



# AAUW-Orange, Durham, Chatham Branch

## From the President: Mary Monroe Kolek, Ph.D.

ODC Members— Please review this bulletin and be prepared to discuss these proposals at our March meeting so that I can provide feedback to the state leadership team on behalf of our branch.

The AAUW National Board of Directors has voted to put three proposals for bylaws amendments before the membership for a vote this spring. The board strongly supports the proposed amendments that we believe will help keep AAUW vital as an organization and enable us to increase our impact in advancing equity for women and girls.

The proposed amendments address creating three-year staggered board terms, opening board service to those outside of the AAUW membership, and eliminating the degree requirement for membership. While rationale and details for each proposed amendment can be found on the [AAUW website](#), the overarching motivation for these changes at this time is to uphold and advance AAUW's mission and en-

sure optimal execution at the national board level.

The first two proposals would bring AAUW's board governance structure more in line with nationally accepted nonprofit best practices and the needs of the organization. The third proposal — to eliminate the degree requirement for membership for vote a number of times. The board feels strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement is now perceived by many as counter to our mission and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.

The board recognizes that we have not traditionally put proposals up for vote outside our AAUW National Election, but these proposed changes have been under consideration for several

years by both the Governance Committee and the board, and we believe it is important to move forward without delay to position the organization for greater growth.

Members can comment on the proposed amendments and submit their own proposals from February 22, 2018, through March 22, 2018, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Voting will open on April 25, 2018, and close June 9, 2018, at 9 p.m. ET.

We encourage you all to engage in respectful debate that has always been a hallmark of the AAUW community, exercise your vote, and encourage fellow members to do the same.

You can direct any questions or concerns to [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org).

Respectively, Your AAUW National Board of Directors  
[AAUW](#) 1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000



### American Association of University Women

#### Special points of interest:

- > March Program
- > AAUW Bylaws
- > Welcome New Members
- > February Minutes
- > Public Policy
- > Treasurer's Report
- > Scholarship Flyer

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Program News: Saturday, March 17, 11:00 at Chapel Hill Library, Room B

## A Lotta Love: Bringing a Sense of Home to Community Shelters

### Mark Your Calendar

Monday, April 16th, 12 noon

Central Carolina Community College, Pittsboro

Topic/Speakers: STEM and Women Engineer's Panel

AND

Saturday, April 21st Mixing Business and Pleasure Brunch

Restaurant TBD and details forthcoming

—Donna Wilson, Vice President

In 2014, when Charlotta (Lotta) Sjoelin went to donate pillows to HomeStart, the women's and children's shelter in Chapel Hill that is run by the Inter-Faith Council, she found the conditions of the shelter so depressing that she cried. Although the shelter provided its residents safety and necessities, Lotta knew that the stark facilities did nothing to boost the spirits of women and children who were struggling or to give them hope in a better future. As an interior designer, she knew the impact of physical space; she knew that the physical space of HomeStart was a problem; *and* she knew that she could do something about it.

Asking friends to help by "donating a room" with monetary donations and sweat equity, and by soliciting donated supplies and furnishings from businesses, Lotta set about transforming HomeStart from a "shelter" to a "home," a temporary home that would help give the residents a sense of being valued and give them confi-

dence to work for a better life for themselves and their children. Pictures of the transformation of space at HomeStart and a testimonial to the positive effect it has had on the residents can be seen on the A Lotta Love website at [www.alottalove.org](http://www.alottalove.org). (We urge you to visit this site to be inspired!)

Since the initial project at HomeStart, A Lotta Love has expanded its reach to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable members of our community with renovation projects at Families Moving Forward and Urban Ministries in Durham; Compass Center in Chapel Hill; and Wrenn House, InterAct of Raleigh, and the Helen Wright Center in Raleigh. Ongoing projects are at Haven House and Family Promise in Raleigh and at the Compass Center in Chapel Hill. Since its beginning in Chapel Hill, A Lotta Love has begun chapters in Chatham County, Raleigh, and Wake Forest.

The physical work of transforming homeless and children's shelters into homes is

done by volunteers from university sororities, fraternities and clubs; school groups; church groups; and company employee volunteers. Materials are largely supplied by donations from retailers such as Pottery Barn Teens. A Lotta Love has also been supported by grants from the Giving Network of Wake County, Strowd Roses, the Poyner Foundation, Detail and Design Studio, and the Rotary Club of Southwest Durham.

Please join us and bring friends to hear Lotta Sjoelin speak and learn how one woman with a vision, energy and determination can start a movement and make a difference!

Refreshments will be served at 10:30 a.m. and Lotta's talk will begin at 11 a.m. The program is free, and all are invited to attend.

—By Laurie Tepper with Pam Stephens



## Marie-Beatrice Keller: AAUW's Own Renaissance Woman

*Interviewed by Mary Monroe Kolek, President*

It was recently pointed out to me (thank you Sandy Smalley) that the impossible had occurred: Over the years we had highlighted many new members in our newsletter but somehow Bea Keller has not been in the spotlight. (Really this is because she skipped over being a new member and jumped in as the leader we know her to be; not to mention she is modest and generous and made sure many of us were included rather than her.) To remedy that situation and to provide all of us with some delightful and inspirational reading, I am pleased to present this interview with our current past president, Bea Keller. As many of you know, she has served in a number of leadership positions, including as President for 2 terms; however, Bea's leadership is not tied to a position but is a quality she brings to every encounter. As we all agreed last spring when we celebrated her service: No one has worked harder or with more heart than Bea.

I appreciate her generosity in responding and offer my observation that not only does Bea write such that the NYT should offer her a column, she also interviews as well as any author that the Sunday book section has highlighted

for as long as I can recall. Enjoy!

**MMK: Tell us a bit about your early life: where did you grow up? Is there a special memory you have that you would like to share? If we could go back in time and ask them what would your early teachers say about how they envisioned your future- what career might they have guessed you would pursue?**

**Bea:** *I grew up in Chapel Hill, Chatham County and Dijon, France where we would frequently spend our summers visiting my grandmother. I also attended parochial school in Durham, NC through the eighth grade. My French grandfather was an officer and my American grandfather was a Baptist minister! I never met my French grandfather (he died before I was born) but I loved listening to my grandmother's stories about her life. A serious student at boarding school, she was pulled out after completing the eighth grade because, in bourgeois families, an educated girl was harder to marry and parents had to compensate with a bigger dowry. My grandmother would admonish me to continue my studies as women needed to be armed for the realities of life. My grandfather's time in the trenches left him with PTSD, and many medals, including la Legion d'honneur, but unable to cope with the demands of his profession, he took early retirement. I mention that medal in*

*particular because it allowed my mother, following an entrance exam at age 12, to get a free education in the boarding school which had been established by Napoléon for this purpose. The schools were very regimented, Spartan even, but provided an excellent education. By hereditary right, I could have gone there as well but it would have required a long term separation from my family. My mother ultimately decided against it.*

*As with most people, my family molded who I am. My mother completed her law degree in France, and during the war, met my father. My father had been valedictorian of his high school class, but family finances were such that college was out of reach. They were married in France in spite of my grandmother's reservations. My father took advantage of the GI bill and completed his B.A., and M.A. at UNC-CH and his PhD at NC State. We (the children) benefited from my father's love of history and interest in politics and policies. My mother imparted a love of French language and culture and inadvertently fostered a lifelong love of home improvement projects and gardening in my oldest brother and me. My father, who grew up on a farm, had no interest in continuing that line of work. My mother would have us read DIY articles in Better Homes & Gardens, and put us to work.*

### Treasurer's Report February 2018

#### Balances:

Checking	\$1441.63
MM Savings	\$1,004.89
CD	\$4,889.42

Karen Piplani,  
Treasurer





## Marie-Beatrice Keller (continued)

### Welcome New Members

**Kim Talikoff:** BA, Brown University; MD, Brown University; MAT, North Carolina State University. Practiced acute care pediatrics in Bronx, NY and Durham, NC; Four years teaching experience in Chapel Hill Carrboro Schools. Interests: Social Justice, Visual Arts, Beekeeping

**Katie R. Loovis:** BA, UNC-Chapel Hill; MPA, UNC-Chapel Hill Vice President for External Affairs, Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce  
\*Former public service roles in business (GSK), government (White House), and the non-profit sector (Achieving the Dream). Hobbies: Gardening, hosting parties, and volunteering (board service with US Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Durham Tech Foundation, 9/11 Day is Service and Remembrance, and UNC School of Government Alumni Association. Fun facts: Former Captain of the USA (U-19) and UNC (NCAA Div I) Womens Lacrosse Teams and there is an endowed scholarship at UNC in her name. She is a current participant in Leadership NC Class XXV.

*My younger brother was autistic, and we protected him, were alert to signs of impending outbursts, and—most important—we understood early on that being “normal” was not of our own doing; it was the luck of the draw—he wanted so desperately to be one of us. My younger sister was born when I was nearly 13 and in many ways, she was reared in a totally different climate pertaining to women—thank goodness for that! When I attended UNC-CH, there were few girls in the classrooms and some professors were openly dismissive and sexist. Collegiate women were held to different rules on campus, and moreover, few careers were open to women.*

**MMK: Was there advice any of your family or teachers gave you that has stayed with you?**

**Bea:** *Aside from my grandmother’s advice, I found that girls/women were subjected to a lot of talk about the importance of one’s “reputation” –I wanted the boys/men held to the same standards. Yet, everywhere, parents, teachers, the church, felt it was justified that women be held to different standards. It troubled me that girls who found themselves pregnant during high school disappeared, whereas those responsible continued to participate in high school life and were able to graduate, seemingly blameless.*

**MMK: What careers/**

**volunteer roles did you have throughout your work life? How did you decide what career path(s) to follow? What are some lessons you learned and what lesson might you pass on to other young women as they think about their professional pathways?**

**Bea:** *In college, I started working in the library. It was a good fit! I loved information, books and people. I continued library work after college, but after the birth of my second child, I had to stop working outside the home. I simply wasn’t earning enough to pay childcare. Perhaps my longest part time career was as a photographer. But I was ready for a change in the mid-eighties. I made a list of jobs that were out there, the pros and cons, and decided on teaching. I was very practical about it because I wanted my efforts to culminate in a job, so that my daughters would avoid amassing debt going to school. I had a degree but no certification. I went to see the Dean at the time, and he said that I’d been out of school for 14 years, and he didn’t even know if I could still write so, no, he would not let me in the intro courses. I was shocked and angry so I read up on the requirements. You had to take a part of the NTE (the general part) and two courses before being accepted. He would not let me take those two courses. But I signed up for them anyway and got in. I also*

*took the NTE exam and was in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile. And then I went back to see him. He let me in this time! He later made a speech to the faculty that older people made the best students. My father, who was there, took that as an apology. I completed my masters at UNCG while teaching.*

**MMK: Looking back, is there an alternative path you might have taken that you think about?**

**Bea:** *When Mike and I got married, I was introduced to the world of science in an entirely new way. We were both in school and he had projects and papers in a realm that had not been in my family history. My family was all about art, music, history, and culture. I was good at math and remember helping friends with their homework in high school. So, I don’t know. That’s a good question. I’ve often wondered if I had been sent away to boarding school, what my fate would have been. But I would have missed my siblings—we are close and that is a precious gift.*

**MMK: Who were your mentors and what role did they play in your life?**

**Bea:** *I never had a mentor in the sense of an older person who took a professional interest in me. I would have to say my friends have always been my mentors. I pick up nuggets of wisdom every day, and there are little moments that are life-changing epiphanies.*

**MMK: Anything you want to tell us about family, friends**

## Marie-Beatrice Keller (continued)

### and the role they play in your life?

**Bea:** Growing up, I loved working on projects with my brother. When Mike and I were dating, we discovered that we shared the same passion. We built our own house starting in 1968, then added a wing in the 1980's, and finally (well, maybe not) in 2005, we began an upgrade of the kitchen, stairs, and added bathrooms etcetera. We've done all the work ourselves except the current heating system. There's some engineering and math involved in all of this! We also love gardening and are always developing a new area in the yard, or hunting for interesting plants. Our oldest daughter and her husband have also built their own house and are wonderful gardeners. They take it to a whole new level!

### MMK: What interests, hobbies do you have? ... any you dream of pursuing?

**Bea:** I would love to return to making art! I always seem to do it on the fly because I'm so involved in other things—it's my own fault. My husband says I have too many passions! I tend to put everything aside for family and friends, and that has its

own rewards too.

### MMK: How did you get involved in AAUW and what has your experience been over the years?

**Bea:** My mother was active in AAUW—this very branch! My granddaughter was given a scholarship for a one week STEM immersion at Clemson which alerted me to its continuing existence. Shortly afterward, I was recruited by none other than Michele Hoyman!

### MMK: Do you have a favorite place in the world? Places to go or things to do that are on your "next 20 years" list?

**Bea:** I love the mountains of NC and VA, and I've never been anywhere in France that I didn't find charming! But home is perhaps closest to my heart. I would like to visit Costa Rica, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, our western states, Canada (again), and Italy not necessarily in that order!

### MMK: What favorite books/films would you bring with you if you were headed to a yearlong retreat on a deserted island? What books are on your night stand?

**Bea:** There are so many books—I can't walk into a book store without buying 2 or 3 books at a minimum. So, a serendipitous mixture would end up on that

island—a mixture of serious and light, fiction and non-fiction and of course, poetry. I'm currently finishing *Magnetic North: Notes From the Arctic Circle* by Sara Wheeler—I highly recommend it. I love foreign movies—I've watched delightful Mongolian movies, *The Cave of the Yellow Dog* comes to mind—and the Kurd movie, *Marooned in Iraq* is another good one. It's a way to see another part of the world, and to learn of another culture in the comfort of one's armchair!

### MMK: What is your favorite meal (feel free to mix breakfast, lunch and dinner or do 3 courses of desserts!)

**Bea:** I make a lot of soups, often without recipes, deciding beforehand if they will be Indian, Italian, Provençale or Thai flavored to name a few. I like them because they last a few days so we don't have to worry about making dinner!

### MMK: What 3 people would you invite to dine with you?

**Bea:** Only 3? That is a very difficult question. People who are alive would include Gloria Steinem, Hillary Clinton, Toni Morrison, and Oprah. People who have passed on would include Maya Angelou, Eleanor Roosevelt, Marie Curie and Sitting Bull.

### It Is Not Too Late to Plan:

**AAUW NC Annual Conference!**  
**Winston Salem, March 23 & 24, 2018**

Leaders from many NC women's organizations are joining members from across the state.

Who is participating in this year's Annual Conference? Open the attached flyer to find out.

These Strong Women leaders will be there!  
You can be there, too! Register now at [www.aauwnc.org](http://www.aauwnc.org).  
AAUW NC - Fine Tuning Our Message Together!





AAUW minutes plenary session: February 17, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Mary Kolek. Michele Hoyman, Membership Chair, welcomed two new members:

Katie Loovis, BA, UNC Chapel Hill and MPA UNC-Chapel Hill Currently Outreach Director for Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce. Formerly Foundation Director of Glaxo Smith Kline. Hobby: gardening.

Kim Talikoff, BA, Brown University, M.D in Pediatric Emergency Department, Masters in Ed., NC State University. Four years teaching experience in Chapel Hill Carrboro Schools. She has a perspective on what teachers need from the community to make education work for all; Mother of two wonderful children, Megan and Lucy.

After that, Mary introduced Donna Wilson, our Program Chair who set the stage for our scholars' presentation entitled: Advocacy and Social Change: Realization, Resources and Resilience They were:

Mariama O. Ashcroft – M.S. Student, North Carolina State University. Research interest and experience: Topic: The impact of social policies on women, children and families.

Cara J. Person, Ph.D. Candidate, Public Health, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Research interest and experience: Topic: Women's health,

control of infectious diseases and domestic violence.

Allyson Lockwood Spencer, M.S. Social Work, North Carolina State University.

Research interest and experience: Topic: Developing a discharge plan for clients/patients in transition (food pantries, library services, resource access) and inter-agency collaboration plans.

E. Gale Greenlee, Ph.D. candidate, English Literature, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Research interest and experience: Topic: Black and Latina literature and culture. Ms. Greenlee is also the recipient of our Schwenning Scholarship.

Ms. Ashcroft began telling how her father encouraged her to fight against injustice in all its forms. She has chosen to concentrate on domestic violence and her research involves engaging men to end what can be characterized as a pandemic. Rather than a victim focused approach, she engages men to help with the solution.

Ms. Person's research has focused on resilience and vulnerability of clients of domestic violence shelters and

other agencies which help them. Why do women go from one violent relationship to another? What makes some women more vulnerable? Breaking the pattern involves social support from agencies and adopting coping strategies. Negative results come from discouraging remarks from service providers-even when made inadvertently.



Gale Greenlee

Ms. Greenlee has researched a range of texts and picture books in African American and Latina literature to study how girls are represented as they occupy the space of the story. She has focused on the role of children and young adults, for this is one way children learn to be adults, through their literature.

Ms. Spencer's research has been with substance abuse and mental health clients. She has studied how to provide connections for those not served or underserved as they are discharged from various social agencies.

Mary Kolek and Donna Wilson presented tokens of appreciation to each presenter and commented on how inspirational and informative each of the speakers was and how optimistic they left us all feeling given women like



## AAUW minutes plenary session: February 17, 2018

them are in leadership roles.

Mary encouraged us to invite our friends to our spring scholarship fund raiser, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 at Extraordinary Adventures. Duke professor and nationally recognized scholar, Dr. Nancy McLean, author of Democracy in Chains, will be our guest speaker. Although many of the details have been addressed by the Board, and Kaye White has once again agreed to take care of tickers, a volunteer member is still needed to take a leadership role in the implementation of this event.

Mary went on to highlight the varied ways we are meeting our Future Planning outreach and partnership goals including:

- Offering members the opportunity to discuss the MacLean book as part of an ad hoc book club. (Those in attendance enjoyed talking about the MacLean book and also having time to socialize);
- A recent partnering with UNC and other local organizations for showing of the movie 13<sup>th</sup> ;
- The awarding of a local grant and submission of state grant in support of UNC Women's Center Womxn of Worth April Conference; and
- March 24 a WorkSmart salary negotiation workshop and trainer of trainers session will be held in Pittsboro in partnership with Central Carolina Community College.

Donna Wilson reminded us of

upcoming general meetings:

March 17th, Chapel Hill Library, 10:30 AM. Charlotta Sjoelin, "A Lotta Love: Homeless Shelters for Women & Children"

April 16th, 12 noon at Central Carolina Community College/Chatham Campus in Pittsboro. Topic: Engineering and STEM Careers: Insights from the Front Lines. Speakers: A panel of Women Engineers and Scientists.

The Board is also proposing a separate meeting in April for the annual installation of officers and a luncheon at a local restaurant. Details forthcoming.

Bea Keller provided an update on policies that promise to impact issues related to our mission. She urged us to write our congress members and senators and ask them to vote against the President's budget.

AAUW dues will be \$80 for the next year due to an increase in national dues (there has not been an increase in some time while at the same time the nature and extent of the work the organization does has grown). Given the range of the work national undertakes it is important to have a predictable source of funding rather than relying to the extent that has been done on donations and grants. A detailed explanation is on the AAUW website and includes a video.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20,

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Herring, Secretary





THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN  
ORANGE, DURHAM AND CHATHAM  
ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP EVENT

AN AFTERNOON WITH DR. NANCY MACLEAN, AUTHOR OF THE  
AWARD WINNING DEMOCRACY IN CHAINS

MAY 9, 2018 2PM-4PM

COME AND BE PART OF WHAT PROMISES TO BE  
AN ENGAGING AFTERNOON. GOOD COMPANY AND  
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED- AND ALL FOR A  
GREAT CAUSE.



LOCATION: EXTRAORDINARY VENTURES

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TICKETS GO ON SALE IN MID MARCH \$20 PER PERSON

TO REQUEST TICKETS: CONTACT

TREASURER KAREN PIPLANI, [KAREN.PIPLANI@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KAREN.PIPLANI@GMAIL.COM)

1502 HALIFAX RD CHAPEL HILL 27514

CHECKS PAYABLE TO ODC AAUW

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