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|  | ***THE CHRONICLE***  **RALEIGH-WAKE COUNTY CHAPTER #3689**  **http:aarpchapter3689.weebly.com**  **aarpnc3689@gmail.com**  ***Kelly Vick – Editor***  **April 18, 2024**  **Campbell Lodge**  **3237 Spottswood Street, Raleigh NC 27615** | |
| **Speaker for Today**  **Mike Raley**  **The**  **Weekend Gardener**  **\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***  **Chapter Officers**  **Co-Presidents**  James Nelson  Claude Lee  **Vice President**  Cordelia Blackwell  **Co-Secretaries**  Hannah Gathings  Tom Gill  **Treasurer**  Willi Webb  **\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***  **Committees**  Community Service (OweidaCole)  Fundraising (Lorrie Berlenbach)  Legislative (Brenda Bennett)  Membership (Kelly Vick)  Nominating (Allan Younger)  Program (James Nelson)  Sunshine (Claude Lee)  Telephone (Cheryl Gill)  **Staff Coordinates**  Ambassador (James Hines)  Historian (George Gross)  Liaison (Cordelia Blackwell)  Newsletter (Kelly Vick)  Reflections (Grace Krishnamurty)  Webmaster (Claudia Harris) |  | ***MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS***  ***James Nelson & Claude Lee***  **Gardening & Homes: Growing Senior Living**  In this *Chronicle* issue, we highlight something special from our AARP Raleigh-Wake Chapter #3689. We are focusing on our love for gardening and our efforts to make housing more affordable for everyone.    First up, we have got an exciting gardening event coming. It’s called "Lunch with Mike Raley, The Weekend Gardener”, who knows all about gardening in North Carolina. It’s happening on April 18th at Campbell Lodge. This meeting isn’t just a chance to talk about plants; it’s a day to learn from each other, ask questions and see fabulous gardening displays. And don’t forget, it’s a picnic-style event, so order or bring your lunch and enjoy!  On another important note, we are also looking at ways to make housing more affordable for seniors. We have come up with some ideas, like encouraging builders to create more low-income homes by offering them incentives, adjusting some North Carolina laws, making the process of applying to build these homes more straightforward for everyone and involving the community in planning so that new housing meets the needs of older adults. We believe these steps can help ensure that seniors have access to comfortable, safe and affordable places to live and we are always looking for more ideas on how to make this happen.  We would love to hear your thoughts and any ideas you have on gardening or making housing affordable. Your input matters to us, and together, we can make a big difference for our community.  Let’s get together, share our thoughts and help our community grow stronger. |

***MESSAGE FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT (Cordelia Blackwell)***

**♪♪♫Getting to know you – getting to know all about you… ♫♪♪**



**Ilse Anke**

The month of April is associated with new life and growth so it is very exciting to begin our new life, our new journey in this delightful space. As we grow and get to know the surroundings in our future home, let’s get to know one of our long time members, Ilse Anke.

**Cordelia:** Where did you grow up and how did you get to the Raleigh area?

**Ilse:**  I grew up in a small town in Central Germany. I came to the USA in 1979 with my American husband. We had met in Heidelberg during a special festival.

**Cordelia:** Did you come from a small or large family and tell us about your family now.

**Ilse:** I am from a small family of three where I was the middle child. My siblings still live in Germany, close to where we grew up.

**Cordelia:** Tell us about your educational background and some of the positions you have held.

**Ilse:** I went to high school and language school in Germany. I graduated with a degree as a translator.

**Cordelia:** What famous person do you admire and why?

**Ilse:** I admire among others, Mother Theresa. I admire how she helped with the sick and poor in India.

**Cordelia:** Do you enjoy traveling and are there places you found interesting?

**Ilse:** I travelled a lot with both husbands. I have stayed/lived in eight different countries in Europe, South America and Asia.

**Cordelia:** What is your favorite color, food, book, and movie?

**Ilse:** Color: Red, Food: Italian, Book: Mysteries, Movie: Casablanca

**Cordelia:** Tell us something else you would like us to know about you.

**Ilse:** I am basically a shy and self-conscious person and very uncomfortable speaking in public.

**Cordelia:** Thank you Ilse for this insightful interview! I appreciate the time and effort you put into this task.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**SUNSHINE**

We send our sincere and heartfelt condolences to Kelly Vick in the passing of her sister Loretta Williams on March 23rd. We will keep Kelly in our thoughts and prayers. Also, birthday cards and get well/support cards were mailed to chapter members listed below. If you know of anyone who is ill or a bereaved family, please call Claude Lee (919-971-3317) or e-mail him at [claudealeejr@gmail.com](mailto:claudealeejr@gmail.com).

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| **APRIL BIRTHDAYS** | **SICK AND** | **SHUT-INS** |
| **Willi Webb (3)**  **Kelly Vick (13)**  **Oweida Cole (19)**  **Phillip Crabtree (25)**  **Alan Tally (26)** | **Mattie Branch**  **Kaye Denning**  **Beverly Clark**  **Kenneth Clark** | **Felex Gathings**  **James Hines**  **Arlene Lee**  **Karen Youmans** |

**PROGRAM**

We thank Brenda Bennett, Natalie Ray, Emma Dorssett, Karen Clark, Jacqualine McCullough, Tom Gill, Tony Motola and the co-presidents for sharing valuable insights on our March Affordable Housing Challenge. We are preparing to share all our thoughts with Rep. James Roberson. Gayle Gayton switched gears for April – we are diving into gardening on April 18th, featuring “Lunch with Mike Raley, The Weekend Gardener”. It's all happening at Campbell Lodge. Plus, Jane Harrison from the NCSU Extension is setting up an informative display with must-know gardening tips for North Carolina. Don't miss out!

**LEGISLATIVE**

In March, 2024, the Governor of North Carolina celebrated the anniversary of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).  As we have witnessed over the last decade, the inception of ACA, opponents have vowed to abolish ACA. If ACA is abolished it would gut the law and the health care protections for millions of Americans with preexisting conditions like cancer, asthma and diabetes. ACA is essentially for everyone and especially for seniors with low incomes and many who need health care that covers existing health conditions. As you ponder your voting choices for the November 2024 election, it is essential that you support the state representatives who will not vote against ACA.

**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**

We would like to welcome **Tony Motola** to our chapter. Tony joined our chapter at the March, 2024 meeting.

If you invite a guest to our monthly general meeting, please register your guest at the membership table. Also, if there are any changes to your address, telephone number or e-mail address, please contact the Membership Committee. We are always available to register new members and collect 2024 membership renewals. Our chapter membership dues are $10.00 per year. You must be a member of the National AARP and you will need your national membership card.

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| C:\Users\Owner\Pictures\1140-jo-ann-jenkins.jpg | **AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins Announces Decision to**  **Step Down at the End of the Year**  ***(submitted by Gayle Gayton)***  ***WASHINGTON—***AARP Chief Executive Officer Jo Ann Jenkins announced her decision to step down when her contract expires at the end of the year.  Jenkins has served as CEO for the past decade. She has been part of AARP since 2004, when she joined the AARP Services, Inc. (ASI) Board of Directors, where she served as Chair of the Board from 2009-2010. In 2010, she was named as President of AARP Foundation and in 2013 became AARP’s Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. |

“On behalf of the entire Board, I want to thank Jo Ann for her impressive record of accomplishments in advancing AARP’s mission and serving our members,” said Lloyd Johnson, Chair of AARP Board of Directors. “Jo Ann has led AARP on a transformational journey to redefine the organization’s vision, challenge outdated attitudes and stereotypes about aging and spark innovative solutions that empower people to choose how they live as they age.”

Among the accomplishments during her tenure, Jenkins championed the multigenerational workforce, healthy longevity, protecting Social Security and Medicare and lowering the cost of prescription drugs. She has led through a spirit of innovation, creating AgeTech and launching a *Digital First* journey to help AARP better serve our members in the future.

Under her leadership, AARP has received the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, has been recognized by Ethisphere as one of the *World’s Most Ethical Companies*, has been named as one of *Fast Company*magazines *Best Workplaces for Innovators* and for the past seven years has been named as a *Washington Post Best Workplace*. In 2019 and 2021, *Fortune* magazine named her as “One of the World’s 50 Greatest Leaders”. Her national best-selling book, *Disrupt Aging: A Bold New Path to Living Your Best Life at Every Age*, became a signature rallying cry for revolutionizing society’s views on aging.

“The AARP Board will move diligently to find the right person to lead AARP on the next leg of its journey”, Johnson said. The Board will be supported by Heidrick and Struggles in the CEO search process.

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**Strawberry picking extends from April through July. See the strawberry muffin recipe below:**

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| C:\Users\Owner\Pictures\7784843-6bb7b254bb5846a3bbb65bc08eda015e.jpg | Strawberry clipart. Free download transparent .PNG | Creazilla  **Recipe for the Month of April**  **Ingredients**  1½ cups unsweetened applesauce   1. 1 cup granulated sugar 2. ½ cup canola oil 3. 3 cups white whole-wheat flour 4. 2¼ teaspoons baking soda 5. ¾ teaspoon salt 6. 2 cups chopped strawberries | **Directions**   1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line 18 (1/2-cup) muffin cups with paper liners. Whisk applesauce, sugar and oil in a large bowl. Add flour, baking soda and salt; whisk until combined. Gently fold in strawberries. Divide the batter among the prepared muffin cups. Bake the muffins until the tops spring back when touched lightly and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, 22 to 28 minutes. Let cool in the pan for 5 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack to cool completely. (Enjoy!!!) |

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