

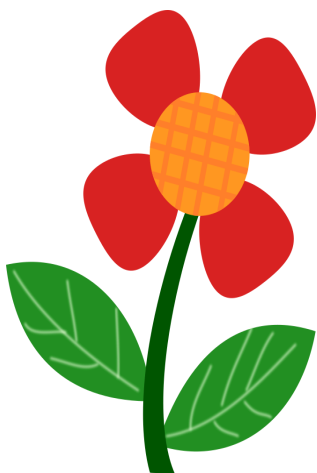
MARCH

AAUW-ORANGE, DURHAM, CHATHAM BRANCH

FROM THE PRESIDENT: BEA KELLER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>From the President</i>	1
<i>March Program</i>	2
<i>Save the Dates</i>	
<i>Public policy</i>	
<i>Spotlight on Education</i>	3
<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	
<i>Fundraiser, Hal Crowther</i>	
<i>February Minutes</i>	4
<i>Power of the Purse</i>	
<i>Schwenning Scholarship</i>	5
<i>Proposed Slate</i>	
<i>Annual Literary Event</i>	6



In North Carolina, February torments us with the promise of spring soon dashed by the realities of winter. So, we enjoy the first daffodils and forsythia, confident even when the north wind blows anew, that more signs of springtime will follow. And so, it goes with public policies that offer a path out of poverty to families and the children that grow up in disadvantaged communities; the winds blow hot and cold. The policies in recent years regarding healthcare, education, food security, and social welfare programs have resulted in diminished resources which affects our most vulnerable families. I bring this up because on February 7, 2019, Edward F. Zigler, the developmental psychologist who helped create Head Start in the 1960's, died. "Much of Zigler's applied research aimed to develop and improve services for disadvantaged children, such as those with intellectual disabilities, or children of poverty." (Weissberg, Roger, 1993, *Edward Ziglar*) Ziglar's work stemmed from his own experience in a settlement house, growing up in Kansas City, Missouri., "where he and his immigrant parents learned English and received medical care, meals and social sup-

port. 'As the son of a non-English speaker, and having grown up in poverty,' Dr Zigler said, 'I've been able to exceed expectations and possibilities.'" (*New York Times Obituaries*, 2/12/2019) Early Head Start promotes healthy prenatal outcomes, healthy families and infant and toddler development beginning as early as birth. In North Carolina and the nation, only two percent of low-income children are served by Early Head Start. Head Start helps to create healthy development in low-income children ages three to five. Ten percent of low-income 3-year-old children in NC and 18% nationally are served whereas with low-income 4-year-old children, 16% in North Carolina and 20% nationally are served. There have been criticisms of these programs—fraud, uncertified teachers, and studies which surmised that cognitive gains quickly evaporated beyond the third grade. Budget hawks eye Head Start funding as non-essential. However, studies by the Learning Policy Institute "found that investments in quality preschool programs bolster student success. Students who attend preschool programs are more prepared for school and less likely to be identified as having special needs or to be held back than children who did not attend preschool." (National Institute

for Early Education Research, *nieer.org news* 2/13/2019) According to Jordan Weissman of *Slate*, the United States' "women's labor force participation peaked in the year 2000, then declined. In other wealthy countries, it continues to rise. In one well-known paper, economists Francine Blau and Lawrence Kahn estimated that if the U.S. had even an average set of family support policies compared to the rest of the world, women's labor force participation would be almost 7 percentage points higher." Many women and their families would benefit from paid maternity leave, subsidized high quality daycare, low-cost health insurance and the like. As a nation, we can and should make our children a priority. They are our future. I hope to see all of you at our next meeting on March 16. We will meet at the South Regional Library on Shannon Road. Head out on 15-501, pass South Square and turn right at the next stoplight (Shannon Road). Go through the intersection with Martin Luther King Parkway, and the library will be on your left. Our program starts at 11 a.m. but we have coffee and snacks starting at 10:30.

March 16 Program: Mental Health Resources in Our Area

Southeast Regional Library, 3605 Shannon Rd., Durham NC

Snacks & Coffee: 10:30 Program: 11:00

Humans will readily talk about their physical pains but somehow societies worldwide stigmatize brain disorders and mental illness. Our brains are like the rest of our bodies, vulnerable to both acute and chronic troubles. In our area, we have several organizations

that have formed over the years to address brain disorders and mental health issues. We have representatives from four of these remarkable organizations who will explain their mission: **El Futuro**, Ismael Santillano, MA Ed.S, LPCA, **Ex-**

traordinary Ventures, Paige Morrow CEO, **Club Nova**, Rosemary Waldorf and **NAMI Durham** (National Alliance of Mental Illness), Alicia Graham, President. Please come and bring friends.

Public Policy, Elizabeth Leone, Public Policy Chair

It appears that the activism demonstrated by women in the months leading up to the 2018 Midterm elections may have resulted in some actual change. More women ran for office and more women will serve. Several issues tied to AAUW's public policy initiatives are noted in the measures various states voted in as well:

- *restoration of voting rights to offenders who have served their sentences giving voting rights to 1.5 million people (Florida)
- *protection from public discrimination for transgenders (Massachusetts)
- *expansion of Medicaid coverage (Nebraska, Utah and Idaho)
- *increase of the state minimum wage (Arkansas, Missouri)
- *voted down a proposition that prohibited publicly funded health programs from covering abortions (Oregon).

Clearly change taking place at the state level is key to promoting legislation that is important to women and in line with AAUW policy initia-

tives: pay equity, safe workplaces for women and girls, health care and reproductive rights and paid medical and family leave.

The Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act (FMLA) is the only federal leave policy in the U.S and it was enacted in 1993. It allows states to expand on those laws and many states (approximately 16) have chosen to do so. The Institute for Women's Policy Research estimates that paid leave would cost less than half of one percent of taxable payroll while extending economic, health and social benefits to millions of Americans. Paid leave could go a long way to narrow the gender pay gap. An updated analysis of the gender wage gap by Rose and Hartmann spelled that out - women who take time off had earnings 39% lower than women who did not. With paid leave in place, fewer women would have to leave their jobs or choose between economic and family or health realities. New York, Washington State, the District of Columbia and Massachu-

setts have just begun paid leave programs and six other states are working on getting programs in place. However, Michigan and Texas are attempting to overturn new paid sick day protection. Paid leave is an issue with wide-ranging health, economic and family implications. Many workplaces have evolved since 1993 and offer paid leave as a benefit to their employees but that clearly isn't universal. AAUW members are encouraged to bring paid leave to the forefront by becoming a member of the AAUW Action Network. The new Two-Minute Activist Mobile allows members to message their legislators' offices on their cellphones. To take your activism to the next level check out the AAUW Action Network from the AAUW website or text AAUW to the phone number 21333. Last year Two Minute Activists sent more than 200,000 messages to their members of Congress. Add your voice to this worthy effort.

Save the Date!

Saturday, April 13, 10:30 a.m., Durham Public Library, Southwestern Branch, 3605 Shannon Rd, Durham, 27707:
Balancing Family Life in Our Digitalized World presented by Dr. Kathleen Clarke-Pearson

Tuesday, April 23, 5:30 p.m-7:30 p.m., our annual fundraiser at Extraordinary Ventures, 200 S. Elliott Rd., Chapel Hill, featuring hors d'oeuvres and author **Hal Crowther**

Spotlight on Education

The League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham counties invites members of AAUW to attend our April 9, noon (bring your own lunch) meeting at the Chapel Hill Public Library that will feature guest presenter, Bonnie Bechard, author of the 2018 LWV study, "NC Private Schools Receiving Vouchers: A Study of the Curriculum".

As is AAUW, the LWVNC is committed to focusing on equity and access to quality education.

Toward that end, the local LWV Education Team advocates for public education and works to educate the public on issues connected to our state position. The LWVNC position calls for full access to a PK-12 public education that prepares individuals for their future as global citizens. The detailed position statement is available on the LWVNC website (<https://lwwnc.org/act/league-action-items/education/>) but in brief includes the following:

- We support fully funded public, pre-K education programs
- We believe highly

qualified educators are necessary

- We support training, support, and professional development
- We believe in salaries competitive with the national average
- We believe charter schools receiving public dollars must be held to the same educational, accountability and transparency standards as traditional public schools
- We oppose shifting public tax dollars to private entities

Interest in vouchers is an outgrowth of League positions. Known in NC as Opportunity Scholarships, this program was established in 2013 to provide government-funded vouchers for students to attend private schools. If enacted as planned, by the academic year 2028-29, the state will have spent over \$1 billion on vouchers. Public interest prompted the LWV-Lower Cape Fear to begin a study of the voucher program in January 2017.

The final report, "NC Private Schools Receiving Vouchers: A Study of the Curriculum".

was published in 2018

(<https://lwwnc.org/2018/0>

Mary Kolek

[4/30/some-nc-schools-leave-students-unprepared-for-college-careers/](#)). The results were startling in that Mrs. Bechard's research found that more than three-fourths of schools receiving vouchers in North Carolina use a curriculum in the Sciences, History, Government, and Literature, that is not accepted by major universities and which educators criticize as lacking academic rigor and critical thinking. The results, and issues related to accountability and transparency, were shared with all members of the General Assembly, state and local educational leaders and were highlighted in media reports. Bonnie has continued to study this topic and on April 9 will be in Chapel Hill presenting her findings and discussing her experiences since authoring this work.

Save the date! We hope as members of AAUW you will attend what promises to be an enlightening and engaging talk. Updated details will be available on the LWVODC website (http://www.lwvdc.org/edu_action.html).

Treasurer's Report 2/14/2019

Account Balances

Checking—\$1,225.72

Money Market -
\$1,005.39

C.D. - \$4,894.31

Treasurer, Karen Piplani

April 23 Fundraiser features Hal Crowther

Hal Crowther, journalist and essayist, will be our speaker at Extraordinary Ventures. After hearing many people say, "I would love to come but I have to work," we have changed the hours to early evening hours. We will start at 5:30 and end at 7:30. It should still be light at that time. We will still serve finger food and non-alcoholic drinks. We have decided to go up on the price as rental fees and other costs have gone up as well. The price will be \$25 a ticket. **All** the profits of this event provide funds for scholarships for women. Please come and bring friends.



Minutes of Feb 16, 2019 Plenary Meeting at Chapel Hill Public Library



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 opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to our annual Fellows program which focuses on a core endeavor of AAUW—to support women in their pursuit of graduate degrees. She mentioned the April 23 fundraiser at Extraordinary Ventures to raise money for scholarships and that there were flyers available for the event. She added that our treasurer, Karen Piplani, would be selling tickets for the event. She thanked members for bringing refreshments. Vice-President Membership Michele Hoyman welcomed two guests and at the end of the meeting introduced our future Programs Vice-President, LaPrince-Miller Smith.

Donna Wilson, our college/university liaison officer, presented our speaker Sarajanée Davis, a Candidate at The Ohio State University in Columbus who will earn her PhD in May 2019 and who was a recipient of the AAUW American Dissertation Fellowship. In her thesis, she examined the emergence of black power politics on predominantly white campuses in the upper south in the late 1960's and 1970's and how gender shaped the political tactics and cultural programs the student activists utilized and promoted to challenge the dominant power structures. Ms. Davis spoke of the centrality of community in the Black Power movement—strong people don't need strong leaders. Her thesis highlights women's intellectual and ideological contributions to local iterations of the black power movement. Strong leadership was not important but creating a space for people to speak for themselves mattered

more. African-Americans did not want integration just for integration's sake. They wanted access to power, not just places. Ella Baker was a prominent activist from North Carolina. She was associated with Shaw University and identified herself as a humanist and advocated black women equity. In a speech, Ms. Baker said that activism involved organization, dedication and a willingness to do what had to be done. She said, "I didn't break the rules, but I did change the rules." Ms. Davis cited two instances that involved UNC-CH. When football player Ike Oglesby sustained a serious leg injury in 1972 which required a long recuperation, he was criticized for his poor work ethic by sportscasters, a group that was all white at the time. African-American students rallied around him and cheered him on when he was able to come back. When Mrs. Elizabeth Brooks, a UNC food service worker organized a strike for better pay, and was subsequently fired, students demonstrated for her cause.

Sarajanée's lecture was followed by a lively question and answer interchange. Donna Wilson thanked her verbally and with a gift. Bea Keller announced the next program, scheduled March 16 on Mental Health Resources in our area. Panel members would include representatives from Club Nova, a community center for people with serious mental illnesses, El Futuro, an organization which provides com-

prehensive mental health services to Latino families, Extraordinary Ventures which creates jobs and social opportunities for adults with autism and other developmental disabilities, and the Durham chapter of NAMI, the national alliance on mental illness which provides many programs for families and individuals. She reiterated that it would take place at another library, Durham Public Library, at the Southwestern Branch, 3605 Shannon Rd, Durham.

Karen Piplani asked that members who had not made donations to our Schwenning scholarship help fund it if they could.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted by
Bea Keller

History of the Schwenning Scholarship

The Carrie Heath Schwenning Scholarship is our own Branch's memorial to a special member. It started in 1928 as a loan program of \$100.00 per year to be paid back over 2 years at 4% interest. The amount of the loan increased, and in 1950 it was named in honor of Carrie Heath Schwenning, a member and treasurer, who died an untimely death. In 1954 it was changed to a scholarship program.

The original meeting minutes of October 1928, show that it was decided that the "best way to raise funds for the program for each member to voluntari-

ly donate at least \$1.00."

In addition to member donations, other fundraising events were held to complete the funding. In the years following, food sales, bridge suppers at the University President's house, lectures, and marionette shows were held.

A lecture in 1935 sponsored jointly by the English Department and our AAUW Branch featured Gertrude Stein speaking at Gerrard Hall for a fee of \$100.00. Miss Stein limited the number of the audience members to 300, but the Loan Fund earned \$136.00 in spite of the limitation.

In 1952 a presentation by

the Grass Roots Opera of Chapel Hill of Donizetti's "Don Pasquale, at \$1.75 per ticket, was held at the Chapel Hill High School.

We have continued to use lectures to help fund not only the Schwenning Scholarship, but also Scholarships and Grants administered by the National AAUW organization. Your continued help with these efforts maintains a long history of AAUW support for women's equality of education and opportunity as we begin the next 100 years of our AAUW chapter making a difference in women's lives.

Thanks to **Kay White** who did all the research for this Article.

2019-2010 Schwenning Scholarship Completely Funded!

Thanks to the 14 members of our branch who have contributed directly this year, and to the supporters of our FundRaiser efforts last year, we are completely funded for the 2019-2020 School Year!

We start again early for next year, and I urge all folks who have not donated yet to consider making a donation, of any size, to UNC-Chapel Hill, Fund # 656725.

Please give the check to Treasurer, Karen Piplani, or mail to her at 1502 Halifax Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514-2728. You will receive a receipt for a tax-deduction from UNC, and many companies will match these donations.

Treasurer, Karen Piplani

Our Proposed 2019-2020 Slate of Officers: Progress Report

Michele Hoyman and I are slowly piecing together our new slate of officers. The following list of officers is as it stands currently.

President:
Vice-President Membership—Michele Hoyman
Vice-President Programs—LaPrince-Miller Smith
Program Committee Members: Martha Barefoot, Sandy Mold
Vice-President College/University Liaison—Donna Wilson
Treasurer—Mary Sipple
Recording Secretary—Katie Loois
President Ex Officio—Bea Keller

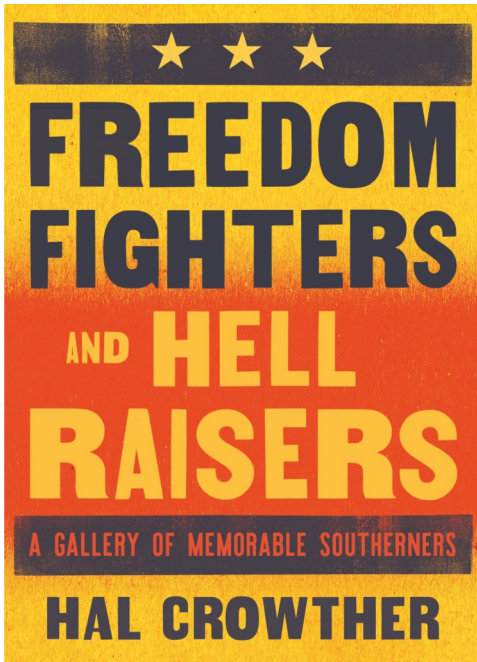
During the current year, we had no Program Vice-President. If we cannot find anyone to be president, Michele Hoyman has said that she will fill in the position. However, this would leave the VP membership slot unfilled.

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 programing in an 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.



March 2019

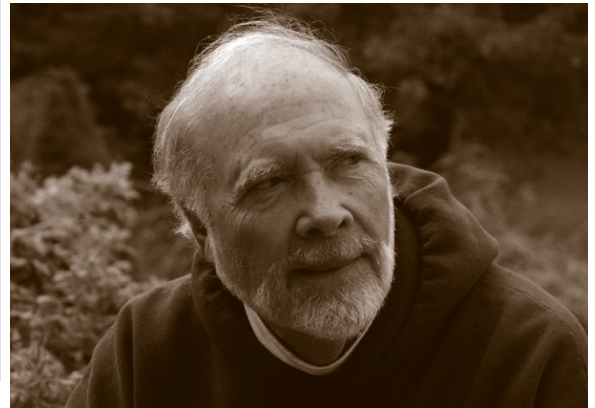


AAUW-ODC
 Annual Literary Event
 Tuesday, Apr. 23 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
 Extraordinary Ventures, 200 S. Elliott Rd.
 Chapel Hill, NC 27514
 Featuring

HAL CROWTHER
 AWARD WINNING ESSAYIST , CRITIC,
 JOURNALIST

PUBLISHED WORKS

- *Freedom Fighters and Hell Raisers: A Gallery of Memorable Southerners* (2018)
- *An Infuriating American: The Incendiary Arts of H. L. Mencken* (2014)
- *Gather at the River: Notes From the Post Millennial South* (2005)
- *Cathedrals of Kudzu: A Personal Landscape of the South* (2002)
- *Unarmed but Dangerous: A Withering Attack on All Things Phony, Foolish, and Fundamentally Wrong With America Today* (1995)



ALL PROFITS GO TO: AAUW'S EDUCATION FUND WHICH SUPPORTS FEMALE GRAD STUDENTS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR WOMEN

Questions? kellermar-ieb@gmail.com (919) 929-4432

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 Piplani, 1502 Halifax Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514-2728 (919) 929-6553

HORS D'OEUVRES AND NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS WILL BE SERVED <https://chapelhill-nc.aauw.net/>