



## AAUW-ODC Newsletter    September 2020

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### President's Message

Dear Members,

The summer has been eventful, filled with much tragedy and intermittent acts of humanity. The number of COVID cases continues to rise in N.C. as do the number of Black and brown deaths at the hands of the police. Similarly, protests continue causing a strong reaction from law enforcement. I cannot imagine the pain of the mothers and fathers of those who were shot simply for jogging in the wrong neighborhood, nor can I imagine the pain of those parents of newly infected university students.

We thank all of you who renewed your AAUW membership! We look forward to a good year with outstanding and relevant programs. (See program committee article elsewhere in this newsletter.) Also, we hope to channel our positive energy toward assisting the needs of women scholars. Further, we hope to do research and advocacy for educational equity. If there were ever a time to advocate for women's rights, it is now.

This will be a different year. Instead of our usual convivial, in-person gathering for our talks, we will be meeting by Zoom. We will do everything possible to make the events as interactive as we can.

We also encourage any members to step forward with an idea of a small interest groups on anything from film discussions to art interest group to theme book clubs to social justice to international affairs committees. I have heard from two of the healthiest branches across the states who report that these smaller groups help attract and retain members. Please send any ideas for interest groups to [hoyman@unc.edu](mailto:hoyman@unc.edu) or any other board member. Some branches had between 6

to 12 interest groups before COVID.

The AAUW book club meets next on Oct.21 at 12 noon to discuss *How to Be an Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi. Please contact Mary Kolek at [mmkchnc14@gmail.com](mailto:mmkchnc14@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining that. We will be zooming in for that, and Mary will give you the zoom sign in.

### **September 26 10:30 am First Meeting**

Register in advance at <https://tinyurl.com/AAUWODCSept2020>

The topic is Elections in the time of COVID-19. Our two distinguished speakers via Zoom will be from the League of Women Voters. The meeting begins at 10:30. Non-members welcome. Spread the word! First you register and then Gloria Thomas will send you Zoom connection information.

### **Social Justice Committee: Calling All Volunteers**

We have a newly formed Social Justice committee. If you wish to be on the committee, email me at [hoyma@unc.edu](mailto:hoyma@unc.edu). We do need a chair for this committee in order to begin discussions.

### **People's Pharmacy Was a Crowd Pleaser!!**

Good news!! We had over 500 hits on Terri and Joe Graedon's lecture on Health tips for surviving COVID. Once we had to cancel our fundraiser, the Graedon's showed it on YouTube. Thanks, Terri and Joe!

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## **AAUW ODC September 26, 2020, Branch Meeting**

**Saturday, September 26, 2020**

**10:30 am – noon**

Register now at <https://tinyurl.com/AAUWODCSept2020>.

### **Voting in the COVID-19 Era**

In preparation for the upcoming general election on November 3, 2020, Krishna Mondal and Val Gist of the League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and

Chatham counties will lead us in a presentation of critical information we need to know in order to make informed decisions, including current NC voting laws and procedures as well as election issues specific to the COVID-19 health crisis. The presentation will also cover information about the League's voter resources website VOTE411.org which contains a nonpartisan voter guide from which voters can determine where candidates (national, state and local) stand on specific issues.

***Register here to join the meeting via Zoom:***

<https://tinyurl.com/AAUWODCSept2020>

After you register, Zoom connection information will be emailed to you.

Questions? Contact Gloria Thomas

[gloriadthomas721@gmail.com](mailto:gloriadthomas721@gmail.com)

301-922-0661

**Valeria Gist** joined the League of Women Voters in 2016 and likes to focus her attention and efforts on VOTE411.org – the League's one stop shop for nonpartisan election information. She received her BS degree in Business Administration from Winston-Salem State University. She is retired from the nonpartisan government watchdog – U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). She volunteers with Chatham Habitat for Humanity, and we are pleased to note that Val became a member of the AAUW ODC Branch this summer.



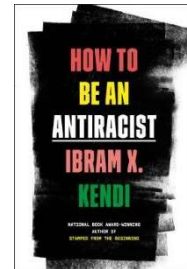
**Krishna Mondal** joined the League of Women Voters in 2013 because of her interest in increasing voter turnout and has worked to promote voter education and participation. As a member of the LWV-ODC Board from 2013-2018, Krishna directed the Voter Services team. In addition to serving as the LWV-ODC's president since 2018, Krishna has served as the Director for Voter Services for LWVNC from 2017-2019 and was a member of the LWVNC steering committee responsible for launching VOTE411.org statewide in 2018. Additionally, Krishna guided the development of local and NC-wide Violence Against Women committees. She led ODC-Violence Against Women team for the starting 3 years. She holds a BS in Biological Sciences from the University of Southern California and a PhD in Immunology from UNC-Chapel Hill. For over 25 years Krishna has worked in academic research in the fields of immunology and hematology. She has taught immunology and hematology at the California State University Long Beach and at UNC Chapel Hill. Currently, she works as a medical grant writer/editor. She and her husband live in Chapel Hill and have two sons who are away at college.



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## There Is Nothing like a Good Book to Expand Thinking and Inspire Conversation

Join us on Zoom, **Wednesday, October 21**, at noon, as we discuss Ibram X. Kendi's memoir, *How to Be an Antiracist*. This book--which explores the "transformational concept of antiracism"--is a starkly personal work that is unapologetically provocative in what it asks of the reader. NYT reviewer, Jeffrey Stewart reflects, "What emerges from [the author's] insights is the most courageous book to date on the problem of race in the Western mind, a confessional of self-examination that may, in fact, be our best chance to free ourselves from our national nightmare."



Please email Mary Kolek, [mmkchnc14@gmail.com](mailto:mmkchnc14@gmail.com), with "AAUW Book Talk" in the subject box, if you would like to be included in the Zoom invitation.

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## AAUW ODC October 24, 2020, Branch Meeting

**Saturday, October 24, 2020**

**10:30 am – noon**

### **The Status of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)**

In 2019 and 2020, the U.S. celebrates the centennial of the 19th Amendment. Passed by Congress on June 4, 1919, and ratified on August 18, 1920, the 19th amendment granted women the right to vote. But whatever happened to the Equal Rights Amendment, which was passed by the U.S. Senate and sent to the states for ratification in March 1972?

**Lori Bunton**, Co-President of the ERA-NC Alliance will present a brief overview of the ERA's history, and an update on the status of the ERA. With so much attention now on gender equity for women, people of color, and those who are gender non-conforming or non-binary, Lori will address how the current ERA movement is responding to these 21st century nuances and what steps we can all take to

pursue equality.

Register here to join the meeting via Zoom:

<https://tinyurl.com/AAUWODCOct2020>

Questions? Contact Gloria Thomas

[gloriadthomas721@gmail.com](mailto:gloriadthomas721@gmail.com)

301-922-0661

**Lori Bunton** is a retired pharmaceutical executive and longtime activist for women's rights. She spent nearly 30

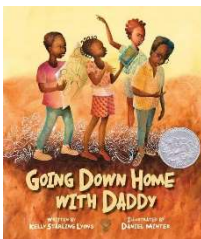


years working in established companies as large as Eli Lilly and in start-up biopharmaceutical organizations. Her career spanned sales, marketing, and market research. Lori has served on the boards of Planned Parenthood in TN and NC., National Organization for Women, as well as President of the North Carolina Alliance for Healthy Communities in Raleigh. She currently serves as Co-President for the ERA-NC Alliance, where she has been a Board member for four

years. Lori has a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Tennessee. In addition to her service on boards, she volunteers with Dress for Success in Durham, NC as a career coach and serves as an advisor on their career curriculum. Lori has lived all over the U.S. and Europe and now resides in the Raleigh-Durham area.

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## 2020 Young People's Literature Award



AAUW NC Young People's Literature Award was given to Kelly Starling Lyons for her book, ***Going Down Home with Daddy***. Appropriate for ages 4 through 9, it recounts a young African-American boy's visit to his paternal grandmother for a family reunion. It takes place in the deep south, and he is able to grasp the significance of the family farm and his ancestors' accomplishments. Better yet, he is able to express his understanding and appreciation to his grandmother and to his whole family. This year, in keeping with our tradition of rotating AAUW NC's gift among our three counties, a copy was sent to Central Elementary's library in Hillsborough, NC.

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## **AAUW-ODC College and University Partnerships Outreach**

August 1, 2020, was this year's opening date for applications to AAUW for fellowship grants and funding to qualified graduate women nationwide for their research, professional development, or community involvement. Annually, AAUW awards more than \$4.3 million dollars in funding for fellowships and grants to more than 270 women nationwide.

Fulfilling AAUW-Orange, Durham, and Chatham Counties' annual goals, our outreach this year has included connections to more than 23 area colleges, universities, or local communities for institutional officials to share this funding information with qualified women who are pursuing varied research and community project initiatives through their respective graduate work or career development opportunities.

Our branch's past outreach efforts have contributed to increased availability of information about funding from AAUW to area colleges and universities, resulting in an average of 4-5 awards annually for the Triangle area. For the 2020 funding year, there were five awards, spanning dissertation fellowship funding, community outreach, and career professional development. Watch for more program details about these award winners who will be invited guests to our Fellows Meeting in February 2021.

I have included a link to the AAUW application site for you to explore other details about these funding opportunities and the importance that each award affords to visionary professional women, whose research and community involvement are providing long-lasting impacts for all citizens.

Dr. Donna M. Wilson  
Vice President  
College & University Partnerships

[Educational Funding and Awards](#)

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## **Social Justice Committee Launched: Are you interested?**

Social Justice Committee is launched. The AAUW ODC board at its summer meeting passed a resolution to fight racism; this committee was established to discover activities to further the goal of fighting racism. We have had a good response. We need to have a chair or at least a facilitator in order to convene the meeting. If you are willing to be on the committee or to chair it even for a brief time, please contact Michele at [hoyma@unc.edu](mailto:hoyma@unc.edu). We are joining forces with the Book Club for a session on October 21 at 12 noon to study How to Be an Anti-racist. For information on the Book Club meeting contact Mary Kolek at [mmkchnc14@gmail.com](mailto:mmkchnc14@gmail.com) and put AAUW Book Club in subject heading.

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## **Membership Update**

Jan Holland

As of September 2020 we have a total of 65 AAUW members in the Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties (ODC) Branch, including five Life Members. Thirteen members still need to renew for the 2020-2021 year. IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP, NOW IS THE TIME!! National AAUW will drop your name from our branch roster at the end of November if you have not renewed by then. We don't want to lose ANY of our members!

There are two EASY ways to RENEW:

- Renew ONLINE securely with a credit card. (See the six steps below.)\*
- Send a check made out to AAUW-ODC for \$80.00 to Treasurer Mary Sipple, 2512 Millwood Ct., Chapel Hill, NC 27514, with any changes of address and/or email.

\* AAUW: Six STEPS TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

1. Go to AAUW National website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)
2. Click on "Membership" in the upper right hand corner.
3. Click on "Member Services Database" from list on right.

4. Log in with your member ID# and password, OR "Create Account" if you are a first time user.
5. Find "Membership Payment Program (MPP)" from list on left and click on "Renew My Membership."
6. Follow directions to renew and pay annual dues.

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER TO THE ODC BRANCH!

**Cassie Tanks** graduated with a BA in History from San Diego State University in 2019. As a student she was a research assistant for an oral history project and a digital humanities project, and continued her digital humanities research post-baccalaureate. After graduating, she was the Digital Humanities Assistant at SDSU's Digital Humanities Center in Love Library. Currently, Cassie is pursuing a Masters of Science in Library Science at UNC at Chapel Hill. At UNC she is a Carolina Academic Library Association research assistant in the University Archive at Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill University Libraries. Cassie's first jobs of instructing dance and doing community outreach at a recreation center continue to impact her to this day.

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## **Treasurer's update**

### **Account Balances**

Checking \$4260.61

MM \$1006.18

CD \$4902.07

### **Scholarship contributions** year-to-date:

- NCCU \$1550
- UNC-CH \$ 500

In addition, we have the spring fundraiser proceeds (\$1960.15 currently in our checking account). These funds will be used for scholarships.



Mary Sipple  
Treasurer

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You are receiving this email because you are an AAUW-ODC member or have otherwise opted in to receive our newsletter.

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