

# ATLANTA NEWS

Atlanta Branch, American Association of University Women  
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[www.aauwatlanta.org](http://www.aauwatlanta.org)

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## 2007-2008 Leadership

### *Co-Presidents*

*Diana Witt* 678/372-1530  
*Connie Eshenour* 770/698-0852

### *Program Committee Chair*

*Bea Meyer* 404/634-0306

### *Membership Vice-President*

*Dot Ransom* 770/448-0887

### *Fundraising Vice-President*

*Tami Anderson* 404/875-9503

### *Recording Secretaries*

#### *Board Meetings*

*Ruth Yurchuck* 770/934-1536

#### *Branch Meetings*

*Phyllis Miller* 404/636-1412

### *Treasurer*

*May Ruth Bradberry* 770/399-7628

### *Bookfair Steering Comm. Chair*

*Barbara Buchanan* 770/998-2444

### *College/University Relations*

*Betty Slater* 404/237-6806

### *Historian*

*Sarah Rondeau* 404/257-0304

### *Hospitality*

*Frances Smith* 404/231-0482

### *Public Policy*

*Susan Pavlin* 678-984-7117

### *Public Relations*

*Elizabeth Gordon* 404/521-2401

### *Web Information*

*Elizabeth Gordon* 404/521-2401

### *Finance Committee Chair*

*Alta Birdsong* 770/394-2681

### *Handbook Editor*

*Stephanie Babbit* 404/296-7571

### *Editor, Atlanta News*

*Mary Lynn Merkle* 404/633-7183

### *Contemporary Literature*

*Kay Collins* 404/266-2183

### *Travel, Day*

*Betty Arden* 770/955-6381

### *Gourmet, Evening*

*Sally Byers* 770/491-3781

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## **2008 Georgia AAUW Convention and Powerful Women Conference Coming Up Soon**

The date for our Georgia AAUW annual convention is Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Hilton Garden Inn, Kennesaw, and the date for the Powerful Women Conference (an outreach of the Siegel Institute of Kennesaw State University and a part of our Convention) will be the following day, Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The large number of workshops and plenary sessions being offered will give those members who have registered for one or both days many opportunities for personal growth.

State President (and member of Atlanta Branch) Lynn Fountain and her committee have put much thought into making this Convention meaningful and interesting to those who attend. (Please see page 3 for an article about Lynn.) Not only will we network with other Branches around Georgia for new and creative ideas, but at the PWC we will be networking with other women's organizations from around the state.

Our official Branch delegates are: Connie Eshenour, Kay Collins and Elizabeth Gordon. Other official delegates are our co-president, Diana Witt, and those members of our Branch who are members of the State Board.

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### **NO APRIL BRANCH MEETING**

In order to encourage attendance at our State Convention including the Powerful Women Conference, there will be no Branch meeting this month.

The next Branch meeting will be Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

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**Next Newsletter Deadline  
April 21, 2008**

### **TRAVEL GROUP**

The AAUW Travel Group will meet at 10:00 AM on April 10<sup>th</sup> to tour the Atlanta Symphony's 2008 Decorator Showhouse located on Tuxedo Road in Northwest Atlanta. Lunch following.  
Call Betty Arden (770/955-6381).

**President's Letter**  
**By Diana Witt**

*Our March 15, 2008 meeting was a challenge in more ways than one. Despite the tornado, our turnout was good; and it included one of our student affiliates, Allison Youngblood, who came to our meeting despite losing all the windows in her student housing at Georgia State. Our intrepid speakers from the Georgia League of Women Voters also managed to come, and they offered further challenges to us by talking about the issues Georgia voters will face in the upcoming elections. In addition to the problems with the voter ID law (and an off-peak special election in July), there is a possibility that 15 amendments will be on the November ballot!*

*Atlanta Branch members need to think seriously about how we can help our members and the community at large in keeping current about this year's election and the state and local issues on our ballots. Perhaps our fall kick-off meeting should be a special program devoted to this topic, and perhaps it should be held jointly with other organizations. Please let me know your ideas on this.*

*We've had some other important developments: As branch president, I have been approached by Laurie Gregory of the Georgia State University's Leadership Academy for Women (L.A.W.) which is seeking a stronger link to our branch. She requested some funding from us for a financial literacy program taking place on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 9 to 12, at Georgia State. In brief, they needed underwriting for distribution of Illyce Glink's 50 Simple Steps You Can Take to Disaster-Proof Your Finances to conference attendees for \$2.00, instead of the retail price of \$18.00. Our Community Action Committee, ably headed by Kay Collins, voted to donate \$500. toward this project in return for recognition of AAUW as a sponsor and the availability of membership information and materials at the conference. I will represent our Branch at this event and would welcome any member who wants to join me. Attendance is free. My grateful thanks go to Kay and her committee for acting so quickly to make this a reality. I think it represents a real opportunity to enhance our visibility with young women students who are our future.*

*Our other important development is Branch approval of a proposal by Connie Eshenour's husband, Terry Eshenour, to take on the task of updating and revamping our website and keeping it current. We are very grateful to Terry for taking on this task. Our website has become an increasingly important part of our presence in the Atlanta community, and the task of maintaining it has grown far beyond the original concept. We need to help make our web presence effective, and I'm confident Terry will lead us in the right direction.*

*We have a busy few weeks ahead of us. I look forward to seeing all of you at the State Convention in Kennesaw on April 2, which will be our only Branch activity in April. Our final meeting for this year will be May 17, when we will install new officers and celebrate our RFS students.*

**HAPPY SPRING!!**

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**BOOK DROPS GET NEW LOCKS AND KEYS**  
From Barbara Buchanan

We are standardizing our Book Drop locks and keys so that **ANYONE** who has a key can pick up at any location. The locks on **ALL** Book Drops are going to be the same, and **ALL** keys will open any lock.

The trick is to get the locks installed and replace everyone's old keys simultaneously. You can pick up your new locks and keys in the Bookroom by the last week of March. They should be on the lunch table. The locks will be labeled for their destination Book Drop. Please get the lock but do not install it for about a week or two until everyone else who goes regularly to your Book Drop has had a chance to get a new key.

If you are a person who routinely picks up at a Book Drop, please get your new key in the Bookroom and sign the tally sheet located with the keys to verify that you have one. Please verify that everyone else that also collects from your Book Drop has signed for a new key before you change the lock on your Book Drop!

Contact Barbara Buchanan (770-998-2444) [barbara2@datekltd.com](mailto:barbara2@datekltd.com) with questions or problems.

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AN EXTRAORDINARY LEADER  
*Lynn Fountain*

Lynn Fountain is currently serving as President of Georgia AAUW, but she has been a member and leader in Atlanta Branch since 1994 when she first connected to AAUW. In those years she has served as Program Vice President for the State, Co-President of Atlanta Branch, Bookfair Chair in 1997 and Bookfair Co-Chair in 2002. She is also on the Research Advisory Council at the National level.

Why is AAUW at all levels the fortunate recipient of these energies and talents?! Lynn's words in explanation—"It is clear to me that the academic and professional opportunities available to me were made possible by the work of previous generations of women. It is important to me to support an organization that works so hard for educational equity for women and girls."

Lynn has used her vision to make AAUW even more viable by designing a State Convention which offers more opportunities for growth for more women by networking with other women's organizations. If it is as successful as we think (and hope) it will be, it could be the start of a new way to deliver meaningful Conventions to our members.

In addition to her AAUW endeavors Lynn is spouse to David (an engineer for Scientific Research Corporation) and mother to Hannah Rose (a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student at Heards Ferry Elementary School). Many of you have met Hannah at the

Bookroom, at our board meetings or at Branch meetings. She is delightful!

Lynn, a native Atlantan, is also a research scientist at the Georgia Tech Research Institute. Prior to that she worked in the Georgia Tech office responsible for coordinating GT's outreach for K-12 math and science education.

Some things you may not know about Lynn: Her hobbies are fabric collecting, quilting, reading science fiction, and jogging. Her favorite movie is Contact starring Jodie Foster (an actress who has often played the role of strong women), and her favorite book is Stranger in a Strange Land.

When asked what her dreams for AAUW were, she answered, "AAUW has clearly been going through a transitional period for at least 4 years. Like many volunteer organizations across the nation, AAUW faces declining membership. At the national level, I hope for a stabilized membership base and re-invigorated participation in the organization. At the state level, I would like to see more collaborative planning on one or more state projects and a well-defined vision of AAUW of GA that aligns with the Association Vision and Mission, but speaks to the hearts of GA members. I have faith that incoming leadership for the state will bring my dreams for the state to fruition." This sounds like a vision that we could ALL share!

Thank you, Lynn, for being a part of what makes our Atlanta Branch so great!!!

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SEVEN REQUESTS RECEIVED BY THE COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE  
From Kay Collins

By the due date of March 15<sup>th</sup> seven requests had been received. They will be reviewed; recommendations made and board and branch approval sought in April and May. One grant has already been approved: \$500. to Georgia State University in support of a project by GSU's Leadership Academy for Women: "Women & Money: A Relationship Workshop" to be held April 11. This morning event is open to students, faculty and staff. AAUW will get visibility through materials distributed at this event. The keynote speaker, and author of the book *50 Simple Steps You Can Take to Disaster-Proof Your Finances*, is providing the books at a special rate to give to each attendee. Our contribution is to fund this purchase. We hope that this will be the beginning of a good relationship with GSU.

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**From the Editor:** I would like to do an article about the State Convention and the PWC for our next newsletter. If you are attending one or both of these and would send me just a couple sentences about what were highlights for you, I think we will have a great article!! (Anyone with a digital camera who could take some pictures??)

**ATTENTION: Contemporary Literature Members –DATE CHANGE**  
From Kay Collins

Our April meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 1 (no joke!) at the home of Connie Eshenour. We needed to accommodate the State Convention on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Connie's phone number is 770/698-0852 (She's in the Handbook.). The book this month is Suite Francaise.

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**Please greet our newest member, Dr. Mary Hollowell ([maryhollowell@clayton.edu](mailto:maryhollowell@clayton.edu)) who works at Clayton State and lives in Peachtree City.**

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**NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP**

The Nominating Committee (Bea Meyer, Mary Lynn Merkle, Ruth Yurchuck and Pat Bevis) is looking for women who are willing and able to provide Branch leadership. Offices that are open are: Vice-President for Membership, Vice-President for Fund-raising, Vice-President for Program, Treasurer and Nominating Committee. If you would consider filling one of these offices or if you would like to recommend someone for the Committee to contact, please call one of the Committee members SOON!!

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**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

April 1 <sup>st</sup> : Contemporary Literature <u>Suite Francaise</u>	April 11 <sup>th</sup> : Leadership Academy for Women Georgia State University
April 2 <sup>nd</sup> : AAUW of Georgia State Convention Hilton Garden Inn, Kennesaw	April 21 <sup>st</sup> : Atlanta News Deadline
April 3 <sup>rd</sup> : KSU's Phenomenal Women's Conference (part of AAUW of GA State Convention)	May 17 <sup>th</sup> : Branch Meeting Installation of Officers and Celebrating our RFS students
April 10 <sup>th</sup> : Travel Group to Decorator's Showhouse	

**IF YOU WANT PEACE, SEEK JUSTICE!!**

**AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.**

**ATLANTA NEWS**

Atlanta Branch AAUW  
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