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Orange, Durham, Chatham
Counties (NC) Branch

February Newsletter

AAUW Vision: Equity for All.



“Yet another painful reminder of the profound fear and trauma, the pain, and the exhaustion that Black and Brown Americans experience every single day.” - Pres. Joe Biden

President’s Message by Cindy Parks

This is not the way I wanted to begin this month’s newsletter. It’s definitely not the way to start off Black History Month - or maybe it is. Sadly, tragically, history is repeating itself. Besides the beating that Tyre Nichols took from those who took an oath to serve and protect, it took an ambulance 22 minutes to arrive after officers announced they had their suspect in custody. Nichols died in the hospital 3 days later. A traffic stop. Cameras recording. Officers’ body cameras offered snippets of the scene. But a camera on a nearby city-owned light pole captured it in context. This bird’s eye, bystander view showed the undeniable brutality. Our hearts break (again):

*“To find out that my son was calling my name, and I was only feet away, and didn’t even hear him — you have no clue how I feel right now,” Nichols’s mother, RowVaughn Wells, said. “My son loved me to death, and I loved him to **death**.” (Washington Post, January 28, 2023)*

Watching this unfold on TV, it struck me that it’s the women in this tragedy who are channeling their profound grief into a powerful leadership moment. Nichols’ mother urged for calm, peaceful protests. Memphis Police Chief CJ Davis is a black woman, 36-year veteran law enforcement officer from North Carolina. Something in the initial incident report didn’t feel right to her. She took swift action.

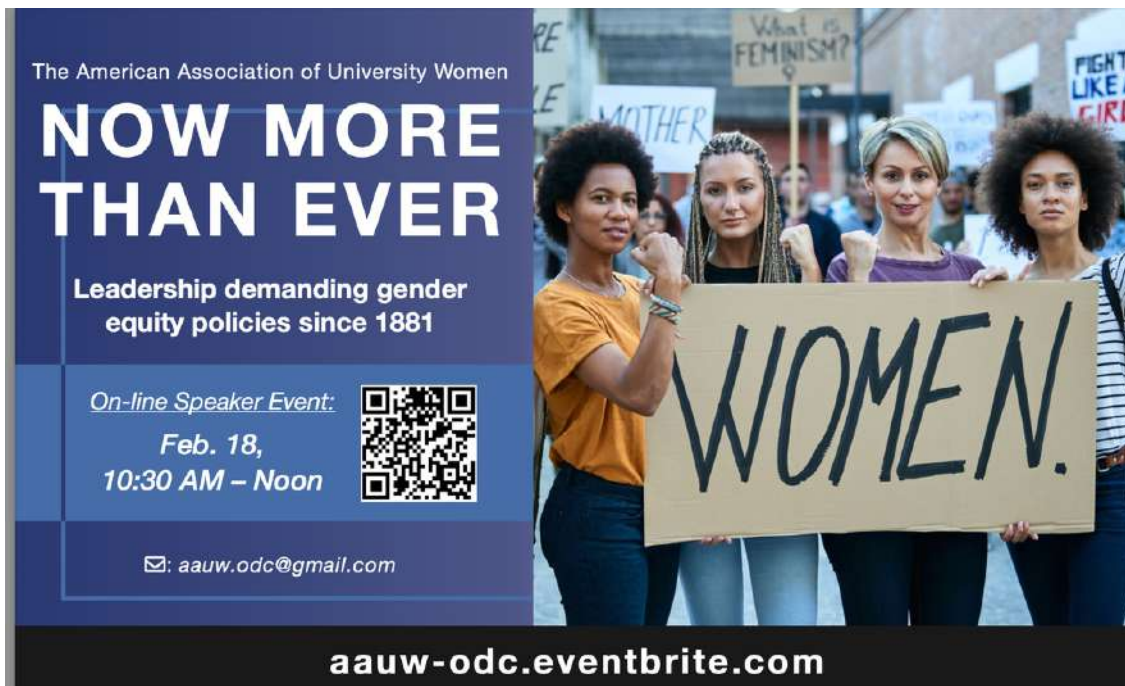
"In my 36 years, [...] I would have to say I don't think I've ever been more horrified and disgusted, sad [...] and, to some degree, confused," Davis told ABC News' George Stephanopoulos during an interview Friday (1/27/23) on "Good Morning America."

"As we continue to try to build trust with our community, this is a very, very heavy cross to bear -- not just for our department but for departments across the country," she added. "Building trust is a day-by-day interaction between every traffic stop, every encounter with the community. We all have to be responsible for that and it's going to be difficult in the days to come."

Let us do our part in the trust-building department. Let us never forget:

AAUW-ODC STATEMENT CONDEMNING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (2020)

AAUW of Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties, NC, condemns the injustice and brutality which resulted in the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Rem'mie Fells, Riah Milton, Tony McDade, Rayshard Brooks, Oluwatoyin Salau, Elijah McClain and countless others over hundreds of years in our country. We cannot tolerate or ignore the continued existence of racial inequality and injustice and commit to do our part with kindred nonprofits and the public to engage in a dialogue on how to go forward. Our country needs healing, but healing will only come with a fair and equitable justice system. Our organization condemns racism. We will therefore commit to learning about and practicing anti-racist actions and behaviors. Further, we will work to spotlight racial disparities where they exist and do what is within our power and capacity to remedy discrimination in education, housing, law enforcement, the justice system, job opportunities and health care. There can be no justice or equality when the color of your skin determines your basic human and civil rights.



The American Association of University Women

NOW MORE THAN EVER

Leadership demanding gender equity policies since 1881

On-line Speaker Event:
Feb. 18,
10:30 AM – Noon

QR code for event registration

✉: aauw.odc@gmail.com

aauw-odc.eventbrite.com

The image shows a group of four diverse women of various ethnicities and ages. They are standing outdoors, possibly at a protest or rally. The woman in the center is holding a large, hand-drawn sign that says "WOMEN." in bold, black letters. Other women in the background are holding smaller signs with phrases like "MOTHER", "What is FEMINISM?", and "FIGHT LIKE A GIRL". The overall scene is one of solidarity and activism.

You may have seen this ad in Chapel Hill Magazine recently. Purchase tickets (\$25) from the [Eventbrite web page \(click here\) to support our scholarship fund](#). Eventbrite is a way for us to invite the general public. **Note: A ticket purchase is NOT required to attend. [Zoom registration IS required](#).** Thanks to Ellen Shannon and Shannon Media, Inc. for the complimentary half-page ad (\$1800 value) to showcase AAUW and our February Fellows program.



5 NEW MEMBERS

Welcome! **Des Woods** (Chapel Hill), **Ann Kay** (Chapel Hill), **Rita Gyimah** (Carrboro), **Monica Figueroa** (Durham) and **Debra Teplin** (Durham) joined AAUW in December and January. We invite new members to offer fresh ideas to the Board. We encourage 1 or 2 new members to serve in the Membership VP role that opens July 1. [Contact Jan Holland for more information.](#)

We're so happy new members found us!

We can all find each other with the **updated Member Directory 2023**. Please click the button to download/print your copy!

Directory (v.1.31.23)



MORE THAN A MAGAZINE, A MOVEMENT

“Perks” come with national AAUW membership. How about a free subscription to Ms. Magazine? What’s not to like about FREE? [Click here to sign up.](#)

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING Join us on Feb. 18th | 10:30 - Noon

Sign Up NOW for Zoom



2022 AAUW North Carolina Fellows and Scholarship Fundraiser General Membership Meeting Saturday, February 18, 2023

Topic: "Global Frames of Reference: Advocating Ethical Voice, Economic Empowerment and Diversity"

Time: 10:30 AM - 12 noon via Zoom

AAUW-Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties annual February meeting is always a very popular event to introduce our branch members to dissertation fellowship and other AAUW grant recipients.

This year's three Fellows who received AAUW national awards (among 14 spanning North Carolina) are an exceptional group of very talented professionals who have completed graduate work or will be finishing this year at area universities.

During the 2021-2022 academic year, AAUW awarded more than \$6 million dollars to fund dissertation research, community outreach and career development opportunities to more than 320 women. Due to the longstanding and generous contributions from AAUW members, a broader and more diverse group of individuals continues to gain access to educational and economic opportunities.

Please join us on **Saturday, February 18th** for an engaging presentation from these three talented women who are among many nationwide educators making a difference in our world through advocacy, connections and inspirational leadership.

[Dr. Donna Wilson](#)

In addition to our annual Fellows meeting and topic, the Executive Board voted to connect our annual local scholarship fund-raising efforts on behalf of four colleges and universities. What better way to show our branch's commitment and support than by showcasing the Fellows research and our branch's community outreach to its local donor base in the Triangle!

The four local institutions to which AAUW-ODC members donate scholarship support are:

- Schwenning Scholarship at UNC-Chapel Hill;
- North Carolina Central University;
- Durham Technical Community College; and,
- Central Carolina Community College.

"I enjoyed the meeting, the presentations (even mine), and the conversation afterwards. It's great fun to have interesting conversations with a room full of intelligent women — one of my favorite things to do." – **Dawn R. Rivers, M.A., Doctoral Candidate Dept. of Anthropology, UNC-Chapel Hill.** Presented to AAUW-ODC branch members on Feb. 19, 2022. *American Dissertation Fellowship (AY 2021-2022)*

Speaker Event Feb. 9th at UNC



Thomas Willis Lambeth

Distinguished Lecture In Public Policy

Democracy Beyond Elections: Institutions in Crisis



The Honorable David E. Price
*Member of Congress, North Carolina 4th Congressional District,
1987–1995, 1997–2023*

Thursday, February 9, 2023 | 5:00PM
Moerer Auditorium, Hill Hall

*Virtual option available—details at
publicpolicy.unc.edu/lambeth-lectureship*



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Public Policy

The Honorable David Price will deliver the Thomas Willis Lambeth Distinguished Lecture on Public Policy, Thursday, Feb. 9 at 5:00 p.m. in Moerer Auditorium of Hill Hall. His topic is "**Democracy Beyond Elections: Institutions in Crisis.**" This should be a very informative opportunity to hear his views on the current crisis of trust in U.S. institutions.

While nonpartisan, AAUW members historically have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political.



**Saturday,
February 11th,
11:30 am via
Zoom
[Register here
in advance for
this meeting](#)**

Rep. Jeff Jackson will take questions focused on the most effective ways for policy advocates to communicate with lawmakers. This event is great for those of us who wish to speak to our district representatives but aren't sure how to approach those conversations. AAUW NC and the Southeast Region Women's Forum (WFNC) are co-hosts of this virtual event featuring NC House Representative Jeff Jackson.



This event is open to all. We hope to see you there!



February Birthday

[Dr. Donna Wilson](#) works hard to organize our February Fellows program every year. **February 25th** is her birthday! Happy Birthday, Donna!

Please take a moment to submit your birth month / day for our records.

Submit your birthday



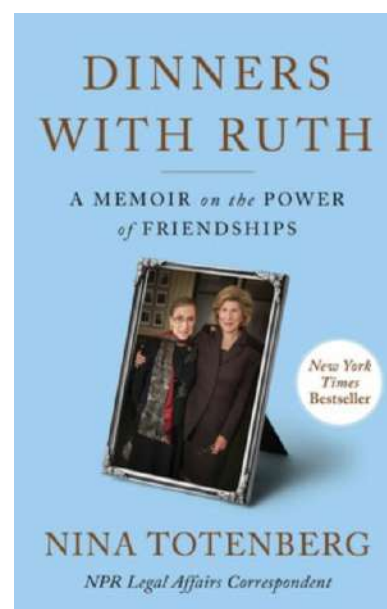
Thank you!


The branch scholarship fund is growing because of the generosity of member donors. **Ticket purchases** (\$25) to our **Feb. 18th Fellows Zoom** program and a recent donation by **Michele Hoyman** in honor of fellow January birthdays and a “Share the Love” donation by **Dr. Donna Wilson** added another **\$350** to the bank. We’ve collected **\$940 in the 2022-2023 year** toward our **\$5K/Yr.** scholarship goal.

Donate




March 9th, 11AM-Noon (Zoom). We’re a friendly group that meets on an ad-hoc basis. It’s easy to participate. [Email Mary Kolek - here.](#)





**Electing the US President
by Popular Vote by 2028**
What is involved & can it happen?



March 18, 2023
10:30 AM

Link to Register via ZOOM
in Description

Eileen Reavey, Co-Founder of Grassroots
Group to pass the National Popular Vote
Bill in Oregon in 2016.
Director of National Popular Vote
Organization

SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 18

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE

March Membership Meeting

Join us on March 18th to hear the founder of the Grassroots organization National Popular Vote discuss the momentum and efforts to improve voting in the U.S. [Zoom registration is required - click here.](#)



Board Openings:

Please consider a term as **Membership VP** or **President**. Jan Holland and Cindy Parks are completing their terms this Spring. New officers are installed in late April/early May. **Terms start July 1.**

Contact Us

Thank you to our board members!

President, Membership VP and **Treasurer** roles are **odd-year** (July 1, 2023) elections/appointments. Programs VP and Recording Secretary are even-year elections/appointments. Past-president **Michele Hoyman** serves as President Emerita to assist the board with leadership transitions.

Bylaws allow for Co-Officers, so find a buddy and team up! It's a great time to jump in because there's lots of support in place: **Lori Bunton** is our Programs VP. **Emily Hare** is our Recording Secretary. **Dr. Donna Wilson** is our College/University Partnerships Director (appointed position, no defined term). Current President, **Cindy Parks** and Membership VP, **Jan Holland** will continue to assist the board in communications and membership support roles. **Mary Kolek** is our long-time Book Talk facilitator. **Liz Leone** serves as our Public Policy liaison to AAUW-NC. If you're interested in public policy, social justice projects or in taking a deeper dive into diversity, equity and inclusion training for our branch, [please let us know!](#)

We are a friendly group, and you will make friends (or re-ignite relationships) when you engage in a more active role within the organization! It is what we make it.

What's involved?

We've streamlined duties. Using a **branch Zoom account**, we've kept board meetings (2 fall / 2 spring) to **ONE HOUR** with **no travel time** involved for board members. In 2023-2024, we will convene general membership meetings 4 times (2 Fall/2 Spring - including the Annual Meeting). Thank you to **Mary Kolek, Holly Hafer** and **Brenda Rogers** for agreeing to assist **Lori Bunton** with speaker engagements for the membership meetings next program year! **Mary Sipple** has agreed to continue to serve another year as Treasurer. (Thanks, Mary!) But, we need a **Treasurer trainee**. Treasurer is a great position for somebody who wants to volunteer but needs a defined role with a limited time commitment. Spoiler alert: There's no running to the bank. It's all on-line with Live Oak Bank, Wilmington, NC.

AAUW needs and encourages diversity in leadership. We need the new officer slate by **March 15** to see if we need an election. We install the 2023-2024 board at the Annual Meeting this spring. **Please consider the opportunity!**

**Save the Date to Celebrate:
Wednesday, April 26th | 2-4 PM**



ANNUAL MEETING - IN PERSON!

CHAPEL HILL PUBLIC LIBRARY MEETING ROOM A

Yes, there will be cake!



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