

Gaston Regional Branch Celebrates Fifty Years

B'Ann Vance, Historian

APRIL 8, 2006 – Joanne Hill, AAUW NC president and Rusty Bradke, EF chair, joined the Gaston Regional Branch at the City Club of Gastonia to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Swannetta Fink, program vice-president, coordinated the event. In her remarks, Hill challenged the branch to live up to its history and prepare for the future. Bradke accepted the branch's special gift of \$750 for the Educational Foundation.

In preparing for the event, the branch updated the minutes, organized their yearbooks and tried to contact as many former members as possible. They researched the minutes and prepared a history of the branch, which began on April 10, 1956, as the Gastonia Branch. The charter was received on May 6, with 26 members. The branch's first gift for fellowships was made that year, \$26 for the 26 original members. In succeeding years, the Branch pursued a variety of means to raise money for fellowships including: selling hosiery, holding bridge benefits, developing and selling original notepaper, book fairs, and selling nuts, before settling into a "Fun for Fellowships" project in March of each year.

Local projects are sources of some pride: encouraging scholarship at the orthopaedic hospital school, holding essay contests open to junior high school girls, advocating for the use

of federal revenue sharing funds to build a new library, and conducting math and science sessions at the local Girl Scout camp. Study groups inspired us to learn more about "The Growing Gap between Rich and poor Nations," "This Beleaguered Earth," the United Nations, and "Women's Work, Women's Worth."

In 1985, the branch welcomed several members from the disbanded Shelby Branch, and they helped us celebrate our 30th Anniversary in 1986, with a \$500 gift to the Educational Foundation. To encourage membership of women from surrounding communities, the branch changed its name to Gaston Regional. Talent from the two branches has provided the AAUW NC with three presidents: Rosalynd Gilliatt, Rebecca Hamrick and Sandra Champion.

Photo: Joanne Hill (left) presents a 50-year certificate to member-at-large Dot Roark during Gaston Regional's 50th anniversary celebration.



100 CLUB

Asheville

*Sandra Abromitis
*Priscilla Lloyd

Brevard

*AAUW Brevard Branch
*Karla Atkinson

Chapel Hill

Carol Candler
Caroline Donnan
*Sydney Elstran
*Jean Green
Jeanne Harrington
Stacy Koehler
Dona Koeberl
*Mary Paterson
Sally Rohrdanz
*Sandy Smalley
Adelaide Spitzbergen
Kay White

Greensboro

*Cleta Baker
*Mary Floyd
*Myllinda Foushee
*Roddy Hurewitz
*Millie Hoffer-Foushee
*Lola Jackson
*Sue Mengert
*Linda Sarkis
*Mary Fran Schickedantz
*Carolyn Taylor
Mary Woodrow

High Point

*Lou Dean Howard

Jacksonville Regional

Christine Almeida
*JoAnn Hall
*Joanne Hill

Raleigh/Wake County

*Barbara Ann Hughes
Grace Knechtel
*Nancy Shoemaker

Statesville Branch

*Patsy Abell
*Marty Folsom
*Sue Goodwin
Mary Green
*Virginia Owen
*Virginia Palmer

Twin Rivers/New Bern

*Mary Peterson

Wilmington

*Hope Cusick
*Barbara Fleming
*Phyllis Guberman
Phyllis Leimer
Marva Moss
*Mary Pierce
*Helen Solomon
*Lillian Van Order
*Phyllis Vogel
*Sue Wood

Member at Large

Diane Meyer
Haverstock

*Charter members who also participated for 2004. The women above either contributed \$100 or at least 100 hours of service to AAUW in the past year

Honor Gifts

Norma Aquilar, Brevard • Dorothy Bauer, Brevard • Doris Bernhlohr, Chapel Hill
Kathleen Mitchell, Jacksonville • Greensboro CCG Volunteers

Memorials

Edward and Peggy Fortner, parents of P. Lloyd • Joanne Hill's father • Joanne Hill's father
Richard Jackson, husband of Lola • Paul Schickedantz, husband of Mary Fran

AAUW NC 100 Club 2006 Donation Form

Name _____
Branch _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____
A contribution in the amount of _____ is being made (minimum amount is \$100):
 In honor of _____
 In memory of _____
Include contact information for honor or memory donations, so an acknowledgment can be sent:
Name _____
Branch _____
Address _____
Email _____

AAUW NC Embraces Multiculturalism, Diversity

Queen Thompson, AAUW NC diversity chair, believes the best way to celebrate and promote diversity and multiculturalism is to be intentional. Her detailed, suggested program of study distributed at the 2006 AAUW NC Convention focuses on ways branches can do this? The program includes seven proposed program areas:

- Branch diversity inclusiveness program
- Statewide book read of *Blood Done Sign My Name* by Timothy Tyson. This was adopted as an AAUW NC project, not only for branches to read and discuss it, but to recommend it be placed in schools and added to curriculum.
- Economic Development including Workforce Development (apprenticeship and training); Biz World-Experiencing Business Inspiring Kids; Women and money
- Legal Reform - elder law, minimum wage legislation, legal abuse, right to legal representation in civil matters, women-to-women social justice.
- Aging and Disability
- Education
- International Relations
- Election 2006 "Get Out the Vote."

Contact Thompson at Qthom96765@aol.com or 704.563.7360 for more information.

Hile Celebrates 50+ Years in AAUW

Mary Lou Hile was honored by Charlotte Branch for more than 50 years of membership in AAUW, during their year-end celebration on May 20. A 1940 graduate of Penn State, she joined AAUW in 1948, in Stamford, Connecticut. She belonged to Stamford chapter until 1955, when the family moved to Charlotte and she transferred her membership. Hile has been active in a myriad of activities, serving as president from 1997-1999. Diane Johnston, her daughter, is also an AAUW member.



LAF, EF Fund-Raising Off to Good Start

Lill Van Order, AAUW NC Fund-Raising Chair WE HAVE STARTED our fund-raising year off with a bang! The LAF breakfast at the state convention raised \$1,287.25 from 20 people in eleven branches. The EF raffle and contributions to EF in honor of our president, Joanne Hill raised around \$830.

The fund-raising pod of the state board is working on the goals and streamlining your contribution process. Learn more at the summer meeting and the web site. So far, the members of this pod are Rusty Bradke, former EF Liaison, Tina Ewing, Evelyn Lange, and Lill Van Order, former LAF Liaison. If you are interested in helping us out we would like to know. Continue to send your contribution information to Lill Van Order. Thanks so much for your support - donations and contributions - fund-raising is an important part of what we do!

Dr. Johnnetta Cole Speaks at Greensboro Luncheon

Carolyn Taylor

Greensboro Communications VP

Greensboro Branch held its recent awards luncheon in the Coffee House of the David D. Jones Student Union at Bennett College for Women. About 75 members and guests were in attendance, including AAUW NC special guests: Nancy Shoemaker, incoming president; Joanne Whitney Hill, 2004-2006 president; Laura Rumbley, 2002-2004 president, and Judy Atkinson, program vice-president.

A member of AAUW since the 60s, Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole, president of Bennett, was our honored guest speaker. Her topic was "If you educate a woman..." A dynamic, motivational speaker, she reminded us of our work still to be done after reviewing some of our achievements.

President Linda Sarkis presided at her last general meeting prior to moving to Jacksonville, Florida, later in May.

Sarkis presented the Willa Lawrence Award to Eugenia Perkins, the Dr. Shirley Hall Award to Yvonne Howard, and the Educational Foundation named gifts to Sue Mengert and Everlena Diggs. Officers and board members were remembered with certificates of appreciation for their service from the previous year.

The newly-elected officers were installed by Shoemaker. They are: President-elect Sue Mengert, president-elect; Sue Metz, program vice-president; Marilyn Cotten and Mary Fran Schickedantz, membership co-vice-presidents, and Mary Woodrow, EF vice-president.

The meeting was well-received with the potential of several new members for the new year.

New AAUW News System Launched

Nancy Shoemaker

2006-2008 AAUW NC President

Many of you have noticed that we've got a new way of posting AAUW NC and Association news - see <http://news.aauwnc.org>. How is this different from the web site? Why is it better than the e-mail list? Well...

- 1) Like the e-mail list (and unlike the web site), many people can "post."
- 2) Like the web site (and unlike the e-mail list), the content is immediately available to the public, not just the subscribers.
- 3) Unlike either the web site or the e-mail list, it is possible to "subscribe" to the news in many different ways. You'll be hearing more about this "subscription" model in coming months - and some of you may already be using it with an "RSS Reader" or web sites like my.yahoo.com. You now have the option to include AAUW NC news in a personal "on-line newspaper" which makes it easier to scan the headlines and pick out the pieces important to you. Items no longer get "lost" in among the many other e-mail messages you receive. If you prefer to get this news in e-mail you can also click the orange "RSSFW" button and set that up.
- 4) This technology can be adapted to easy to use and update branch web sites. If you want an example, see <http://asheville.aauwnc.org>. Come to the July 15 meeting in Southern Pines to see a brief demo of this environment. If you want to explore using this for your own branch site, contact me at nancy.shoemaker@auwnc.org.