Cumberland School of Law, Samford University in 1977. She has always worked in public service, starting with Legal Aid in Selma, Alabama, to the District Attorney's office in Montgomery, Alabama, working in child support enforce-

ment, and ending with 26 years at the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office in Clayton, MO, working in the Civil Division. For approximately the last 15 years, she was the Director of the Civil Division. She is currently retired and enjoys being with her children and grandchildren.

–Genoveva Aguirre

### Treasurer's Report - September 19, 2014

#### Current Account Balances:

Checking account: \$2102.69

Money Market Savings Account:  
\$1504.07

CD: \$6,434.89

Karen Piplani, Treasurer

# Member of the Month – Linda Minette

When you step through Linda Minette's front door, you see what her passion is immediately. "Interior decorating for myself and others is what I love to do," noted Linda. To understand Linda's lifelong interest in homemaking and all that entails, we have to go back to the beginning.

Growing up in South Ozone Park, Queens, NY, she was her mom's right hand girl. Linda calls her mother a domestic goddess, who did it all. Linda was her sous chef, and an all around apprentice with her mom as master teacher.

As an eighth grader, right before moving to Patchogue, Long Island, Linda won her school's Homemaking Award. Before moving into their own house on one of Long Island's thriving communities, Linda and her family lived in the family's summer residence.

Though all things pertaining to



the home were integral parts of her psyche, Linda always wanted to be an English teacher. Fate stepped in immediately, and when a medical

issue delayed her entrance into her 9<sup>th</sup> grade class at the new high school, the only option for an elective was Home Economics. That was it! She knew

what her life's work would be – a Home Economics educator.

When it was time to enter college, Linda chose The University of Rhode Island and began her home economics major to bring her dream to fruition. "Those were the best four years of my life," she said with a happy smile. "I joined the Sigma Delta Tau sorority, met one of my lifelong best friends, and also met the man whom I married a few years later."

After graduation, she moved back to Long Island, married and had the first of her two daughters. Lisa was six months old when Linda began her 32 year teaching career in the same building, and Jill was born a few years after that. Linda returned to teaching when Jill was three weeks old. Also, during that busy period of time, Linda went to Queens College to earn her graduate degree in education.

This brings us to the present. Her daughters Lisa and Jill are married. Lisa still lives on Long Island with her husband and two daughters. Jill lives in Alexandria, VA with her husband and two dogs.

Having retired after a fulfilling career, Linda moved to Carolina Preserve in Cary, NC some six years ago. She enjoys reading biographies of women as well as fiction, but guess what she loves doing best. "Decorating, looking for just the right pieces of furniture, and planning and cooking for parties!"

– Sandra Passero

## Hospitality Help

Lee Hamilton and Donna Hammersly need help! We need one or two more chairs on the hospitality committee. It would involve having the responsibility of calling people and reminding them to bring

food for the meeting. More people add flexibility to this necessary chore when family needs call or illness strikes.

– Bea Keller

Good Morning Book Club will meet on October 2 in the home of Sally Rohrdanz, 750 Weaver Dairy Road #210 to discuss the book *The Orphan Train* by Cristina Baker Kline.

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## Presidents Message (continued)

management classes, group therapy, relaxation classes etc. Also, a “no discussion” list of topics which includes hot button issues too volatile for the couple to discuss out of session--which both people must agree to--as well as what to do if their partner brings up the subject. Some research shows that while physical abuse may end in a large number of cases, abusers continue to be manipulative, controlling, and threatening in their relationships. (Edelson & Grusznski, 1989). “We have to be very clear that domestic violence is much, much more than physical abuse,” says victims’ advocate and filmmaker Kit Gruelle. “Get past this notion that it’s about black eyes and broken noses. It’s about control. It’s absolutely about control.”

Helpguide.org states that, “Abusers are able to control their behavior – they do it all the time. Abusers pick and choose whom to abuse. Abusers carefully choose when and where to abuse. Abusers are able to stop their abusive behavior when it

benefits them. Violent abusers usually direct their blows where they won’t show.” The implication is that an abuser is capable of changing his or her behavior.

WRAL recently ran a story about a local program called Developing Opportunities for a Safe Environment (DOSE). Many of those participating in the program are there by court order after an incident of domestic violence. It involves practice in monitoring your reactions in situations, knowing when to leave and cool off, how to reflect and come back to talk about the problem in a positive way. 98% of the people who complete DOSE have not re-offended within the year following the program but unfortunately, only 57% of the people ordered actually complete the program.

Sgt. John Guard of the Pitt County Sheriff’s office says he would like to see men take the lead in defining abusive behavior as just plain unacceptable. “My opinion is, until society steps up and says violence in the home is wrong, and really lowers

that bar, we’re going to be slowing down our progression toward the ultimate goal, which is eradicating violence.” (WRAL 9/18/2014) What Sgt. Guard wants is a cultural change in what it means to be a man. “[We Should] raise boys and men so they know it’s fine to cry and to show fear or other ‘weakness’, and that expressing anger is not the only acceptable emotion for males,” says Nancy Lemon, UC-Berkeley Law School. “Among the ideal targets for the interventions early on with children most at risk of becoming abusers later in life--the ones who, while very young, are victims of or witnesses to abuse in their homes.” (Jonathan Cohn, New Republic) But Richard Gelles, a professor at UPA and author of **The Violent Home**, cautions that money for research has been scarce, “We really don’t know for sure what works.”

– Bea Keller

## In Memoriam: Elizabeth “Betty” Swann Jones

Betty Jones, president of our chapter from 1981-1985, died September 3, 2014 after a long illness. Her husband, Curtis, was in the Foreign Service for 30 years which spawned a love of traveling and foreign cultures. She was active in Chapel Hill

life in the 1970s to 90s as a docent at the Ackland Museum of Art and as a mentor to wives of foreign students at UNC-CH who needed help learning English, and how to shop and drive in the US. She was also a painter, golfer and bridge player.

She is survived by her husband, two sons, Dr. Curtis T. Jones of RI, Dr. Steven S. Jones of CA, and one daughter, Dr. Leslie Sargent Jones of Boone, NC.

– Bea Keller

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# Minutes for Chapel Hill AAUW 09/20/14 Meeting

President Bea Keller welcomed members and visitors, several of whom were from The League of Women Voters, to the first meeting of the new season saying that "we are raring to go!" Bea mentioned that the board members as well as Sally Rohrdanz and Sandy Smalley brought snacks and drinks for today's meeting.

Hospitality Committee, Donna Hammersly and Lee Hamilton, passed around the clipboard with dates of future meetings so that members may volunteer to bring snacks to the future meetings. Michele Hoyman, program committee member, then introduced speaker

Dr. Sue Tolleson-Rinehart, Assistant Chair for Faculty Development in the Department of Pediatrics in the School of Medicine at The University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill, the Associate Director of the MD-MPH program, a joint effort of the School of Medicine and the Gillings School of Global Public Health, a Senior Research Navigator in the NC TraCS Institute (UNC's CTSA), and the President-elect of the Academy of Educators of the UNC School of Medicine. Her topic was: "Women as Political Actors." Women voters can impact programs like the healthcare system, education and the political system in general. She compared women's involvement in politics through the years as waves crashing on the shore. In the nineteenth century with the suffrage movement, the women's movement was more like waves trying to reach the shoreline. After that around 1920, there was a burst of activity and waves began to crash on the shore with the formation of the League of Women Voters the largest suffrage

association, in 1920. Jumping to 1980 there were fewer women PhDs than in the 1930s. Back to 1940 we mobilized women to work during WW2, and by 1950, the big wave retreated back into the sea. By the 1960s, the waves started to return. There was excitement in the '60s and '70s, but defining equality in rather naive ways. Women were slowly making their way into office.

In the 1990s we started to see the wave receding once again due possibly to fatigue and/or backlash. Women were demanding the right to a profession as well as a home, and in the process they were trying to domesticate men. At that time, the naivety was that all women wanted the same things. Socio-economic needs weren't necessarily taken into account. Enter lawyer Phyllis Schlafly who is known as a conservative and opposition to modern feminism. Dr. Tolleson-Rinehart mentioned that Phyllis Schlafly owed her career to the women's movement. There was another wave in the 1990s and early 2000's called lipstick feminism as exemplified by the popular, "Sex and the City," TV series. At the present time the question is whether or not feminism is back with a big wave. In 2012, women came out in unprecedented numbers to vote for Barack Obama. Twitter and blogs among other methods have women communicating via social media. With upcoming midterm elections, a time when not as many people in general come out to vote, will the senate race, Hobby Lobby, recently publicized NFL domestic violence, sexual assault on campuses bring that big wave crashing to the shore with the women's vote? As Dr. Tolleson-Reinhart mentioned, it is time

to engage young men as well in changing the political climate.

After Dr. Tolleson-Rinehart's talk, Bea said that she has sent an email for NC Women Matter Voting Campaign. NC Women Matter is a letter writing campaign to encourage women to come out and vote. This is a statewide campaign. Donna Wilson, Program Chair, stated that the October meeting, at The Chapel Hill Library, will feature a program titled "Take the Money," the facts about medical expansion in North Carolina. She added that in November, meeting place to be determined, Dr. Bill Rohe, of the Research Triangle Park, will be the speaker.

Membership Chair, Genoveva Aguiere, announced the day's guests: Mary McArdle, Jennifer Thompson, and Melinda Manning.

Dona Koeberl informed the group that October 2nd will be the next meeting of The Good Morning Book Club. Sally Rohrdanz will host, and the book to be discussed is *The Orphan Train* by Cristina Baker Kline. Book club meetings are the first Thursday of the month.

Michele Hoyman said that a handwritten note saying you voted has an impact encouraging others to vote. The Senate race is an important one. She reinforced the importance of NC Women Matter.

Bea moved to adjourn the meeting.

— Respectfully submitted:

Sandra Passero, Secretary

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