



# ATLANTA NEWS

Atlanta Branch, American Association of University Women

[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 404/634-0305

### 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 Babbitt 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

## Our next Branch meeting

# SATURDAY, May 17TH

Our last Branch meeting before summer gives us an opportunity to meet with friends, share ideas, celebrate the successes of our work with the Refugee Family Services project and meet our newest officers.

Please come to:

## ANSLEY GOLF CLUB

196 MONTGOMERY FERRY DR., NE

**BREAKFAST BUFFET AT 10:00 AM,  
PROGRAM, BRANCH MEETING,  
AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS TO FOLLOW  
COST: \$17.**

**Reservations: Please call or E-mail Frances Smith  
by Monday, May 12th**

**E-Mail: [francesjsmith1921@yahoo.com](mailto:francesjsmith1921@yahoo.com) or  
Telephone Frances at 404-231-0482**

Directions: (From Piedmont and Peachtree). Go south on Piedmont, pass under the expressway and pass Cheshire Bridge Road. Look for the Rock Springs Church on your right and make an immediate right onto Montgomery Ferry Drive. Continue through the light (Monroe Drive) and cross the bridge. The club house will be on the right!

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## DON'T FORGET!!

**Bring your copies of the Bylaws and Standards changes to the May 17th Branch meeting. We will be voting on these changes at our business meeting.**

## Celebrate Mother's Day with RFS

--Betty Slater

We are presented with an opportunity to honor our mother or another special woman in our life and, at the same time we can honor those mothers who have chosen to leave their homelands in search of a better life for their children.

RFS (Refugee Family Services) is committed to helping refugee women and children become self-sufficient by providing services that help women learn English, care for their children and enter the job market.

With each donation made, RFS will send a Mother's Day card to the person you want to honor. The artist is Jafar, 8 years old, who came to the United States (and RFS) from Somalia in 2004.

AAUW, Atlanta Branch, has made a huge commitment to the RFS program. Here is our chance to continue the commitment as individuals. Go to [www.refugeefamilyservices.org](http://www.refugeefamilyservices.org) to order your card.

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## INTEREST GROUPS

### Contemporary Literature:

(Kay Collins, Coordinator)

#### ***Note date and location change for planning meeting!***

The book group will meet Wednesday, June 11, 6:30 PM at the home of Mary Hanson. At this meeting, a potluck, we will decide on next year's reading list. (Call Kay at 404/266-2183 for more information.)

The May 7th meeting will be held at the home of Frances Smith and will start at 7:30 PM. The book reviewed is A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini.

### **Travel:** (Betty Arden, Coordinator)

The Travel Group will tour the Hurt Building, 50 Hurt Plaza located downtown Atlanta on Thursday, May 8th. We will meet near the Ansley Mall Kroger Store at 10:00 AM to carpool. We will have lunch together at City Grill following.

New members are welcome. Call Betty at 770/955-6381 for more information.

(Thanks to Betty Slater for arranging this tour!)

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## *President's Letter--Diana Witt*

*This has been a busy month for AALLW. On April 2, we had a wonderful state convention at the Hilton Garden Inn and the connected Phenomenal Women's Conference at the Betty Siegel Center at Kennesaw State University, hosted by our fellow metro-area Cobb Branch members. Read more about this in another article.*

*On April 11, 2008, Betty Slater, our student affiliate Allison Youngblood, and I attended the Women and Money Conference at Georgia State University. This event received an Atlanta Branch Community Action Grant of \$500. to underwrite the free distribution of Ilyce R. Glink's book: "50 Simple Steps You Can Take to Disaster-Proof Your Finances" to conference attendees. I was able to meet with Ms. Glink briefly and give her a copy of the recent AALLW study, "The Pay Gap." Betty, Allison and I distributed many AALLW membership flyers at the conference.*

*I am very hopeful that events like the April 3rd and 11th will be fruitful, both in terms of attracting new members, and in highlighting the important work being done by Georgia's AALLW branches, particularly the Atlanta Branch.*

*As most of you know, I cannot be with you on May 17th, our celebration of the RFS program, the installation of officers, and the vote on the Bylaws. Nothing less than the fact that I have not see my daughter in almost a year would make me miss this meeting. I know you will celebrate our accomplishments in the proper spirit, and I look forward to continued success in 2008-2009. Our board will meet in June to welcome new members and start planning for next year, and we will meet again in August to plan for our 2008-2009 programs and activities. Please contact me if you have any ideas, comments or suggestions for 2008-2009. Do NOT forget BOOKFAIR! September 21-28, 2008, at Perimeter Mall. See you in September.*

*Note: I will be out of the country from May 10 to May 31. You can reach me anytime, before or after those dates at: [diana.witt@comcast.net](mailto:diana.witt@comcast.net) or 678-372-1530.*

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**TIP!** CVS Pharmacies are offering free clinics to check cholesterol and blood pressure as well as bone density. Check their door when you leave for the free clinic in your area!

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## THE TERRIFIC CONVENTION--REVISITED!

by Diana Witt

Our State Convention coupled with the Phenomenal Women's Conference at Kennesaw State University on April 2nd and 3rd was a great success.

The AAUW program included interesting speeches from Carolyn Garfein, current director of the AAUW Educational Foundation, and treasurer of the North Fulton Branch. We also heard from AAUW South Atlantic Region Director Carol Newnam. Both discussed the future of AAUW, which presents many challenges, and focused on ways to enhance AAUW visibility and increase membership. A Values to Action Workshop was held by Debby Karvey and Pat DeWitt. Members were urged to vote on the most important issues facing Georgia's AAUW branches. Our focus issues for 2008-2009: STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education programs for Georgia women and girls, family and women's health policies and pay equity. Branches are urged to develop programming around these issues in the coming year.

The Atlanta Branch received a number of first and second place awards in various categories, including membership retention and recruiting, EF/LAF contributions, and most especially the State 10-Star Membership Award, which was received in large measure because of the wonderful effort Dottie Ransom has put into membership this year. My grateful thanks to all our committee chairs, but especially to Dottie. These awards will be distributed at the May 17th meeting.

The Atlanta Branch, and AAUW in general, was very well represented at the Phenomenal Women's Conference held the following day. Speakers from other women's organizations in the state held panel discussions on topics ranging from sexual harassment to financial literacy. It was a wonderful and informative two days; and, most importantly, I feel it gave increased visibility to AAUW in Georgia and the work we are doing.

Members of Atlanta Branch who attended were Alta Birdsong, Diana Witt, Betty Slater, Lynn Fountain, Ruth Yurchuck, Pat Bevis, Betty Arden, Elizabeth Gordon and Kay Collins.

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**Attention Board Members---New and "Old"**

***Please save Saturday, June 14th for a very important Board meeting and planning session. The time and place will be announced at a later date.***

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## Introducing our Membership Vice President-- *Dot Ransom*



Dot Ransom has been our very successful Vice-president for Membership this past year. We now have 77 members.

She has been an active member of Atlanta Branch since 1988 because she believes in AAUW's goals and mission.

Dot, following in the footsteps of both her parents, taught school for 25 years, retiring in 2002 from her position at Sandy Springs Middle School. She could almost be considered a native Atlantan since she moved her from Wisconsin at the age of two, attended Atlanta schools and even remembers shopping at the downtown Rich's Department Store.

Dot and her husband Ronald have two adult daughters, Rachel and Denise, and one granddaughter, Julie (age 15 months) who lives in Savannah. Dot and Ronald also share their home with a beagle and two calico cats.

Gardening is a major interest, and the picture above shows her at the Philadelphia Flower Show. She is a member of the Norcross Garden Club and a master gardener. She has traveled extensively with the Friendship Force including trips to Russia, China, Japan and Turkey. She is also a member of the Stephens Ministry at Norcross United Methodist Church. She is part of our Branch's Contemporary Literature group and especially likes historical fiction.

Dot looks forward to our Branch continuing to be involved in the community. Her special interest is in inspiring girls to "reach for the stars" in their education and in being a part of providing resources to make this possible.

Oh!! And also to continue to work toward increasing our membership!!

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**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**MONDAY, JUNE 16TH!**

## Our Refugee Student Leaders Visit Agnes Scott College!

Find out more about what Sylvia and Mireille have been doing this past year at our May 17th meeting!



Pictured above are: Refugee Student Leaders Sylvia Murerwa and Mireille Kibib, Student Advisory Board Member from Agnes Scott Brittany Little and Youth Advisor Laura Rolan.

## FOUR STUDENTS HEADED TO D.C.

from Betty Slater

We have four outstanding college students going to Washington, D.C. to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. The conference will be held at Georgetown University, June 5-7.

The students are: Brittney Little - Agnes Scott College, Laura Stiltz - Georgia Institute of Technology, Brittany Waller - Savannah College of Art and Design, and Allison Youngblood - Georgia State University. They will be sharing with us at a meeting in the fall about all that they learned at the conference.

Thanks to all of your work on the Bookfair which allows for funds to send these terrific women!

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## Introducing: Our Fundraising Vice-president-- **Tami Anderson**

Tami Anderson has taken many leadership roles in Atlanta Branch--Community Action Chair, Branch President, Bookfair Chair and Bookfair Steering Committee Chair. She's been at it for over 20 years, and Fundraising VP is just her latest office.

Why?? Tami says it's because the mission of AAUW is one she believes in, and it draws interesting women who are sincere in working for equality and the improvement of women's lives.

Tami currently works as a librarian for two private law firms. Although she started her career as a school librarian, when she came to Atlanta (from Chicago) she decided she would like to work with adults. She eased into that by volunteering at EIRS, a project of the Atlanta Branch that provided information on educational opportunities for adults and also did job counseling. She maintained the small library of college catalogs and employment information that they used at the office in Lenox Square. Eventually, she took a job with a library company that worked entirely with law firms. She continued her second job as a "landlady" since her home had three apartments.

Kali, her Siamese mix, is current house manager. Tami, with a life-long connection to cats has lots of "cat stories." Ask her!

Tami loves to read and rarely goes anywhere without a book, especially if standing in line is a possibility. Her all-time favorite book is *Beloved* by Toni Morrison. She also enjoys visiting art galleries and collects art pottery.

Her dream for Atlanta Branch and AAUW's future is to attract more young women who are able to find time to be active AAUW participants.

Although Tami's current position may soon disappear (with a pending change in the Bylaws), Tami will most assuredly continue to be an active part of our Branch.

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***"I make money using my brains and lose money listening to my heart. But in the long run my books balance pretty well."***

***Kate Seredy, The Singing Tree (1939)***



## IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP (information supplied by Dot Ransom)

77 (double seven) must be a very lucky number; because that is the number of members we now have in the Atlanta Branch of AAUW.

\$77.00 is also the amount needed to renew your national, state and branch membership. Dot Ransom, our Membership Vice-president, will be ready at the May 17th meeting to receive renewal checks. Those who are joining for the first time will find the membership form on our website. They will also be available at the meeting.

\*Note from the editor: AAUW membership is a bargain. The more you participate, the bigger the bargain. However, the fiscal responsibility of this organization at every level makes our dues money stretch and really make a difference in the lives and women and girls (including us)!

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## USING OUR WEBSITE

by Mary Lynn Merkle

We have a new website manager who is very interested in updating and continuing to improve AAUWAtlanta.org. Terry Eshenour (Yep! He's Connie's husband) has volunteered to work on this. But, in his own words, these goals are only achievable if WE help.

Each of us who has responsibility for any small part of our programs can send information to Terry. Our newsletter will be on the website as well as information about our Branch, membership information, our Bookfair and-and-and-. What we need to do is look at the website, check out what it says about our particular activities and decide if it says what we want it to in the way that we want it to be said.

We will find the website very helpful; but where it might prove extremely important is in attracting new members. If prospective members were aware of all we accomplish (while enjoying the good company), they would be as inspired to join as I was a little over 3 years ago.

So, check it out, and then contact Terry at [Terry@eshenour.com](mailto:Terry@eshenour.com) so he can make changes for you (or just to thank him for being on our team).

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## KEEPING IT ALL GOING--

### Report from the Nominating Committee

Knowing that a slate of officers who are committed to AAUW's mission and will expend their time and energy to making it happen, we began our search.

First, we had to find a replacement for May Ruth Bradberry, our marvelous treasurer who (after two terms) was ineligible for re-election. When asked, Alta Birdsong (also a financial whiz) stepped up to the plate.

We've been limping along a little without a Program Vice-president this past year. The Program Committee thought it important to have that office back. So we asked Betty Slater, and she has agreed to fill that position.

Our next move was an easy one. Dot Ransom has served just one year as Membership Vice-president (replacing Connie Eshelman who is currently serving as Co-president). She has been quite phenomenal, growing our membership roll to 77; and she's enjoying what she's doing. So when we asked if she would please continue for another term, she was glad to help us out.

The office of Fundraising Vice-president, according to our "old" Bylaws, was to be re-elected each year. Tami Anderson has agreed to place her name in nomination. However, our "new" Bylaws (to be voted on at our May 17th meeting) will no longer require that office.

We then moved toward the Nominating Committee to replace us. We wanted to get a variety of women who together would know the possibilities within our Branch. The five great women who have agreed to serve are Frances Smith, Mary Womack, Elaine North, Gillian Horsley, and Sarah Rondeau.

Now all we had left was the President-elect, the office which one year down the line requires much energy and time (ask Diana). The women we asked were very honored to be considered; but, for good reasons, they were unable to make the commitment at this time. After these responses, committee member Mary Lynn Merkle thought, "I can do this. I love this organization; and with the slate of officers we have and the great committees, it'll be all right." After the other committee members concurred, our slate of officers was completed!

This slate will be presented at the May 17th meeting; and, if elected, will be installed at the same meeting.

Committee members: Ruth Yurchuck, Pat Bevis, Bea Meyer, and Mary Lynn Merkle

DATES TO REMEMBER:

May 7th: Contemporary Literature  
A Thousand Splendid Suns  
by Khaled Hosseini  
May 17th: Branch Meeting  
Ansley Golf Club

June 11th: Contemporary Literature  
Potluck and Planning  
June 14th: Board Meeting (New and Old Members)  
June 16th: Newsletter Deadline



*Membership is open to anyone who holds an associate's or equivalent, bachelor's or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university. Student affiliates are those who are undergraduates in a two or four-year regionally accredited education institution. Student memberships are also available.*

*For more information contact Dot Ransom (see front page of News)*

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Atlanta, GA 30329**