



THE CHRONICLE

RALEIGH-WAKE COUNTY CHAPTER #3689

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Kelly Vick – Editor

January 18, 2024

Happy New Year

Speaker for Today

Kim M. Calabretta

**“Hearing Loss and
Accessibility”**

**Learning about hearing loss
and how to use technology
to improve communication.**

Chapter Officers

Co-Presidents

James Nelson

Claude Lee

Vice President

Cordelia Blackwell

Co-Secretaries

Hannah Gathings

Tom Gill

Treasurer

Willi Webb

Committees

Community Service (Oweida Cole)

Fundraising (Lorrie Berlenbach)

Legislative (Brenda Bennett)

Membership (Kelly Vick)

Nominating (Allan Younger)

Program (James Nelson)

Sunshine (Claude Lee)

Telephone (Cheryl Gill)

Staff Coordinators

Ambassador (James Hines)

Historian (George Gross)

Liaison (Cordelia Blackwell)

Newsletter (Kelly Vick)

Reflections (Grace Krishnamurthy)

Webmaster (Claudia Harris)

MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS

James Nelson & Claude Lee

Embracing Unity: The Spirit of Our AARP Chapter

As we glance at our logo in the top left, the circle of hands stands out, a beacon of solidarity and collective strength. It’s a symbol that captures the essence of our chapter—diverse hands joined together, reaching upward, signifying our commitment to uplift and support one another. Each hand represents a story, a life rich with experience and a commitment to our collective well-being.

This logo is not just a symbol; it’s a call to action—a reminder of the power of unity as we embark on a year filled with purpose and celebration. We honor this spirit in our annual Black History Month celebration next month, where we delve into the profound contributions of African American leaders and thinkers, exploring our past to inform our present and future.

2024 marks a milestone for us—the 40th anniversary of our chapter. It’s a momentous occasion that we’ll commemorate with a series of events, reflecting on our journey, celebrating our achievements and paving the way for future endeavors. It’s a time for joy, reflection and anticipation as we look forward to continuing our legacy of service and advocacy.

We also plan to extend our reach beyond our meetings. Engaging with the community through booths at local events allows us to share our mission, connect with a broader audience and welcome new members into our fold. These gatherings are the perfect opportunity to display the unity our logo represents, demonstrating the inclusive and supportive environment we foster.

As we move forward, let’s embrace new initiatives—perhaps a monthly community service project or a series of workshops on technology, health and finance tailored to enrich our members’ lives. In this spirit, we could organize intergenerational dialogue sessions to bridge the gap between seniors and youth, fostering understanding and collaboration. Partnering with local schools and youth organizations could offer mentorship opportunities, sharing wisdom and nurturing future leaders. Additionally, launching a “Health and Wellness” series could provide members with vital information on nutrition, exercise and mental health, enhancing our community’s well-being. Every activity, every event, is a thread in the tapestry of our chapter’s story, woven together by the hands that our logo so proudly displays.

Together, we stand united, ready to face the challenges and celebrate the triumphs of the coming year. Let’s make it a testament to the spirit of collaboration and community our logo beautifully symbolizes.

STATEMENT FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT & CHAPTER LIASION
(Cordelia Blackwell)

← END Good bye 2023 - 🖐 Hello 2024

We have had a flourishing and successful 2023. Our membership and monthly attendance were up and we found a reliable and charming meeting venue - "Life is good!" The success I am most proud of is our membership in the Golden Years Club. We joined in late October and were able to attend the Golden Years Holiday Celebration on December 12th. Below are some photos of the event:



"Oweida won a raffle"



"Willie won a raffle"



"James, Willi & Alice with happy smiles"



"This was a happy table (Clarks, Dorsets, Brenda B. & the Lees)"



"The Crabtrees & Oweida are enjoying the celebration"



"Cordelia, Oweida & Kelly having a fun time"

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE

A sympathy card was mailed to Theresa Nutter for the death of her sister. If you know of anyone who is ill or a bereaved family, please call Claude Lee (919-971-3317). Below is a list of January birthdays:

<u>JANUARY BIRTHDAYS</u>
Stewart Vick (4) Edmond Gayton (20) Felex Gathings (25)

PROGRAM

We are excited to announce the formation of our new Program Committee, dedicated to bringing you engaging and diverse chapter programs. Through extensive member feedback gathered from three surveys, we have gained valuable insights into your desired programs. Our commitment is to deliver stimulating presentations that cater to a wide range of interests and special topics. In alignment with our Handbook rules, the Program Committee comprises four members who are not required to be chapter officers or board members. This approach ensures a broader representation and participation from our chapter. The committee members are Rosa DeVega, Gayle Gayton, and Jacqueline McCullough, and the chair is James Nelson. Fortunately, Alice Hedley has an impressive knowledge of potential speakers and has agreed to assist the committee. AARP also has a speaker's bureau that we plan to explore. Each committee member can organize a meeting, fostering a democratic, inclusive and participatory environment. Our format allows us to hear every voice and every member to contribute to the direction and content of our programs actively. Your continued feedback and participation are vital to our success. Stay tuned for more updates and exciting upcoming events orchestrated by our dedicated Program Committee.

LEGISLATIVE

The new election law sets additional requirements for those who plan to assist a voter who is unable to cast their ballot due to disability. To assist a disabled person to complete their ballot, the individual must be a near relative, such as a spouse or a child or have legal guardianship. To determine the process for getting approval to assist the voter cast their ballot or for the time line requirement and other guidelines for absentee voting, you may contact your County Board of Election or visit their webpage.

TELEPHONE

We will continue calling chapter members monthly with updated information and pertinent events. Please contact Cheryl Gill (919-961-0894) if you have any questions.

MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations to our chapter members who had perfect attendance for attending our general meetings in 2023. See the list below:

Karen Clark	Felex Gathings	Gayle Gayton	Claude Lee	Willi Webb
Cordelia Blackwell	Hannah Gathings	Wade Hallman	James Nelson	Allan Younger
Emma Dorssett	Edmond Gayton	Grace Krishnamurty	Kelly Vick	Marjorie Younger

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Community Service Committee certainly has been happily operating in the spirit of giving! Of course, we didn't do this all alone. We could not have been able to do any of this were it not for your generous donations and contributions. Because of you, we have delivered to Fox Road Magnet Elementary School approximately 100 pairs of gloves, mittens, hats and socks. Today, we added to that total as we received 27 additional pairs of gloves. Before the distribution of the hats, gloves and mittens in early November, we were delighted to deliver various toiletry items (soap, deodorant, toothpaste, tooth brushes, etc.) in homemade bags, donated to 4th and 5th graders. These bags were made by Will Webb and a group of other quilting ladies.

The Boys and Girls Clubs offer a wide range of after school programs for youth ages 6-18 that focus on healthy lifestyles, academic success, good character and citizenship. With that premise in mind, Gayle Gayton and Oweida Cole were not hesitant in passing along an astronomically amount of educational board games to those girls on North Raleigh Boulevard. There were so many available, that each of the girls would be able to personally select at least two games to carry home for themselves.

♪♪Oh what fun it is to give♪♪....but we are not quite done yet.....Loaves and Fishes students were the recipients of not only stuffed bears and unicorns, etc., but also several "Barbie and Ken Dolls" all donated by Mary Weathers.

As we end this article, we are answering your question as to what to do with your old empty prescription pill bottles. Hopefully, you have brought these clean, empty bottles in earlier, or you brought some today. At the end of this month, Gayle Gayton and Oweida Cole will send them to an organization called "Matthew 25: Ministries", where they will distribute them to those in need.

**2024 North Carolina AAHGS
Black History Month Genealogy Conference**
Hosted by the Triangle Chapter
Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society

**Tales from the Table:
Genealogy, Foodways, and Legacy Building**

FEBRUARY 2 - 4, 2024

Get ready to dive into the fascinating world of family history, the tradition of cooking and foodways preserving your legacy at “Tales from the Table”

“Ms. Carmen Cauthen is one of the conference organizers and as an added honor, we will host Ms. Cauthen, a renowned historian, anti-racism advocate and writer, who will engage our chapter with her speech on the Historic Black Neighborhoods of Raleigh on February 15th. Ms. Cauthen, celebrated for her deep-rooted service and activism in Raleigh's African American community, brings to light the resilient spirit of our residents through her research and storytelling. Her insights are not to be missed, offering us a path from reflection to action and from understanding our past to building a more inclusive future.”

- **Friday** (State Archives/Heritage Library & Reception)
- **Saturday** (16 Workshops on basic genealogy, foodways and legacy building, as well as a panel discussion and luncheon)
- **Sunday** (Tours in historic Black spaces)

While the conference is for three days (Friday through Sunday), you may purchase tickets for

- The entire 3 days conference (\$75)
- Saturday's workshops and luncheon only (\$50)
- Sunday's tours only (\$25)

REGISTER AT THIS WEBSITE <https://bit.ly/2024NCAAHGSConference>

Sponsoring AAHGS Chapters – Charlotte/Piedmont – Triad/Sandhill/Triangle

(Submitted to The Chronicle by Gayle Gayton)