



AAUW-Chapel Hill Branch

From the President: Bea Keller

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A coalition of 36 NC (primarily although not exclusively) women's groups met July 25 at Bennett College to expand on issues that particularly affect women, and to discuss how to get out the women's vote. The groups included AAUW-NC, NCAE, NC Women NAACP, BPW-NC, League of Women Voters-NC, NC Mom's Rising, NC Justice Center among many others. At the keynote session, fellow member Michele Hoyman and I sat with a group of women at a Business and Professional Women Conference in Greensboro who hailed from as far away as Massachusetts. Michele and I divided to conquer the various *Issue Sessions* and a brief summary follows.

What does Meryl Streep know that you don't? While a poll taken recently shows that 72% of those polled thought we already had an Equal Rights Amendment, the fact is that, short of the right to vote, women's

rights are not guaranteed in the constitution. According to ERA NC, rape culture, pay inequity, violence against women, pregnancy discrimination are issues at the root of the absence of constitutional protection against gender inequality. Please take a moment to write to your state representatives of your interest in putting the ERA amendment to a vote in the NC legislature. In 1776, Abigail Adams asked her husband to "remember the ladies". The following paragraphs are quotations from her letter.

[1] I long to hear that you have declared an independency. And, by the way, in the new code of laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could.

[2] If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in

which we have no voice or representation.

[3] That your sex are naturally tyrannical is a truth so thoroughly established as to admit of no dispute; but such of you as wish to be happy willingly give up the harsh title of master for the more tender and endearing one of friend.

[4] Why, then, not put it out of the power of the vicious and the lawless to use us with cruelty and indignity with impunity? Men of sense in all ages abhor those customs which treat us only as the vassals of your sex; regard us then as beings placed by Providence under your protection, and in imitation of the Supreme Being make use of that power only for our happiness.

Latinas: Using Our Strengths to Confront the Challenges We Face—Latina women confront racism, oppression, and discrimination every day. They face institutional exclusion due to these barriers: language, education, immigration status, and access to



**Mark Your
Calendars:**

October 17, 10:00 –
11:30 AM “Engaging
Girls in Science,
Technology, Engineering
and Mathematics Fields:
Perspectives from
Educators and
Scientists” Chapel Hill
Public Library,
Locale: Chapel Hill
Library, Room A
—Donna Wilson

President’s Message (continued)

resources. Latinos comprise almost 9% of the NC population—69% Mexican, 31% Central American. Many undocumented Latinos get a Tax Identification Number and pay income taxes—8.1 million undocumented workers paid US taxes which generated 11.2 billion dollars during the Obama administration according to one of the presenters. Most Latinos arriving here have (on average) a middle school education. The women spoke of no access to college or pre K, fear of calling 911 in a domestic situation, and because they cannot get a driver’s license, difficulties getting a home or buying a car. Cars are bought and insured by proxy; the person providing this service exacts a fee. There are 2 bills before the General Assembly: HB 338 and HB 328. HB 338 was characterized as a “bad” bill; driving without a license would result in: 1st offense, class B felony, 2nd offense, \$400 fine, and 3rd offense, the car would be taken away, the driver jailed for 20-60 days and an immediate pass to deportation.

The second bill, HB 328 would provide a yearly license for \$90 if the driver met all the requirements and agreed to a background check and fingerprinting. Seven states in the U.S. allow undocumented workers to get licenses, with the reasoning that it is a safer alternative.

What Does the New “Monster” Voting Law Mean to You and Your Community?—Spring 2016 primary elections will require a voter ID. You may use an NC driver’s license or learner’s permit, an NC non-drivers ID card (both the driver’s license and the NC ID may be expired for up to 4 years, and if you are over 70, and your driver’s license was current at age 70, your expired license will work for the rest of your life), a current US passport, a US military ID or Veterans ID card, member card from a federal or NC recognized tribe, and an out-of-state license but only for 90 days after the voter registers in NC.

Who is exempt? Curbside voters, people with religious reasons for not wanting to be photographed, and absentee voters. You may also use a provisional ballot but you must give a reasonable impediment for why you don’t have an acceptable ID. You

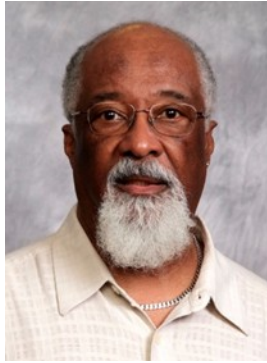
will have to check a box delineating why: lack of transportation, work schedule, disability or illness, family responsibilities, lack of birth certificate or other documents etc. You can get more details at ncsbe.gov.

Economic Security for Women and Families: Having the Conversations that Move Voters and Policy—This session’s focus was on the challenges to economic security facing women and families with an emphasis on the need for fair pay, paid sick days, paid family leave, and access to affordable child care. Women make up 48% of NC’s workers, with 3 out of 4 having children under 18. 1 in 3 workers have elder care responsibilities. 1 in 5 North Carolinians live below the poverty line (24K for a family of 4) in 2013. 8% lived in extreme poverty (below 12,000/ yr.). 1 in 5 women live below the poverty line. 1 in 3 Latinos, 28% of African-Americans, 28.8% of American Indians live in poverty compared with 12.3% of non-Hispanic whites. 17% of NC families live in food insecure households, meaning these families don’t always have enough food to meet their basic needs. Overall, the NC gender wage gap is 17 cents.

September 17 (Thursday) Meeting 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Chapel Hill Public Library, Rm. B, Jointly Sponsored by AAUW-CH and LWVODC

Civil Rights: Then and Now — Irving Joyner, J.D.

We are honored to have Irving Joyner as our speaker beginning our 2015-16 series of programs on the fiftieth anniversary of the Voting Rights Law of 1965. A graduate of Rutgers University School of Law, Professor Joyner has been on the faculty of NCCU's School of Law since 1982. He regularly teaches



courses in Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Civil Rights, Race and the Law, Professional and Trial Practice. He has written three editions of his book, *Criminal Procedure in North Carolina* and regularly prepares annual supplements to that publication. He speaks and lectures regularly at legal education, civil rights, political empowerment and educational advancement programs. Pro-

fessor Joyner provides *pro bono* legal counsel to several political, religious and community organizations, and to needy individuals in civil rights and criminal appeals cases. He is also a regular legal commentator for local, state, and national media primarily in the areas of law, politics, civil rights and racial justice. Please come and invite your friends to an insightful talk about this important topic. Note the time and place!

— Bea Keller

Treasurer's Report

8-29-2015

Balances: Checking:
\$3,143.06
Money Market
Checking: \$1,504.21
C.D.: \$6,051.14
—Karen Piplani

President's Message (continued)

The average wage for women is 83 cents, for African-American women, 63 cents, and for Latinas, 46 cents. Even women with a college degree earn \$20,000 less on average per year than comparable men. The majority of voters (68%) favor policies

that would address gender discrimination. Both women (72%) and men (64%) are supportive of ending the wage gap. We were urged to use these facts to move voters and policy.

I look forward to seeing you

at our first meeting—Sept. 17--an early evening meeting when there is still light for those of us who don't like to drive in the dark! Please come—it is an important and relevant topic.

Good Morning Book Club

Good Morning Book Club will meet on Thursday, September 3 in the home of Kay Irish to discuss the book **The Boys in the Boat** by David Brown. Kay's

address is 673 Spindlewood, Pittsboro, NC 27312. For directions, please call Kay at 929-542-7566. Any interested

AAUW members and friends are encouraged to join us in discussing this book.

— Dona Koeberl





Website News

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.

AAUW-Chapel Hill Programs and Speakers: 2015 - 2016

AAUW Chapel Hill Program Planning Committee members (Donna Wilson (Chair), Bea Keller, Vickie Healy, Mary Paterson, Lisa Price, and Pam Stephens), have been working diligently since May to identify and confirm speakers and topics for our 2015-2016 meetings. We were fortunate to have your recommendations as a starting point in our program planning. Additionally, in compliance with the AAUW mission: advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research, this year's programs and topics provide an array of topics and speakers that are pertinent issues in North Carolina, nationally and internationally.

Chapter meetings begin in September. Please note that some future meeting venues or locales (listed as TBA) are currently in negotiation. Everyone will be apprised in a timely manner the exact location of any meeting currently listed as "TBA".

Meetings are scheduled on Saturdays, with the exception of September and January. Please note those meet-

ing dates as listed below.

Program Dates – Mark Your Calendars:

September 17, (Thursday), 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM. Irving Joyner, JD. "Civil Rights Then and Now". Chapel Hill Public Library, Room B

October 17, 10:00 – 11:30 AM "Engaging Girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Fields: Perspectives from Educators and Scientists" Erin Denniston, M.Ed., STEM Coordinator, Orange County Schools, Amanda J. Hartness, Ed.D., Chatham Co., Assistant Superintendent, Maria Kohlbrenner, Duke University Class of 2016, FEMMES Co-Director, Holly Menniger, Ph.D., Director of Public Science, College of Sciences NC State, Chapel Hill Public Library, Room A

November 21, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM, Cordelia Heaney, Kelli Raker, Kate Douglas Torrey: "Domestic and Gun Violence Against Women" Locale: TBA (To be Arranged)

December 5, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM, Dr. Christina Williams, "Neuroplasticity:

How Food and Fitness Boost Your Memory" Locale: TBA

January 14 (Thursday), 12 noon – 1:30 PM Karen Morgan, MSW. "The Art of Finding Balance Between Life and Work" Locale: TBA (participants should bring a brown bag lunch)

February 20, 10:00 – 11:30 AM AAUW Research Fellowship Recipients Present Their Research (more details to follow) Locale: TBA

March 19, 10:00 – 11:30 AM Frederick "Fritz" Mayer, "Pros and Cons of the Trans Pacific Pact: Effects of Trade Agreements" Locale: TBA

April 16, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM, Suzanne Roy and Lisa Price, "Animal Welfare and Why It Matters" Locale: TBA

We look forward to seeing everyone at this year's meetings and know that you will enjoy these diverse and excellent array of topics and speakers!

Donna M. Wilson, Vice President

Member of the Month: Pamela Stephens

Pamela Stephens exudes vitality and warmth. We noted her passion for science, and asked her to form and head our chapter's Science, Technology, Engineer-

ing, Mathematics (STEM) committee which she graciously accepted. In fact, she has spent the current summer researching local efforts to draw more young women into the STEM fields. Although, she was

born in Chicago, her father's profession (civil engineer) required frequent moves throughout the Midwest; eventually, when he worked out of New York City, the family's moves every two years were confined to the state of New Jersey.

Geography captured Pam's interest at Wittenberg University in Ohio, and after graduation, she joined the Peace Corps. She spent the next two and half years teaching sixth graders in Liberia—most of her students were between the ages of 15 and 18, and came from other villages, living with friends or relatives in order to attend school. At

the end of her Peace Corps stint, she and her roommate took three months to travel home via South and Central America. Planning to continue her studies in geogra-



phy, Pam began graduate school at the University of Wisconsin. A class in air pollution me-

teorology was a game changer; she reviewed her math, changed her major to meteorology, and transferred to the University of Oklahoma where there were tornados to chase.

A firm in Monterey, CA, gave Pam the opportunity to work on improving forecast models for the Navy. But the sunny California skies did not offer enough weather variety so she transferred to Washington, DC, and soon landed at the National Science Foundation. Eventually, she worked on climate change issues which took her to China, India and the Maldives. She served as a councilor for the American Meteorological

Society (AMS) working on policy and fiscal issues. She was also on the AMS Board on Women and Minorities, and gathered data on meteorologists' demographics.

Just after her Peace Corps experience, her sister introduced Pam to Scottish Country Dancing under the stars that summer at the South Street Seaport wharf in NYC. Pam became a Scottish Country Dance (SCD) teacher and new SCD devisor. She laughs when she says, "I'm published!" but to clumsy folks with no sense of dance steps, it is quite an accomplishment. Pam explains that SCD is close in heritage to English Country Dance, although more energetic. It is usually danced in groups of four couples, but without callers. She met her husband of almost 18 years, Victor Matsuo, through their shared love of dance and music. Pam currently teaches SCD courses in Chapel Hill as well as occasionally in Durham and Greensboro. Today, Pam envisages working to encourage girls into the STEM fields and continuing to teach dance. We wish her much success and energy!

— Bea Keller



Welcome New Member

We are pleased to welcome **Sue Stutz**. She earned her B.S. at the Ohio State University in Music Education. She is a retired music teacher.