

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

National AAUW Web Site
<http://www.aauw.org>

Tennessee AAUW Web Site
<http://aauw-tn.aauw.net>

Oak Ridge AAUW Web Site
<http://oakridge-tn.aauw.net>

February 2019

GENERAL MEETING

Monday, February 25, 11:30 am
Oak Ridge First Presbyterian Church, Activities Building, Room 102

“The Gift of Life” is the program topic for the February 25 luncheon and general meeting of AAUW .

Brent Hannah, Director of Cardiovascular and Transplant Services at The University of Tennessee, will give an overview of the transplant program begun at UT in 1985 by Dr. Mitch Goldman. More than 1,300 kidney transplants have been performed. Donors for the transplants have been living donors, living related donors, directed non-related donors, and non-directed non-related living donors, as well as deceased donors.

Mary Bell, a retired cardiac nurse, will talk about her “adventure” as a kidney donor. She volunteered to give one of her kidneys to someone she knew needed a kidney transplant and has never regretted it. She had the operation to remove one of her kidneys at age 66. She will describe the recovery period from this surgery and how much it means to her to have saved a life. Her kidney, as it turned out, went to a cardiologist whom she did not know.

The program will begin at 12 noon after a luncheon catered by the Soup Kitchen. Cost of the luncheon is \$8.00. If you have not been contacted by the telephone committee by noon on Thursday, February 21, please call or email Mary Uziel. Members may add or cancel reservations up to Sunday evening, February 24. If your reservation is not cancelled, please reimburse the AAUW treasurer for the cost of your lunch.



Mary Bell and Brent Hannah

Those attending the meeting are encouraged to bring items, which are not covered by food stamps, for donation to ADFAC (Aid for Distressed Families of Appalachian Co Counties). Such items include laundry soap and cleaning liquids, personal care items such as tooth brushes, toothpaste, toilet soaps, and paper items such as toilet paper and paper towels.



Message from Co-Presidents

Greetings to you all.

We are off to a great start for this year with the wonderful talk on Antarctica by Mayme Crowell at our January meeting. The next exciting talk will be on February 25 when Mary Bell and Brent Hannah will present a program entitled "The Gift of Life." They will describe how the University of Tennessee Medical Transplant Center saves lives, and they will present information on the contribution made by both living and deceased donors.

We thank Kay Moss for organizing the selection process and supervising the choosing of two candidates for the AAUW Scholarships to Roane State for 2019. We congratulate the chosen students, Mary Maston, whose goal is to work in the health management field, and Linda McFall, who is planning to obtain a nursing degree. There were several other really qualified students, and we would love to have been able to help them all.

We also thank the members of the Public Policy Committee, namely Anne Garcia, Virginia Jones, and Kay Moss, for their untiring efforts in the challenge to obtain pay equity for women. They are advocating our support for two bills, relevant to this topic, that have been introduced to the legislature. We can support these bills by contacting our state legislators who are as follows: District 32 is Rep. Kent Calfee, 615-741-7658, email calfee@capitol.tn.gov and District 33 is Rep. John Ragan, 615-741-4400, email rep.johnragan@capitol.gov.

It is interesting to learn that AAUW members will be meeting with the legislators on February 26 in the event known as "Our Day on the Hill." We are hoping that some good will result from these meetings.

The Oak Ridge Branch has received a gift in memory of Elinor Brown. Also, in keeping with our policy, a gift of \$25 is being sent to AAUW Funds, designated for scholarships, in Elinor's memory.

Our best wishes to you all.

—Fay Martin
Mayme Crowell
Co-Presidents

Black History Month

Profiles of Julia Britton Hooks and Emma Rochelle Wheeler are featured in the book *Tennessee Women of Vision and Courage*. Here are brief summaries of their contributions to Tennessee history.

Julia Britton Hooks' (1852-1942) talent on the piano was incredible, garnering her press as a musical prodigy who performed the works of Mozart, Beethoven, and others by the age of 9. In 1869 she enrolled in Berea College in an interracial program that not only allowed her to study music, but also to instruct white students in piano. She graduated from Berea and moved to Greenville, Mississippi, to teach school. There she married Sam Wertles, but he died in 1873. She then moved to Memphis to teach school. There she met and married Charles Hooks. She founded the Hooks School of Music, and later, dissatisfied with the public educational opportunities for Memphis black children, she opened the Hooks Cottage School in 1892,



(continued on page 3)

Julia Britton Hooks (continued from page 2)

teaching kindergarten and elementary classes. Julia Hooks sought social change for African Americans, and she fought against the Jim Crow segregation of her day. She instructed her children and grandchildren in the importance in fighting the injustices and wrongs they witnessed. Her oft-used phrase was "duty of the hour." Her grandson Benjamin Hooks, who was executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, remembers that grandmother Julia was sometimes arrested for violating Jim Crow laws. Julia Hooks' influence reached into the lives of the elderly, orphans, and juvenile delinquents. She was a charter member of both the Colored Old Folks Home and the Orphan Home Club. Her works for the indigent and suppressed people of Memphis earned her the title "Angel of Beale Street."

Emma Rochelle Wheeler

(1882-1957) faced many hurdles: she was black, she was female, and the children in her world topped out of school at eighth grade, *if* they went to school at all. Even worse, black women of her day were typically assigned to careers as nannies, cooks, and farm workers.



When Emma was 6 years old, her father took her to a doctor to check her eyes. The physician was a woman. Emma decided then that she wanted to be a doctor. Emma attended college and earned a teaching certificate. She married Joseph Howard, but then tragedy struck. Her husband died without meeting his son, Joseph, Jr. Emma picked up the pieces of her life and enrolled in Meharry Medical

College. After getting her degree and marrying Dr. John Wheeler, the couple moved to Chattanooga to set up medical practice. Unfortunately, the hospitals would not admit black patients at that time. Emma met the challenge by building her own hospital that served the community for 38 years until the city opened a municipally-owned hospital for African Americans.

February

February: Black History Month

February 15: Book Group, 3:00 at Greenfield Senior Living Parlor, book is *Becoming* by Michelle Obama

February 25: Branch General Meeting, 11:30 am, Oak Ridge First Presbyterian Church, Activities Building, Room 102

February 26: Lobby Day on the Hill, Nashville

February 27: Lunch Bunch, noon, Panda Express,

Upcoming Events

March: Women's History Month, see AAUW display at Oak Ridge Public Library

March 8: International Women's Day

March 11: Board meeting, 10 am, RSCC

March 15: Book Group, 3:00 at Greenfield Senior Living Parlor

March 25: Branch General Meeting, 11:30 am

March 27: Lunch Bunch, noon, Panera, Illinois Ave.

April: Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April 2: Equal Pay Day

We Care About Our Members

If you know of illness or death in the family of a member, please contact Sophy Littrell, 291-7589, sylittrell@yahoo.com.

Ruth Johnson Smiley
Newsletter Editor
smileyrcj@gmail.com