

# 2005 CONVENTION SPEAKERS

## Marian Peters

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION BREAKFAST SPEAKER

A Community Development Grant recipient from the Association who is studying at Wake Forest University, Marian is an associate professor of physics at Wake Forest Medical School. She has a bachelor of arts degree in physics and math, a doctoral degree in physics, and has taken a two-year leave to pursue a physician assistant's degree. Interests: Issues of poverty, health care equity, and women in science.

## Karen Ballard

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Karen Ballard is an energetic training consultant and motivational speaker, who has extensive experience in employee performance and productivity training. She has provided professional development workshops throughout the United States for over 12 years. An active storyteller, she uses stories in training programs. Karen has a master's degree in counseling and guidance. She lives in Asheville with her husband Ron, her partner in their company, Productive Consulting Resources, LLC, that helps organizations and businesses make basic changes in their management principles.

## Equity Is Still An Issue, From the Cradle to the Grave

The AAUW NC Convention coincides with National Victims' Rights Week, April 10-16. This year's program takes an intergenerational approach to the issue of equity. Knowledge is power and is the first step in ensuring equity and protecting your rights. This workshop is packed with information about laws designed to help people of all ages avoid becoming victims.

## Queen Thompson

MODERATOR

AAUW NC DIVERSITY CHAIR

A private, charter, and alternative school consultant and family life educator, Queen has 30+ years professional experience in as a family/child welfare worker, vocational rehabilitation counselor, educational coordinator, and compliance specialist, clinical social worker, hospital social work director, and community activist. She handled dropout prevention/intervention and special populations coordination for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools for 17 years. She has a B.A. in sociology/psychology from Johnson C. Smith University and a master's degree in counseling psychology from Southern Illinois University. She is a recipient of many honors, including the Martin Luther King, Jr. "Keeper of the Dream" Award.

## Cindy McIntee

PANELIST

An attorney with SERVE, the Southeastern Regional Vision of Education Office (South Carolina Office of the Department of Education) which is funded by the United States Department of Education, Cindy will conduct a portion of the workshops on education policy, research, and educational law. She will inform participants of their educational rights, what you should see happening in all schools, and the enforcement of those laws and statutes.

## Cathie St. John-Ritzen

PANELIST

A member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and the North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys, Cathie will speak on the practice of elder law and protections. She is an Asheville attorney whose primary practice is elder law. Elder law attorneys use a holistic approach to meet the broad range of legal needs that confront the elderly.

## Marsha M. Shortell

PANELIST

An older adult victim advocate with the Asheville Police Department, Marsha is an attorney and former member of AAUW, who offers support and services to all crime victims who are 60 years of age and older. It is believed that Asheville has the only victim's assistance program in North Carolina. Prior to working with the police department, Marsha practiced law in Concord and Charlotte. She has a *juris doctorate, summa cum laude*, from Widener University School of Law. She is a board member of the Council on Aging of Asheville and Buncombe County and a member of the North Carolina Consumer Fraud Task Force.

## Terry J. Collins

PANELIST

Terry is with the North Carolina Ombudsman Program and will discuss adult care bill of rights. Ombudsman is an advocate for resident rights and responsible for investigating complaints made by or on behalf of nursing and adult care home residents. Know your rights if you or a love one should ever need a nursing home, adult care home, or family care home. Terry worked as a skilled nursing home social worker for San Diego. She holds a master's degree in social work from Arizona State University.

## **AAUW: Collaboration with Colleges/Universities and Local Communities**

*Lola Jackson*

MODERATOR

AAUW NC COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY REP; GREENSBORO BRANCH EF VICE-PRESIDENT

Lola is coordinator of the master of school administration program at North Carolina A & T State University, Greensboro. She was an associate professor at Wayne State University in Detroit, prior to retiring and moving to North Carolina. She holds a doctorate in higher education administration from Michigan State University, a master's degree in consumer education from Wayne State University, and a bachelor's degree in home economics from Howard University.

*Liz Bridges*

PANELIST

An educator in the Triad for 30 years, Liz is principal of Middle College at Bennett, and also a dropout prevention/alternative program supervisor with the Guilford County Schools. She provides leadership in the development, implementation, and evaluation of a comprehensive alternative school, as well as models that refer students to alternative programs. She earned her master of arts degree in counseling from Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia. Her achievements at UNC-Greensboro include supervision/administration certification, a masters of education in reading, and a bachelor of arts in English.

*Carolyn Taylor*

PANELIST

AAUW LIFE MEMBER; FORMER AAUW NC TREASURER

Carolyn's education includes a bachelor's degree in biology and a master of education in guidance and counseling from UNC-Greensboro, and a certificate in medical technology from Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital School of Medical Technology, of which she was later program director. She retired from the Northwest Area Health Education Center of Wake Forest University School of Medicine as director of allied health education and academic program development. A past-president of Greensboro Branch, and a dual member of Winston-Salem Branch, she is vice president of communications of Greensboro Branch and works on a joint venture with Bennett Middle College.

## **Advocacy Power: Social Security Reform**

*Mary E. Stephens*

MODERATOR

AAUW NC PUBLIC POLICY CHAIR, FEDERAL ISSUES

With 25+ years in social work and education, Mary works with seriously emotionally disturbed children and their families as a case manager with the Guilford Center Child and Family Unit. She earned her bachelor's degree in social work at Ferrum College, Ferrum, Virginia; master of social work at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, and is working on her doctorate in educational leadership at Appalachian State University. Her dissertation is a qualitative study, "Teen mothers and their perspectives on high school completion." She has been a member of High Point Branch since 1998, served two terms as program vice-president, and is serving four years as president, 2004-2008.

*William Haas*

PANELIST

Chair of the UNC Asheville department of sociology, Bill collaborates with the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services, and has studied the impact of retirees moving to his region. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at Valparaiso University; and his doctorate at the University of Florida.

*Martha Sachs*

PANELIST

AARP NC ADVISORY BOARD

An ordained minister, Martha is retired from academia, where she was dean of adult and continuing education in a New Jersey State College. In addition to her bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College, in New York, she has a master's in social psychology and an ABD in political sociology from Western Reserve in Cleveland, Ohio. She describes herself as being a "community activist."

*Kathleen Balogh*

PANELIST

Kathleen is employed with the NC State Government as the western region director of the NC Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission. She is president of the Asheville/Buncombe County League of Women Voters, vice-president of Kids Voting Asheville/Buncombe County, and serves on the board of the Pisgah Girl Scout Council. She is a graduate of Ohio State University, with a bachelor of science degree in family and child development, specializing as a home training consultant for children with disabilities.

# Nancy's Magic Show

## Nancy Shoemaker

PRESENTER

AAUW NC TECHNOLOGY CHAIR

An outstanding member of Raleigh/Wake County Branch since 1996, Nancy is known as a strong advocate for women's issues and as the AAUW NC technology guru. She has been a computer analyst, a system administrator, a senior technical consultant, workshop presenter, and an independent consultant. A dual member of the Winston-Salem and California on-line branches, Nancy strives to increase communication at both state and national levels, while recognizing that not all members are "tech savvy." She graduated *Phi Beta Kappa* from Swarthmore College, received a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin, and a doctorate from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, all in mathematics.

## Other Speakers and Presenters

### Ann Terry

2003-05 SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Ann Terry of South Carolina serves as one of two regional directors on the AAUW Board of Directors. She served four years each as a branch president and as a state president, and in a wide variety of other AAUW positions, including two terms as chair of the AAUW Bylaws Committee.

### Lena Epps Brooker

BANQUET SPEAKER

Lena, of Lumbee, Cherokee, and Sappony heritage, lived in the Saddletree Community and attended the all-Indian Magnolia School, where her father was principal. Her mother became supervisor of Indian schools for the Robeson County public schools when she was in seventh grade. She was valedictorian of her graduating class of 32. At Meredith College, she majored in elementary education with a minor in history, graduated at 16, and was the first Indian graduate. She says, "I am a perfectly ordinary woman who has been blessed with an extraordinary life...I have enjoyed every opportunity to work on behalf of my people and believe that equality for all should be a concern of all."

### Leslie Annexstein

LEGAL ADVOCACY BREAKFAST SPEAKER

AAUW LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND DIRECTOR

Leslie is responsible for overseeing the management, development, and implementation of financial and legal support programs and strategies to carry out LAF's mission, including implementation of the case support program, providing legal resources, and developing public education programs. Prior to joining AAUW, she was a senior counsel at the National Women's Law Center, where she participated in administrative and legislative advocacy, public education, and litigation to enhance legal rights for women and girls in education. She was counsel in *Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education*, the landmark case in which the Supreme Court established that schools have an obligation under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to address student-to-student sexual harassment, and leading the Center's efforts to advance the rights of women and girls in career and technical education. Before joining the Center, Leslie was an attorney-advisor to the acting chairman of the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, a staff attorney at the Center for Law and Education, and a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division at the United States Department of Justice, where she litigated employment discrimination cases under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Leslie is the author of several publications addressing gender equity in education, including, a chapter entitled "Opening the Door to Career and Technical Education Programs for Women and Girls," published in *Equity Issues in Career and Technical Education*, by the ERIC Clearinghouse on adult, career, and vocational education. She serves on the advisory board of the University of Maryland Office of Human Relations Programs, and the board of advisors of the *Annual Review of Gender and Sexuality Law*, *The Georgetown Journal of Gender and the Law*. A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, Leslie also holds a degree from Swarthmore College.

### Phyllis Vogel

PRESENTER

AAUW WILMINGTON

A VISION PROJECT IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Phyllis began her career with a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education from Newark State College in New Jersey. She taught and worked for over two decades in New Jersey – kindergarten and nursery school, and then as a staff accountant for Pyrotronics. Since moving to Wilmington in 1991, she has been an administrative assistant for Meridien Marketing.

### Virginia Palmer

PRESENTER

AAUW STATESVILLE

READING IS FUNDAMENTAL

An AAUW life member, Virginia is a former AAUW NC cluster coordinator. She is a charter member of AAUW Statesville Branch, where she has served as co-president, as well as in other positions. Virginia has been coordinator for branch Reading is Fundamental (RIF) activities for eight years; the branch has distributed books in the schools through RIF for 26 years. She graduated from Greensboro College, and retired after spending 30 years as an educator in the public schools.