



Orange, Durham, Chatham
Counties (NC) Branch

AAUW-ODC Newsletter July 2021

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President's message



MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE?

By Cindy Parks

“Attention has always been currency, but as we’ve begun to live our lives increasingly online, it’s now the currency. Any discussion of power is now, ultimately, a conversation about attention and how we extract it, wield it, waste it, abuse it, sell it, lose it and profit from it.” (NY Times, Feb. 4, 2021)

The question now is whether an attention economy and a healthy democracy can coexist. The attention economy may lead to a deepening inequality. I believe this makes participation in AAUW more important than ever. I have more to say about why [HERE](#).

<https://chapelhill-nc.aauw.net/2021/06/25/presidents-message/>

AAUW-NC News page: www.aauwnc.org/news

Save the Date: Sept. 9th | 7PM-8:30PM | Zoom

<https://chapelhill-nc.aauw.net/fall-programs-2021/>

September harkens back-to-school time. It’s also back-to-programming time for our branch.



The program committee has done its homework early and has 2 great fall programs on the books.

Find out more! [Details Here](#)

PROGRAM DATES 2021-2022:

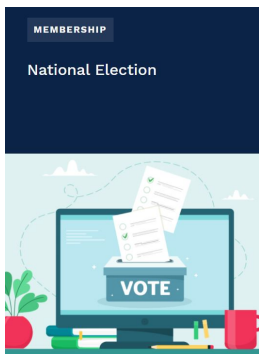
Sept. 9, 7-8:30PM (Zoom)

Oct. 16, 10:30 – Noon (Zoom)

Feb. 19, 10:30 – Noon (Zoom)

Mar. 19, 10:30 – Noon (In Person)

Open Membership Vote

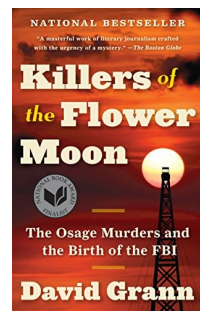


Many thanks to all AAUW-ODC members who voted!

The AAUW National ballot initiative to eliminate the membership degree requirement got 63% of the vote, which was just below the two-thirds majority needed to enact a bylaw change.

Book Group

The AAUW book group selection for September is **Killers of the Flower Moon**. This book has personal ties to one of our members, Susan Williams, whose ancestor was an Osage Indian. I am sure she will bring a unique perspective to our discussion, which we expect to be scheduled for late September. The date and time will be announced in late August once fall schedules are firmed up. I anticipate we will still be zoom based, so, if you are away or have a friend you would like to join us, we will be easily accessible. If you are new to our book group, please email me, mmkchnc14@gmail.com. and put AAUW Sept. Book Group in the subject. I will add



you to the group list so you are sure to get updates and links.

To whet your curiosity about the book, I share the following notes:

David Grann, in a novel the NYT described as “riveting,” investigates a

“series of murders of wealthy Osage people that took place in Osage County, Oklahoma in the early 1920s—after big oil deposits were discovered beneath their land. After the Osage are awarded rights in court to the profits made from oil deposits found on their land, the Osage people prepare for receiving the wealth to which they are legally entitled from sales of their oil deposits.”

However, as you might anticipate based on our last book, the Osage status is not looked upon kindly by the dominant caste, and a

“complex plot is hatched and put into place to eliminate the Osage people inheriting wealth from oil profits on a one-by-one basis by any means possible. Officially, the count of the murdered full-blood wealthy Osage reaches at least twenty, but Grann suspects that hundreds more may have been killed because of their ties to oil. The book details the FBI's investigation of the murders, as well as the eventual trial and conviction of cattleman William Hale as the mastermind behind the plot.” *Wikipedia, 2021*

Sean Woods of Rolling Stone praised Grann's book, noting,

"In his masterful ...book...Grann chronicles a tale of murder, betrayal, heroism and a nation's struggle to leave its frontier culture behind and enter the modern world.... Filled with almost mythic characters from our past--stoic Texas Rangers, corrupt robber barons, private detectives, and murderous desperadoes like the Al Spencer gang--Grann's story amounts to a secret history of the American frontier."

Mary Monroe Kolek

Email [book club](#) for more info.

Please welcome New Members!

New members this year

- Patricia Collins
- Jules Oldenhal-James
- Donna Mergliano
- Laura Thomas

Welcome back

Angela Ford has rejoined AAUW-ODC after a one-year hiatus. We first introduced her in

December 2019 (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020 fiscal year). And then we all know what happened and how easy it was to let a membership lapse during a pandemic. Thanks to Angela for reconnecting and rejoining AAUW as we prepare to begin the July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022 fiscal year.

Please don't let your membership lapse! Be sure to renew now.



2021-2022 Dues:

\$83
(**\$59 is Tax-Deductible**)

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

To pay online

Please look for your June 1 renewal email from AAUW membership services. It contains a link that is unique to you! The renewal email includes a link to National AAUW's secure member portal where you will be able to renew using a credit card for payment.

Can't find it? Email aauw.odc.treasurer@gmail.com and request a new invoice. Alternatively, you can follow the steps on our [branch website](#) and renew without the invoice.

To pay by check

Send a check for \$83 to AAUW-ODC, P.O. Box 9303, Chapel Hill, NC, 27515. No need to include a form. We just need your name clearly written on the check or accompanying note.

Existing memberships expired **June 30th**. *This does **not** apply to new members who joined this calendar year. If you recently joined with our Shape the Future discount, your membership does not expire until June 30, 2022.*

Questions? Contact Jan Holland [Membership Chair – Click Here](#).

Let's celebrate!



We'd like to collect members' **birth months** so we can celebrate more. If the pandemic has taught us anything, it's that we need to lift up the special people and important causes in our lives.

Submit your answer faster than you can blow out birthday candles! To get the party started, please [CLICK HERE](#).

July birthdays: Lori Bunton and Gloria Thomas. If you'd like to donate to AAUW-ODC scholarships in their honor or in honor or memory of another special person's July

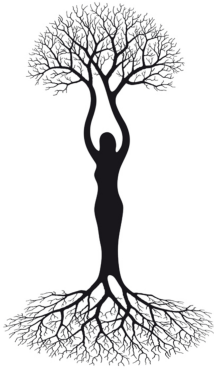
birthday, please mail a check to AAUW-ODC, PO Box 9303, Chapel Hill, NC 27515 with Birthday Dollars JULY on the memo line!

Treasurer's Report



We had a very successful spring fundraiser this year, raising **\$7,309.03** for our three local scholarships.

Board Considers 4th Local Scholarship



AAUW-ODC currently provides financial aid scholarship money to UNC, NCCU, and Durham Technical Community College--serving women who are studying in Orange and Durham counties. The Board will begin exploration this fall of adding a fourth scholarship at Central Carolina Community College in Chatham County. Dr. Donna Wilson, College & University Partnerships Director, will spearhead this initiative. More planning, logistics, and implementation details to follow.

Donate any time straight from [our branch website](#)! It's an easy way to make your support in a tax-deductible contribution through the institution's web portal. We give you the link and a few simple instructions to follow [HERE](#).

Congratulations to Gloria Thomas!



Congratulations to Gloria Thomas, Ph.D., who has served as Director of the Carolina Women's Center for the past five years. Gloria will serve as President of HERS Institute, a leadership development program for women located at the University of Denver, beginning in August. This is a job that will allow Gloria to fully pursue her passion for fostering leadership development among women in higher education. Gloria will remain in the area at least temporarily and make trips monthly while taking time to make the move to Denver.

Thank you, Gloria, for all you have done for AAUW-ODC with program committee support during your time here in Chapel Hill at the Carolina Women's Center. We wish you every success and hope you can continue participation with us whenever you are in Chapel Hill.

Photo credit: Trevor Holman

Caption: Gloria Thomas is Director of the UNC Women's Center. She is leaving in August to head the HERS Institute, a leadership development program for women in higher education, located at the University of Denver.

Hoyman Honored for Regional AAUW-NC Service!



Be sure to check out the recent honor bestowed upon Michele Hoyman. Thank you, Michele, for your dedicated service to our branch and to AAUW in North Carolina. Michele passes the President's gavel but will continue as chair of our program committee this fiscal year 2021-2022.

<https://chapelhill-nc.aauw.net/aauw-odc-hoyman-honored-as-aauw-regional-leader/>

Thank You to Bea Keller



To many of us, AAUW-ODC is the house that Bea built. She has served us in our branch's hour of need when we had no President and no Program Chair, taking on both jobs after having served as President for several years. In all, Bea has been President for two and a half terms. She has been membership vice-president and program chair. She has assisted me and other officers by patiently mentoring us in the standard procedures of the branch. She is a listener and an empathizer. She has built bridges to the League of Women Voters and Chapel Hill Historical Society through her welcoming presence

as well as to Central University. She instituted the substantive gravitas quality in the President's message which kept us thinking about serious policy issues about women and inequality. She wrote several grants to NC AAUW to help the Women's Center's program in 2017 for women of color entitled "Sharing our Stories" and for two workshops at NCCU to encourage collegiate women to run for student government. She has a deep commitment to AAUW's mission and is a generous donor.

A native North Carolinian, Bea had a career teaching French and Latin in Alamance County schools where she inspired many young women. She is a wonderful role model. Years after her retirement, I would run into awesome professional women who would say to me, I had this wonderful teacher who was an AAUW fan. She has, in Kennedy's words, "passed the torch to a new generation." Thank you, Bea, for your friendship and loyalty to AAUW. We hope we will still see you at meetings and at social gatherings.

In sisterhood,
Michele Hoyman

President (2019-2021)

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