



# From the President: Bea Keller

The unmistakable signs of fall mean that AAUW-Chapel Hill will soon begin a new year of programs. **Please note: We will be meeting in the Carolina Room at Carol Woods from September through December.** We are looking forward to our first speaker, Bernetta Thigpen, "The Status of Women in NC." (See Donna Hammersly's article). We are inviting the League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham to join us.

On July 20, Donna Hammersly and I attended the *Issues and Actions: NC Women Matter* conference at Bennett College in Greensboro. It was an excellent conference--we were urged not to lose hope but to marshal our forces and to work for more equitable laws and policies. Tazra Mitchell of the NC Justice Center, Budget and Tax Center said that new tax laws are "Robin Hood in reverse". By their calculation, the following scenarios should all result in more taxes: a single elderly person making \$25,000 (+\$26), a family of two adults and 3 children making less than 50,000 (+\$45), a married elderly couple making \$55,000 (+\$483), and a family of four, the parents of which own a small business and make \$80,000 (+\$2,898) would all pay more taxes. According to their schema, taxes go up for the bottom 95% and go down for the top 5%, with the greatest increases for the lowest 40%.

Jina Dhillon, staff attorney of NC Women United, said that had the NC Legislature chosen to expand Medicaid, 200,000 more women in North Carolina would have been insured. She pointed out that the federal share payout to the state of Mississippi in 2010 was 84.5% for Medicaid or 3.5 billion dollars, the highest percentage among all the states. So the federal government was already quite involved in health care prior to the Health Care Act. Medicaid Expansion would have saved Mississippi 10.5 billion dollars in 3 years. By contrast, the federal share for NC in 2009 (2010 is unavailable) was 72% or 7.8 billion. The state's share was 3 billion (28%). Both states had much to gain by expanding Medicaid and were urged to do so by the medical establishment in each state. However, Medicaid expansion was refused in both NC and Mississippi on ideological grounds. The Medicaid Expansion Act would have provided medical insurance to citizens below the age of 65 who qualified with income more than 133% below the federal poverty level. Low-income adults without children would be assured coverage and parents with children whose income level qualified would be insured as well. The Health Care Act guaranteed that from 2014 - 2016, the federal government would cover 100% of the costs, thereafter dropping to a 90% coverage. Within the Health Care Act are all-important cost saving provisions. Rising medical costs are the bane of our

health system, and, Ms. Dhillon iterated, must be curtailed to ensure our country's fiscal well-being.

John Dorman, an education and management consultant, said that in the mid-1980's, NC was either dead last or second to last in SAT scores in the nation. Public school teacher pay followed the same pattern. For thirty years, education policy leaders in NC have implemented changes that have resulted in our students scoring just above average in national SAT scores. (I heard last night that NC is dead last in the nation in ACT scores, a college entrance exam newly mandated for NC high school juniors). The NC General Assembly has also provided \$10 million for children to attend private and religious schools through a voucher program, further reducing money available to the public schools. This amount will increase in coming years. According to Mr. Dorman, there are no accountability measures in place for such schools. Fraud could be a problem. Reduced funding for teachers, increased class size and fewer teacher assistants will not help matters. Does the General Assembly not realize that our future depends on an educated population? I hope to see all of you on September 21. Bernetta Thigpen is a wonderful speaker, and her subject is very à propos to the times.

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# September 21 Program, Status of Women in NC: Bernetta Thigpen

The Program Committee is very fortunate and pleased to have obtained an outstanding speaker for our first meeting of the 2013-2014 year. Bernetta Thigpen, BS. MS. will speak on “The Status of Women in North Carolina” on Sept.21, Saturday, 10 am. at Carolina Woods Retirement Community, Carolina Room. This is a very current and dynamic topic for all females in our state. The status of North Carolina women is already being impacted by the current Legislature and new Governor. PLEASE invite friends and neighbors to attend this timely and informative program.

## Bernetta Thigpen

Bernetta Thigpen serves as Region Director for the Northern Piedmont



Region Office of the NC Council for Women, located in Greensboro, NC. Bernetta has been responsible the oversight and monitoring of family stabilization/self- sufficiency programs , domestic violence and sexual assault programs, training non-profits boards and providing technical assistance and consultation to a host of victim service agencies. She is a qualified mental health professional with 25 years of experience working as an advocate and provider for individuals with mental illness. Previously, she was a part-time faculty member at Guilford Technical Community College and is currently volunteering as an adult literacy teacher at Reading Connections in Greens-

boro.

She holds a BS and MS degree from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Ms. Thigpen has two college age children.

—Donna Hammersly

**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

## Paid Members for 2013-2014

Forty members have renewed their membership plus we have five new members as of 8/24/13. Thank you! This is a gentle reminder for those who have not paid yet.

Aguirre, Geneviva

Bernlohr, Doris

Clarke-Pearson, Kathleen

Dechard, Jeanne

Deutsch, Nancy

Effron, Marion

Flashner, Esther

Foreman, Linda

Green, Jean

Hamilton, Lelia

Hammersly, Donna

Harrington, Jeanne

Healey, Vickie

Henderson, Diane

Herring, Margaret

Holland, Jan

Hoyman, Michele

Irish, Kathleen

Jacquith, Marcia

Jeroloman, Amy

Joseph, Jean

Jurgelski, Annette

Keller, Bea

Koeberl, Dona

Meece, Judith

Minette, Linda

Mitchell, Norma

Morfit, Gail

Parks, Cindy

Parsons, Alice

Passero, Sandra

Paterson, Mary

Pedone, Amanda

Piplani, Karen

Price, Lisa

Rapoza, Morita

Riley, Margaret

Rohrdanz, Sally

Rose, Nancy Jane

Samulski, Ricka

Smalley, Sandy

Whisnant, Anne

White, Kay

Zellen, Carol

—Bea Keller

## Member of the Month - Marion Effron

When she was a student Marion loved History. She majored in the subject in college. She probably did not think of the events of the 20th Century she saw at close hand as history but as part of her life. She was born in Philadelphia, the first child of her parents. Her mother had gone home for the birth. She was brought up in Waterbury, Connecticut. Her father had a store there. He was one of the first merchants to sell radios, not the more common Philco but a set manufactured by GM. Her family was also one of the first to own an automatic washing machine. For those of us old enough to



remember the Maytag Washer/Wringer that would be a historic event.

She graduated from UConn in 1944 and took her newly-minted History and Politics Degree to Washington DC where she tested for and was hired as a cryptanalyst. In that position she reviewed and analyzed messages written in Serbo-Croatian. She says that she was not strong in languages!

A friend introduced her to Marshall Effron, who was working for the government following his service as an officer in the Air Force. He was

stationed on Tinian Island where the planes that bombed Hiroshima took off.

The Effrons lived briefly in Stanford, Connecticut while Marshall worked in New York. They moved to Poughkeepsie, New York when Marshall entered the family business. Marion filled in when needed.

Marion and Marshall had three children, one of whom, Seth, attended UNC and stayed in North Carolina to work in the NC Press Office. When Marshall died in 2001 Marion moved here to be near him. She also has a close friend at Carol Woods. She joined the AAUW here right away. She was active and an officer in the Poughkeepsie Branch.

She says it has worked out well for her. She is satisfied with her choice

— Mary Paterson

## AAUW Programs, 2013-2014

**Please save the following program dates for 2013-2014!** We are meeting at Carol Woods for our September through December meetings. We do not know where we will meet for spring meetings but we are working on it. Carol Woods is undergoing construction and cannot accommodate outside groups after December. We will publish our new meeting place for our January to April meetings in our newsletters. Our meetings will begin at 9:30 a.m. for

coffee and conversation. Our programs will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Sept. 21, 2013: Bernetta Thigpen, *Status of Women in N.C.*

Oct. 19, 2013: Erica Field, *Micro-Lending and Micro Finance*

Nov. 16, 2013: Betsy Bennett, *Reflections of a Museum Director*

Dec. 7, 2013: Samia Serageldin, *An Egyptian Author Reflects On Her Book and Her Native Land*

Jan. 18, 2014: Roberta Madden, Florry Glasser, *The Equal Rights Amendment*

Feb. 15, 2014: AAUW Fellows Research Topics

Mar. 15, 2014: Ellie Kinnaird, Jessica Porta, Susan Strum, *Sex and Human Trafficking*

April 12, 2013: Susan Claytor, Phyllis Jean Green, Barbara H. Kenyon, Susan Spalt, *Carrboro Poetics* (a reading by local poets) —Michele Hoyman

## October 20 Speaker: Discuss Micro-Lending to Female Entrepreneurs in India.

Don't miss Erica Field, a native Chapel Hillian, and Associate Professor of Economics and Global Health at Duke University specializing in the fields of Development Economics, Health Economics and

Economic Demography, who will speak to us on micro-lending, the sometimes controversial innovation in economic development that is used across the developing world to lift women out of poverty. The Grameen

Bank spearheaded this widely used concept to promote the use of very small loans (as small as \$25.00) to help women get their products, often produced at home, to market. —Nan Nixon

## Concealed Guns in Bars and Restaurants

As of October 1, all North Carolina bars and restaurants must allow concealed carry permit holders to bring their concealed handguns on the premises unless the owner posts a conspicuous notice prohibiting such weapons. Most are unaware of the new law and that the primary liability if a shooting occurs on their premises has shifted from the gun owner to them. So do the owner, yourself and (all of us) a favor:

When visiting bars or restaurants: Ask owners/managers if they know about the new law. (Session Law 2013-369).

Ask if they will post a sign prohibiting concealed weapons.

Let them know you choose to visit establishments that protect customer safety by prohibiting concealed weapons.

Ask Before You Eat!

However, if you are uncomfortable asking directly, consider making copies of the handout “side bar” and leave one with your check and a note asking them to ban guns in their place of business. As long as the supply lasts, signs can be obtained from North Carolinians against Gun Violence, [www.ncgv.org](http://www.ncgv.org).

— Nan Nixon

**PLEASE BAR GUNS IN YOUR BAR/RESTAURANT.**

**As of October 1, under Session Law 2013-369, Guns may be carried into your establishment by Concealed Carry Permit Holders, unless you post a sign in a conspicuous place prohibiting them.**

**I choose to visit bars and restaurants that protect customer safety by prohibiting concealed weapons..**

**As long as the supply lasts, signs can be obtained from North Carolinians Against Gun Violence, [www.ncgv.org](http://www.ncgv.org). Thank you.**

## Public Policy Committee

I am looking for a few good women to be on a public policy committee. Will you be a part of this committee? You could do all your business via email—this would mainly involve determining subject and writer. We used to have a public policy article in every newsletter—let’s try to continue that tradition. Basically, one member of the committee would write about something that involves public policy and that happens to be of interest

to that individual. The articles need not be long but must be cohesive, informative, and not overtly partisan. There is much to write about!

This is an opportunity to share your passions and concerns. Please consider it!

—Bea Keller

**Needed: Publicity Chair**

**We need a publicity chair. If you are computer savvy, enjoy writing and dabbling in graphic arts, an opportunity awaits. It would involve contacting local media and other organizations to spread the word about our programs and activities.**

**— Bea Keller**

## Please Welcome our New Members

**Linda Minette** earned her BS at the University of Rhode Island in Home Economics Education. She went on to complete her MS in Home Economics Education as well. Linda taught Home Economics and is currently retired.

**Amy Jeroloman** graduated from WV Wesleyan College with a BS in nursing. In 1999, she completed her Master of Science Nursing degree at UNC-CH. Amy is a Clinical Systems Analyst.

—Bea Keller





# Good Morning Book Club, 2013-2014

All members of the Chapel Hill Branch AAUW are invited to attend any meeting of Good Morning Book Club. Please bring interested friends too. They might join AAUW!

The September 5 book discussion will be about the novel *Flight Behavior*, by one of my favorite authors, Barbara Kingsolver. This delightful story of two families is woven into questions about climate change and clear cutting on hill-sides. We will meet at 10 a. m. in the home of Dona Koeberl, 2749 McDowell Road, Durham, NC 27705, 403-6643, [dkoeberl@frontier.com](mailto:dkoeberl@frontier.com).

On October 3 we will meet in the home of Kay Irish and discuss the book *The Invisible Wall* by Harry Bernstein

The November 7 at 10 a.m. discussion will focus on *March* by Geraldine Brooks and meet at the home of Annette Jurgelski.

December 7 - *The Financial Lives of Poets* by Jess Walter, meeting at the home of Carol Zellen.

The February book will be *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor meeting at the home of Kay White.

Other books were selected by those pre-

sent: *Life after Life* by Kate Atkinson, *Margaret Fuller; A New American Life* by Megan Marshall, *Lucky Jim* by Kingsley Amis.

Other book club members may select a book to review and a month to host.

Dona Koeberl



## Treasurer's Report as of August 27, 2013

We have deposited 2013-2014 dues for a total of 55 members as of the 27<sup>th</sup> of August. By the next newsletter account totals will be available. I thank all of you who were so patient about the delay in your dues checks clearing, and former Treasurer, Kay

White, for her kind tutoring.

— Karen Iplani.

**Bridge Club: Contact Sally Rohrdanz, 919-918-3573, for the date and place of the September bridge fun.**

## Driving Directions to Carol Woods, 750 Weaver Dairy Road

If you approach on 15-501, turn onto Erwin Road (across from the Sheraton Hotel and Europa Drive). Go to the first traffic light and take a left turn onto Weaver Dairy Road. Drive past East Chapel High. Travel to Carol Woods Retirement Community on the right. There is a traffic light and a split rail fence with climbing roses at the entrance. Turn in and in front of you is the parking area. You will see the covered

walkway to the entrance. In the lobby will be AAUW residents to direct you to the Carolina Room.

If you approach on Martin Luther King Blvd. (formerly Airport Road), turn onto Weaver Dairy Road. Timberlyne Shopping Center is near that corner, and you will drive past it. Travel to Carol Woods Retirement Community on the left. There is a

traffic light and a split rail fence with climbing roses at the entrance. Turn in and in front of you is the parking area. You will see the covered walkway to the entrance. In the lobby will be AAUW residents to direct you to the Carolina Room.

We will be looking for you!



**CHAPEL HILL BRANCH, AAUW**  
**Membership Renewal/Application**  
**July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014**

<b>DUES BREAKDOWN</b>	
<i>National</i>	<b>\$49</b>
<i>State</i>	<b>\$11</b>
<i>Branch</i>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$70</b>

Please complete the form below and make your check to:

**AAUW-CH Branch**

Send to: **Genoveva Aguirre, 709A West Main St., Carrboro, NC 27510.**

Branch member renewals, you need only to fill out any changes in your information.

**Personal Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: H \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter: (check one) e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ regular mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Education, Occupation, AAUW Experience**

Degree (s), College Name, Year Degree Conferred, Major Field of Study

Undergraduate: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Category:**

Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Dual Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Student Affiliate \_\_\_\_\_ E-Student Affiliate \_\_\_\_\_

Honorary Life \_\_\_\_\_ Paid Life \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Experience in AAUW \_\_\_\_\_

**Groups at Chapel Hill Branch and/or Other Areas of Interests for Our Branch**

(Please check your areas of interest and tell us of your ideas)

SPARC/STEM \_\_\_\_\_ (Students Participating and Researching Careers / Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)

Good Morning Book Club \_\_\_\_\_ Bridge \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Interest Hospitality \_\_\_\_\_ Public Policy \_\_\_\_\_ Publicity \_\_\_\_\_

Program Ideas: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Volunteer or Interest Ideas: \_\_\_\_\_