

AAUW-ORANGE, DURHAM, CHATHAM BRANCH

Last meeting of 2018-2019!!

**April 13 Meeting: Balancing Family Life in Our Digitalized World
by Dr. Kathleen Clarke-Pearson**

10:30 a.m. Coffee & Snacks 11:00 a.m. Program

Durham Public Library, Southwestern Branch, 3605 Shannon Rd, Durham, 27707

Dr. Clarke-Pearson is a pediatrician and a former elementary school teacher. In the early 1990s, Dr. C-P, the mother of 4 children, became very interested and involved in the impact of TV violence on children. She started a coalition: **PULL THE PLUG ON TV VIOLENCE** in 1995 which was supported by Jim Hunt, our Governor at the time, and many other stakeholders including the NC PTA, the NC Child Advocacy Institute, the NC State Dept of Public Instruction and other groups. Dr. C-P has worked closely with her professional group, the **American Academy of Pediatrics**, to address the impact of video games, movie violence, Facebook and other social media platforms on our young people. She has become a mediatrix, speaking out on all of the current devices that occupy the lives of children from infancy through adolescence. Her talk will address the positive and negative impacts of the digitalization of families and their children. Her key challenge to our AAUW group is: how we can advocate for supporting parents as they navigate the digital world in which their children are immersed.

Support Scholarships Given to Women! Our fundraiser is an opportunity to change lives! Please join our community of women and men who want to reduce financial barriers for women so that they may pursue their educational and professional goals. The food will be delicious and the company stimulating. In fact, bring a friend or several friends and enjoy a delightful evening!

Come to AAUW-ODC's annual literary event

Tuesday, Apr. 23 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Extraordinary Ventures, 200 S. Elliott Rd.

Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Featuring HAL CROWTHER

AWARD WINNING CRITIC, JOURNALIST AND ESSAYIST

Hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic drinks for your enjoyment

Tickets \$25

ALL PROFITS GO TO: AAUW'S SCHOLARSHIPS WHICH SUPPORT FEMALE GRAD STUDENTS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR WOMEN

Questions? (919) 929-

4432 aauw.odc@gmail.com

Name _____

No. of tickets @ \$25 _____ Send tickets _____ Will pick up at event _____ (v one)

Telephone: _____

Name of guests: _____

Make checks payable to: AAUW-Chapel Hill

Send to: Karen Iplani,, 1502 Halifax Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514-2728 (919) 929-6553

From the President: Bea Keller

EASY RENEWAL NOW !!!

Dues for the 2019-2020 may be paid with minimal hassle. AAUW invoices will be sent out starting in April. These will feature a **dedicated link** to the dues site where you can pay with a **credit or debit card**. **Just click on the link** and follow the directions.

(Of course, you can still send the treasurer a check; directions for this are on the invoice.)

AAUW NC's annual conference took place in Greensboro last weekend. My stay was cut short, but I managed to get in several workshops and speeches. One of my heroines, Roberta Madden, a long-time civil rights and ERA activist, gave an update on the Equal Rights Amendment. It has been a 96-year struggle to give women equality in the constitution. The late Antonin Scalia said, "Certainly the Constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't." Protective laws for women (Title IX, Equal Pay, for example) are being weakened or not renewed. The only right the Constitution guarantees women is the right to vote. However, there has been progress in the effort to pass the ERA amendment. Two states have recently voted to ratify the ERA: Nevada, with a predominately female legislature, in 2017, and Illinois in 2018. Just one more is needed, and it requires bi-partisan support! Will it be North Carolina? In NC, HB 271 and SB 184 have been introduced. Please call or write your legislators and urge them to vote for the bills. We can also call members of Congress and ask them to eliminate the deadline.

Women in Politics was presented by three young women who have run for office (Sunny Frothingham, Jenna Wadsworth, Adrienne Spinner), two successfully.

Women face intrusive questions, attacks involving lewd websites, and comments on their wardrobes. Male counterparts rarely are questioned about their marital status, reproductive health or dress style, but women on the campaign trail can expect to encounter this behavior. In 2018, fewer women ran in NC, but nationally, we have the most diverse class of representatives to date.

Women with children must struggle to find childcare when campaigning, whereas the male candidates usually rely on their wives to provide this help. And if women are assertive, combative or aggressive in debates, they face derogatory labels. It takes strength and a thick skin for women to thrive in politics.

The NC Justice Center advocates for Medicaid Expansion, and Hyun Namkoog (of the NC Justice Ctr.) anticipates that a bill will be introduced in the upcoming legislative budget negotiations. However, the bill is likely to propose costs for the recipients. The reason stated is to prevent fraud and freeloading. It is important to note that almost all of Medicaid and Medicare fraud is committed by doctors, medical providers, and hospitals! Furthermore, most of the people applying for Medicaid have jobs, usually more than one. One of the ideas being considered

is to charge recipients 2% of their salary to participate. However, 2% of a meager salary results in less money to buy groceries, provide secure housing, or childcare.

Hyun's colleague, Anna Pardo, whose area of expertise is Worker's Rights, spoke of the following efforts to improve workers' lives: 1.) raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour over 5 years, 2.) a minimum wage guarantee for farm workers (there is none at present, and it would not be what is mandated for U.S workers), 3.) Caregiver Relief Act would expand the definition of family (for example, grandparents caring for grandchildren cannot get FMLA), 4.) a Paid Sick Leave bill, 5.) a Kin Care bill (a similar bill passed in Georgia), 6.) bills that protect pregnancy and breastfeeding accommodations, and 7.) paid Family Medical Insurance--which was likely to be employee funded.

As my current term is ending, this will be my last president's message. I look forward to relaxing more and working on personal projects. I hope to see you all at our next meeting on April 13 on a subject that touches every age.

Public Policy, Elizabeth Leone, Public Policy Chair

In February, Ben Zipperer, an Economist at the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor in support of the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 (H.R.582). (www.epi.org/publication/minimum-wage-testimony-February-2019). This proposal would raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour gradually over a period of 6 years to allow employers to adjust to the new standard. If the federal minimum wage had risen with total economy productivity from 1938 to 2018, the projected minimum wage by 2024 would be \$22.19. Zipperer noted that the current national minimum wage does not allow a single parent to earn enough to bring his or her family above the federal poverty line. Contrary to popular belief that minimum wage-earners are teenagers, the average age is 35 and is more than likely a woman and people of color. 91 per cent of the workers receiving these increases would be 20 or older and 68 per cent would be at least 25. Pay equity should include our lowest paid workers who are currently earning 29 per cent less than their counterparts 50 years ago! The term “gig economy” found its way into our vocabulary a couple of years ago to articulate a new kind of free market

system where organizations contract with independent workers for short-term engagements. Increasing mobility, digitization, the ability to work remotely as well as the unique characteristics of the millennial generation have all decoupled job and location. This trend continues to grow to such an extent that Intuit predicted, in their 2017 study, that by 2020 over 40 per cent of American workers would be independent contractors. (<https://www.slideshare.net/intuitinc/dispatches-from-the-new-economy-57613212>). Another study released this month (<http://iwpr.org/publications/women-automation-future-of-work/>) of gender and technological change maintains that women face the highest risk of job loss caused by automation. Hispanic women face the highest risk of job automation with one in three in high-risk occupations. The major findings of this study are:

- * For women, technology is likely to threaten well-paying jobs: jobs in offices and administration.
- * Women face a 41 per cent earnings gap with men in returns on digital skills. Women are more likely than men to work with computers and digital media and, while earnings increase for both genders, the returns are significantly higher for men.
- * For women, making a living wage without being digitally

literate is increasingly impossible.

* The share of women working in the three largest high-tech jobs (computer scientists, systems analysts, software developers and computer support specialists) has declined since 2000!

* While opening new employment opportunities for women, “gig” work is highly gender segregated, just like the U.S. labor market as a whole. However, the “gig” economy has given women, including women of color, new opportunities in entrepreneurship and male-dominated fields.

* The future of caregiving will shape the future of work. Trends in human care are critical to understanding the future of work. Personal care aides is the fastest growing occupation in the United States, yet low pay and poor job quality in many of these care jobs threaten the economic security of women workers, particularly women of color and immigrants.

IWPR President Heidi Hartmann, Ph.D. found warning signs - declining earnings in women’s jobs, lower returns on education and digital skills for women, and concerning disparities in job quality. “By enacting gender-aware policies, we can shift the trajectory of the future of work toward greater equity, benefiting women, families and the U.S. economy as a whole.”

Treasurer’s Report 5/127/2019

Account Balances

Checking—\$1,333.09

Money Market -
\$1,005.43

C.D. - \$4,894.72

Treasurer, Karen Piplani



Minutes of March 16, 2019 Plenary Meeting



The **Carolina Women's Center** is collecting purses to auction off at the **CWC Power of the Purse Fundraiser**. This event will support summer stipends for students who are working at local non-profits focusing on gender and equity.

For anyone who would like to donate purses, the drop-off location is **Mia's Closet**, located in the **Timberlyne Shopping Center**, at 1129 Weaver Dairy Rd, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Deadline for drop-off is Friday, April 5th.

The link if you would like to attend this event:

<https://give.unc.edu/events/cwc/powerofthepurse>

President Bea Keller welcomed everyone and thanked Martha Barefoot and Mary Kolek who brought snacks. Bea thanked Kay White for assembling and printing directories of our branch and urged members to pick them up at the welcome table. She also asked members to sign up to bring hors d'oeuvres and sweets to serve at our April 23, 2019 fundraiser.

Bea Keller gave a short explanation of AAUW's mission and goals. She said that the program topic concerned mental health and that she was old enough to remember a time when brain disorders were blamed on parenting and brought shame to families. Little help was available to families and they struggled as best they could. Today, there are organizations such as El Futuro, Extraordinary Ventures and Club Nova whose missions are to provide meaning and hope to those suffering from brain disorders and psychological issues and their families. She then introduced Ismael Santillamo, a caseworker at El Futuro, Paige Morrow Falk, the CEO of Extraordinary Ventures, Rosemary Waldorf, Club Nova Capital Campaign Committee member, Krista Bukovec, Club Nova Capital Campaign Associate, and Jeff Harlow, a member of Club Nova.

Ismael Santillamo explained that while El Futuro's main mission was to provide services to the Hispanic population, no one was turned away who needed counseling. It was formed in 2004 and was located in Carrboro, NC before moving to Durham, NC. El Futuro has walk-in clinics in Durham and Siler City. These clinics provide culturally informed comprehensive mental health evaluations, psychiatric treat-

ment, DWI assessment and treatment, substance abuse evaluation and treatment, individual or family therapy and more. El Futuro is the only comprehensive bilingual Clinic in North Carolina. One-on-one telehealth services are available to all areas of the state including schools. In order to expand services to help more patients, El Futuro also has weekly televised teaching sessions for off-site providers. In addition to medical issues, these sessions also advise a Two Generation Approach to assisting families.

Extraordinary Ventures was formed in 2004 by parents whose children were on the autistic spectrum and were aging out of services provided by the schools. These parents wanted to provide a sustainable future for their children. Paige Falk said that Extraordinary Ventures provides jobs for autistic and other disabled adults. There are a variety of businesses: a pick-up and delivery laundry service, an office services company, a business that produces and markets premium candles and other gifts, a bus detailing service, a dog walking service, football parking service, and set up and clean up service for an event center that rents space for meetings and conferences. These businesses provide approximately \$750 thousand dollars of the one million needed to fund the organization.

Club Nova was founded in 1987 to serve people with serious mental disorders such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and serious depression. It was based on a clubhouse model in New York

City. It is a community center, not a clinical treatment center. Participants are members, not clients or patients. The goal is housing stability in the community and a safe environment and comradery. Programs are provided that are comprehensive and research based. The aim is to support members in psychiatric, financial, social and medical spheres. Club Nova is launching a campaign to finance a new building on their property in Carrboro. Club Nova is currently housed in two old buildings

The program was followed by a question and answer period. Bea Keller thanked the participants and distributed gifts. She mentioned an organization that could not make it: the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). This organization provides many support programs for families and patients. Many counties have chapters including Orange and Durham. She also mentioned that Durham has an organization, Threshold, which is very similar to Club Nova.

Bea announced that the next program's topic would be Balancing Family Life in Our Digitalized World, presented by Dr. Kathleen Clarke-Pearson, a national authority on the subject at the Southwest Durham Library on Shannon Road on April 13 with the program starting at 11 a.m. and coffee at 10:30. She also expressed the hope that members and guests would attend the fundraiser featuring Hal Crowther on Tuesday, April 23, from 5:30 -

Minutes (continued)

7:30 at Extraordinary Ventures. Karen Piplani was available to sell tickets for \$25.

President Keller said that we have filled most positions in our next slate of officers. The search committee is proposing Michele Hoyman for President, Donna Wilson, who will continue as Vice-President liaison for colleges and universities, LaPrince-Miller Smith for Program Vice-President, Mary Sipple for Treasurer, Jan Holland will be her assistant, Katie Loovis for Recording Secretary. She said that the search committee are still hoping that someone will step forward to be Membership Vice-President.

Bea Keller also reminded members that it was time to renew for next year and that it was possible to do it on line.

Gloria Thomas, Director of the Carolina Women's Center, urged members to donate gently used purses to support interns working on gender equity work at non-profits this summer. Gloria will be glad to arrange to pick them up or they can be dropped off at Mia's Closet located in the Timberlyne Shopping Center by Friday April 5. Power of the Purse will be held April 25 from 6-8 p.m. Tickets are available on line.

A motion was made to adjourn and seconded.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Piplani & Bea Keller



Our Proposed 2019-2020 Slate of Officers

At our April 13 meeting, we will be inducting a new slate of officers if approved by the membership present at the meeting.

President—Michele Hoyman
 Vice-President Membership—position unfilled
 Vice-President Programs—LaPrince-Miller Smith
 Program Committee Members: Martha Barefoot, Sandy Mold
 Vice-President College/University Liaison—Donna Wilson
 Treasurer—Mary Sipple
 Assistant to the treasurer—Jan Holland

Recording Secretary—Katie Loovis

I am very excited about our 2019-2020 board—it's time for fresh ideas and new approaches! If anyone wants to fill the Vice-President Membership slot, please let us know!

We are very grateful to all those who served and want to thank those who are leaving the board: Karen Piplani, our treasurer for many years, and Margaret Herring, who found time in her busy activist schedule to be our recording secretary. We

also thank Lisa Price for serving on the program committee for many years and helping us snag wonderful speakers. I (Bea) will remain on the board and help with programming in a purely advisory capacity. I will also continue to keep up our website. We hope some of you who feel the urge to lead will contact us and offer your help.

