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March Newsletter



"She needed a hero, so that's what she became." - Anonymous



President's Message

We watch in horror as Russia invades Ukraine. Rockets hit apartments, and anti-war protesters in Moscow are arrested. Between **Black History month** and the start of **Women's History month**, we should be celebrating our first woman VP, Kamala Harris. Sadly, she is making history in a time of international crisis thanks to Vladimir Putin. The first African American female Supreme Court nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is being attacked as a radical left political pick by some on the right. I can think of no better source for inspiration right now than Betty Reid Soskin and her life as an original Rosie the Riveter. March's program is a conversation about the ***Power of Inclusive History at our Places of Memory*** in her honor. Please read about Betty, our March program, birthdays, book club and all things AAUW where together, voices of strong women are amplified. Take heart in a quote from my hero, Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray, **"Hope is a song in a weary throat."**

Yours in AAUW Sisterhood,

Cindy Parks, President



Betty Reid Soskin (pictured) is the oldest serving Park Ranger in America. She celebrated her 100th birthday in September. Her focus is uplifting forgotten African American heroines of World War II at Rosie the Riveter WWII National Homefront Historical Park.

As an African American woman who experienced the trauma of World War II, she provides visitors with narratives and stories that are often unheard. She brings more context and understanding to all who are fortunate to see and hear her programs. Unafraid of difficult stories, Betty speaks the hard truths that shape the history of our nation. She was involved in the planning for the park and has remarked about that experience, ***"Often I was the only person in the room who had any reason to***

remember that what gets remembered is a function of who's in the room doing the remembering." She was 85 years old when she began employment at the park.

We'll hold a conversation about the power of inclusive history at our places of memory located here in North Carolina at our annual plenary meeting on **Saturday, March 19th on Zoom. [Registration is required - click here.](#)** We'd love for every member to attend as this is the last branch meeting of the fiscal year. Guest speakers will be:

Dr. Anne Mitchell Whisnant is Director of Graduate Liberal Studies at Duke University. She is a professional historian whose teaching, research, speaking, consulting, and writing focus on public history, digital and geospatial history, and the history of the U.S. National Parks. She is currently the principal investigator on a project in eastern NC to enhance documentation of African-American history in the Portsmouth Village National Register nomination.

Michelle Lanier is Director of NC Division of State Historic Sites. With roots in North Carolina on both sides of her family, she has familial ties to Historic Stagville, the state's African American Music Trail, the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum (Palmer Memorial Institute), Black Wall Street, and many of the state's historically black colleges and universities. Michelle received her undergraduate degree at Spelman College under the renowned Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole. Her graduate degree, in Folklore, with an emphasis on African Diaspora and Black Southern life, was attained at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Annual Meeting Notice

SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH - 10AM

Final Zoom program this fiscal year. You don't want to miss it!



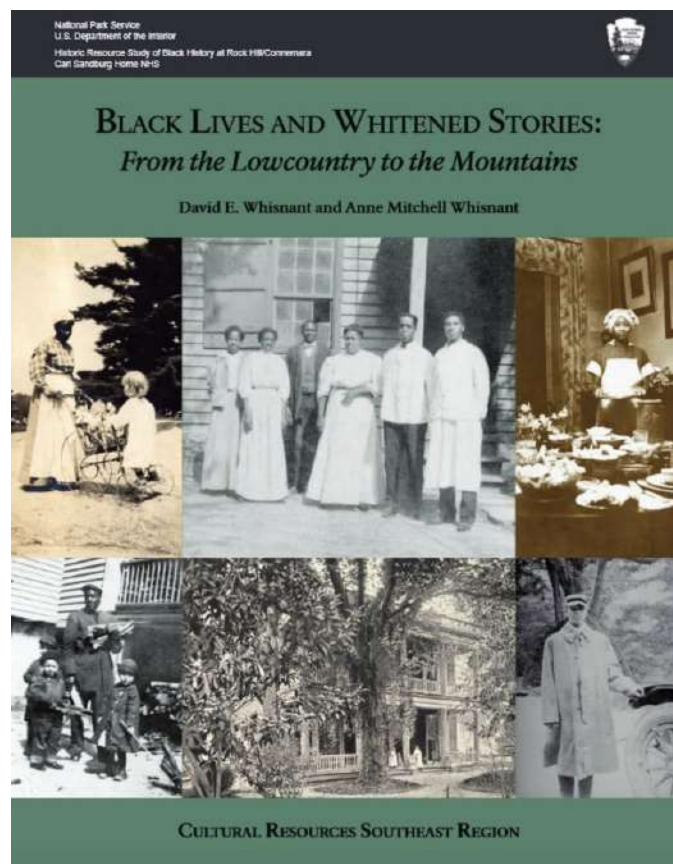
Anne M. Whisnant, Ph.D., Duke Univ.

Michelle Lanier, Dir. NC Div. of Historic Sites



REGISTER NOW

Branch business: 10AM. Program: 10:30AM - Noon.



Dr. Anne Mitchell Whisnant (with husband Dr. David Whisnant), of Chapel Hill, was awarded this year's Excellence in Consulting (Group) Award from the National Council on Public History for their work at Rock Hill/Connemara, the Carl Sandburg National Historic Site in Flat Rock, NC. She will be one of the featured speakers on March 19th.

[Free download of the National Park Service publication - here.](#)

Feb. Membership Meeting Features AAUW Fellowship Winners from NC

By: *Dr. Michele Hoyman, Assoc. Prof of Poli Sci and Program Chair AAUW-ODC.*

American Dissertation Fellowship	Selected Prof. Fellowship	International Fellowship
		
<p>Ms Dawn Rivers, PhD Candidate</p>	<p>Ms Ayesha Ibrahim Yakabu, MD Candidate, (2022) UNC</p>	<p>Ms Ekena Osakwe, MS, Global Health Candidate</p>

On Feb. 19, we gathered to hear three stimulating reports presented by **AAUW National Fellowship recipients** from the Triangle area: Ekene Osakwe, Ayesha Yakabu and Dawn Rivers. The overarching theme was “Community Collaboration through Diversity Equity and Inclusion.”

Dawn Rivers, has her a newly minted Ph.D from Anthropology from UNC - Chapel Hill and has done some ground-breaking research using ethnographic studies on non-employer businesses. What is a non-employer business? A non-employer business is a small business with no employees. In other words, the owner is the sole employee. She interviewed such business owners in two regions: the Triangle area, which is a high growth area, and in a rural area of upstate New York State which is economically stagnating.

Findings: These business owners are 40% female and 60% male. Interestingly, the owners are not motivated by money or by maximizing growth as most entrepreneurial enterprises are but by a desire to control their product and their schedule of work hours. They are very under-studied, almost invisible even though there are 27 million non-employer businesses, compared to 5 million traditional businesses. Deriving a good population list of them from which to draw a sample was challenging as there is no central registry of such businesses. Another challenge of her study was that covid hit right when she was conducting interviews, so she had to conduct them outside in the Fall in New York climate. What dedication in gathering data. Dr. Rivers had been a non-employer business woman herself and a mother of four. She went back to school as a mature student. She was inspiring. She exhibited an unparalleled charm in her presentation. Thank you, Dawn!

The second presenter was **Dr. Ayesha Yakabu** who will receive her medical degree from UNC-CH this Spring and who sports several other degrees in medicine biology and health care (nursing). Her project was a test of a medication for post partum hemorrhaging. The large study, Woman Child study, included 20,000 patients and 21 different countries including rich and poor countries. The results were stunning and will guide treatment for years: The medicine (Tranexamic acid) does equally well to cure the hemorrhaging no matter the country's environment. It works as a clotting function. She told us what the definition and symptoms of post partum hemorrhaging are and how important early intervention is. Ayesha is such a dedicated doctor, and educator and will make a huge impact on the health care of her patients. Best of luck Ayesha!

Finally, **Ekene Osakwe** spoke on health financing models globally with a particular focus on Senegal and Sierra Leone. She already had a Ph.D in Biology before she entered Duke University's Global Health program. She pointed out the paltry portion of health care costs which are borne by the government in Sierra Leone (14%)and Senegal(25%), which means a huge out of pocket expense falls to the patient. However with the help of strategic purchasing reforms, progress can be made. Her studies assessed that impact. The study asks many important policy questions, such as Are provider payments driven by information? Is there harmonization? Is there quality of care? This was a mixed methods study, which strongly suggested that Universal health care has a main goal of health equity. Thanks so much, Ekene.

All three scholars had suggestions for success in graduate school: 1) Find a mentor; 2) Go back to graduate school after being in the workforce; 3) Find a supportive community; 4) Be a strong advocate.

I hope you will [join AAUW](#) or [donate to AAUW](#) to support budding scholars and activists such as these. Thanks to Dr. Donna Wilson for organizing this program each February for our branch.



Volunteer Needed

Currently seeking candidate(s) for Recording Secretary. Term starts July 1, 2022. 2-year appointment. Duties: Keep accurate minutes for board and plenary meetings (4-5 meetings per year; approx. 90 mins. each).

Contact: Jan Holland

Treasurer's Report

We're over halfway to our annual scholarship fundraising goal of \$5K for this fiscal year (ends June 30th). The proposed Budget for FY 2022 (starts July 1) will be reviewed at the Annual Meeting. If you have questions about how to [make a donation](#) or [the most recent financial statement](#), please let us know!



Contact: Mary Sipple

Help us grow.



March is the perfect time to join AAUW. After March 15th a new member gets more than 12 months of membership for their dues dollars. Join before the Annual Meeting to attend the program on **March 19th**.

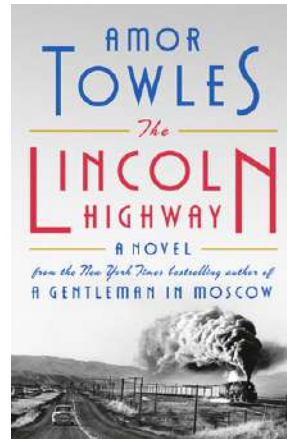
Contact: Jan Holland

Happy Birthday

Sandy Mold and **Jackie Olich** are celebrating birthdays in March. We've raised more than **\$1000 for local scholarships** this fiscal year with "Birthday Dollars" donations. Members are notified when a gift is made in their honor. Sweet!



[Learn More](#)



Grab a book.

Find out what we're reading now and when we're meeting to discuss it. [Mary Kolek is the facilitator. Send her an email request.](#)
Subject line: *Join AAUW Book Club* so you will receive book club updates from her in future.

The Lincoln Highway

This is what we're currently reading for discussion date: May 19, 11AM.

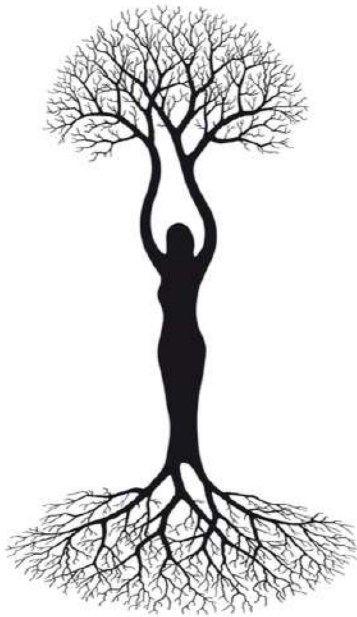
[Learn More](#)

Connect with AAUW-NC

[Be sure to read the special edition of AAUW-NC Connect with proposed changes to the state Bylaws - CLICK HERE to view it and to register for the Annual Meeting.](#)

Be sure to subscribe to monthly e-news from branches across NC!

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Branch Scholarships

We are not holding a “ticketed” fundraiser this year. [Learn more](#) about the branch scholarship funds AAUW-ODC has established.

Donate



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