

Remarks at the presentation of the AAUW Juvenile Literature Award.

October 28, 2006

I am Nancy Shoemaker, president of AAUW North Carolina. Elizabeth Laney, a long-time supporter of the Literary and Historical Society regrets that she is unable to attend.

On behalf of the American Association of University Women of North Carolina, congratulations to Joyce Moyer Hostetter for excellence in Juvenile Literature. Her novel, *Blue*, expands the collection of stories of strong girls and brings to life an important piece of North Carolina history with its story based on the “Miracle of Hickory” commemorated in this museum’s display on the “Hickory Polio Tent.”

AAUW North Carolina has been supporting this award since 1953. There are handouts with the list of the remarkable books that have been honored since then – and you are all encouraged to consider that list, and *Blue* in particular, when selecting holiday gifts for the young people in your lives. A copy of each has been donated to the Special Collections Room of the Library at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte.

The American Association of University Women, now celebrating its 125th anniversary, has changed a good deal since 1953 (let alone 1881). We work to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. Our advocacy efforts at the national level include vigorous defense of Title IX and work on a broad range of other issues at the national, state and local levels. AAUW members provide funding and projects that advance educational opportunities for students from elementary school to post-doctoral work. Our research, like the most recent “Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus” covers a wide range of issues on equity and education (and we were the ones who, in the early 90’s, changed the national conversation with our report “Shortchanging Girls: Shortchanging America”).

The Association has 1800 members and 22 branches in North Carolina. Again, we are pleased to have the opportunity to honor such a distinguished author as Ms. Hostetter. Thanks to the Literary and Historical Society for its work in identifying this excellent book and our congratulations to Ms. Hostetter.