



# ATLANTA NEWS

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

Volume 59, No. 4 January 12, 2009

## 2008-2009 Leadership

### Co-presidents

Diana Witt 678/372-1530

Connie Eshenour 770/698-0852

### President Elect

Mary Lynn Merkle 404/633-7183

### Program Vice President

Betty Slater 404/237-6806

### Membership Vice President

Dot Ransom 770/448-0887

### Recording Secretaries

#### Board Meetings

Ruth Yurchuck 770/934-1536

#### Branch Meetings

Phyllis Miller 404/636/1412

### Treasurer

Alta Birdsong 770/394-2681

### 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

Terry Eshenour 770/698-0852

### Finance Committee Chair

TBA

### 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

Please plan to join Atlanta Branch of AAUW and the National Coalition of 100 Black Women for our 4th Annual

## Women Legislators Speak Luncheon

Saturday, January 31, 2009

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Branch business meeting will take place  
from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Program registration will start at 11:30 a.m.

Maggiano's Little Italy in Buckhead  
3368 Peachtree Road  
Atlanta, GA 30326

All AAUW and NCBA Members: \$25.00  
Non-members: \$30.00

Registration ends January 26, 2009



Tisha Tallman, speaker

A separate registration form is included in your newsletter (for those who receive the newsletter through the mail) and on page 7 (for those who receive it electronically), and is also available online at the Atlanta branch website.

[www.aauwatlanta.org](http://www.aauwatlanta.org)

Our featured speaker this year is Tisha Tallman, President and CEO of the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. We will also follow our usual format of roundtable seating with our legislators and lobbyists to discuss the issues facing the 2009 legislative session. This is a critical year for Georgia and our nation. I urge you to attend this important event.

Diana Witt, Branch Co-President

## MEMO TO MEMBERS by Betty Slater

Put **February 21** on your calendar for a special program featuring two of our Branch members, Susan Diffenderfer and Carol Feters. They will be sharing information about ovarian cancer and making us more aware of what we need to know about this disease. We will also have a representative from CVS pharmacy telling us about medicare and informing us about prescription drug benefits. Please plan to attend this informative meeting.

## REFLECTIONS FROM OUR HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

by Betty Slater

The December celebration is a wonderful time to gather in the Womack's home on Club Drive in Atlanta. Mary and her husband Darwin are terrific hosts for all of our members and guests. Without their hospitality and kindness our holiday celebration would not be as successful as it has always been. Those present always leave with warm hearts as we hear about the accomplishments of some of our members. The stories of the scholarship winners encourage all of us as we continue to support AAUW. It is a celebration that you don't want to miss!

\*\*\*\*\*

## KUDOS TO ALLISON YOUNGBLOOD

by Betty Slater

Allison Youngblood took the opportunities given to her by our Atlanta Branch and used them to develop her leadership skills so that she could help others.

I met Allison as the Georgia State University representative for the Student Advisory Committee at the state conference held in Columbus, Georgia. When I needed a list of those attending, I asked Allison to make me a list--it was in my email the next day. When I heard about the Leadership Conference at Georgia Tech, I shared the information with the student affiliates. Allison took advantage of that conference. When we had a table at the Women's Leadership Conference at Georgia State University, I asked Allison to help us with the table. When we sent students to Washington, D.C. for student leadership, I asked Allison to be our point person. She did both of these jobs so graciously. She came back from the conference ready and willing to assist Laura Stiltz, another student affiliate, with the Women's Leadership Conference at Georgia Tech. She will be assisting with the next student advisory groups for the 2009 state convention.

**Allison is so deserving as a Name Grant Honoree!**

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## BOOKFAIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY-- 1959-2009

With this being the 50th year for Bookfair, we NEED publicity. If you have some experience and are interested in working on publicity for this milestone event, please contact Alta Birdsong, 770.394.2681 or [kandabrd@bellsouth.net](mailto:kandabrd@bellsouth.net). We hope to begin work in early February.

## Interest Groups

### Contemporary Literature:

(Kay Collins, Coordinator)

The book group will meet at the home of Carol Feters on Wednesday, February 4. Our book this time is Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell. We gather about 7:30 p.m. and start our discussion about 8:00 p.m.....after enjoying refreshments and conversation.

Join us even if you haven't read the book.

### Travel, Day:

(Betty Arden, Coordinator)

The Travel Group will tour the Atlanta Community Food Bank's Eco-Building on Thursday, February 12, at 10:30. We will carpool from the Kroger Store at Ansley Mall at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will follow the tour.

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## President's Column by Diana Witt

Happy 2009 to all Atlanta Branch AAUW members! This year will undoubtedly be both historic and uncertain. We are living in the midst of the worst economic crisis in decades, one that is bound to affect all of us. We are also about to inaugurate the nation's first African-American president, and we are also celebrating the 50th year of the Atlanta Branch involvement in the AAUW Bookfair. No matter what, this will be a landmark year.

In that spirit I hope all you will plan to attend our 4th annual Women Legislators Speak luncheon on Jan. 31st. For the past four years we have partnered with the National Coalition of 100 Black Women in hosting this event. However, in a sign of the times, we did not secure any corporate sponsorships this year. Despite that, we have been able to hold the luncheon costs at the same amount (\$25.) for AAUW members from any branch. However, it will help ease the financial problems if we have a large turnout. Please think about inviting friends and associates to this important event. The larger the attendance, the easier financial burden to our branch will be. Our featured speaker this year is Tisha Tallman, president and CEO of the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. We will also follow our usual format, with Georgia women legislators seated at individual tables, giving our members an opportunity to speak face-to-face about issues in the upcoming session. I urge you to attend this important event.

**There will be a brief business meeting in the dining room from 11 to 11:30. The Branch will have an opportunity to discuss and vote on the community fund budget.**

It is not too early to start thinking about the Georgia State Conference which will take place April 24-25 in Milledgeville. Pat DeWitt is planning a dynamic program that will focus on international women's concerns and women from other cultures who live here in Georgia and how we might reach out and partner with them. Please contact me if you have any ideas for this program.

I would also like to welcome new member Huiping Du back into our group. Many of you have met her at Bookfair and at our Holiday gathering and know how valuable a member she is. Welcome, Huiping!

**See you all on the 31st!**

## TRAVELING WITH BETTY ARDEN



Betty Arden has been leading the Travel Group on Atlanta area excursions for many years. She has found little known places, well-known places with special exhibits, new places--always broadening our acquaintance with and knowledge of Atlanta. And she always finds a great venue for lunch after our "tour."

Betty joined Atlanta Branch in 1969 when a good friend told her about it. In those 40 years she has always participated in the "life" of our Branch. She has served as yearbook chair and hospitality co-chair. She's helped with Bookfair, and she's been part of the Travel, Gourmet and Bridge interest groups.

After graduating from the University of North Carolina she moved to Atlanta and found work as a senior clerk at the Coca-Cola Company. From there she became a claims adjuster in an insurance company. After she and husband Joe had their son, Sam, Betty became a full-time homemaker, mom and volunteer. Sam is now an attorney in Atlanta.

Before Joe died in 1999, he and Betty were able to travel extensively in China, the Hawaiian Islands, Japan, Russia and Scandinavia.

Betty is still an avid volunteer. Besides her work with AAUW she is involved in groups that promote the Arts and historic preservation. She is part of the Atlanta Symphony Association, the Atlanta Pro-Mozart Society, the Atlanta History Center and the Atlanta Preservation Center. And when there's time, she enjoys reading, cooking and traveling.

Atlanta Branch is important to Betty. She celebrates our new members and wishes there were more of them. And she would be delighted to see more member participation in all of our Branch activities.

**\*\*On a personal level I'm very grateful to Betty for showing me around the nooks and crannies of my new community. I'm sure many other "newcomers" are equally thankful for all her hard work in planning our Atlanta "travels." (mlm)**

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## NEXT ATLANTA NEWS DEADLINE-- SATURDAY, FEB. 7TH!!

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Many thanks to our members who are willing to receive their newsletters electronically. Please let me know if you are having any difficulty. Contact: Mary Lynn Merkle, [merkle1651@comcast.net](mailto:merkle1651@comcast.net).

## EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION FUNDS DISPERSED by Phyllis Miller

The EF Committee approved allocating the Educational Foundation funds of \$12,000.00 as follows:

- \$4,025\*-**Fund 1009** - Atlanta Branch American Fellowship established in 1981-82
- \$2,000. -**Fund 1204** - Atlanta Branch Research and Projects established 1974-75
- \$3,000. -**Fund 2505** - National Conference for Women Student Leaders General Support
- \$3,000. -**Fund 2504** - National Conference for Women Student Leaders Scholarship
- \*\$25.00 sent in memory of Ruth Esche Shaw, Honorary Life Member

Our \$3,518. LAF would go to Fund 3999 - Unrestricted Legal Advocacy Fund Support.

When reading the FUNDS BY CORPORATION form, Alta Birdsong (Branch treasurer) discovered a category called AAUW Leadership and Training Institute which includes the College Women Student Leaders General Support and College Women Student Leaders Scholarship. The latter program is the one in which Betty Slater has been very involved, and our branch honored one of the student leaders with a name grant. Alta suggested that we give some of our funds to one or both of these.

The form and money were submitted to National before the end of 2008.

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## OUR 2008 NAME GRANT HONOREES by Phyllis Miller

One of the highlights of our Holiday Celebration on December 6th was the announcement of the women who were selected as our Name Grant Honorees. They are:

**Judy Lambert** -- for 1000 hours to the Bookroom

**Julie Keller** -- for internet sales management and instruction to others on how to do this

**Dot Ransom** -- for a tremendous job with membership  
**Virginia McCamey** -- for 50 years of membership and for past activities in the community

**Allison Youngblood** -- for leadership in student membership, to represent all our Student Affiliates

**Joy Whittington** -- a "thank you" for years of Bookroom/Bookfair leadership.

Only six women were selected, but the list of many worthy members and friends who were nominated was long indeed.

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## Holiday Auction Benefits Refugee Family Services

by Barbara Buchanan

The Silent Auction at our Holiday Celebration in December was a great success! Thanks to the many generous and creative donations from our membership, the event yielded \$889.00. This money has been donated to support the Refugee Family Services/AAUW Young Women's Leadership Project.

**Thank you** to all those who donated items and to those who were high bidders. The philanthropy made possible using the money raised by the auction is just another example of the ways that AAUW seeks to fulfill the ideals stated in our mission statement: to promote equity for all women and girls, life-long education, and positive societal change.

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The following was received from the Executive Director of Refugee Family Services:

Dear AAUW Atlanta:

On behalf of Refugee Family Services, I'd like to thank the AAUW Atlanta Branch for your generous contribution of funds from your Holiday Party Silent Auction. Your support of the AAUW/RFS Young Women's Leadership Program is phenomenal, and we want you to know that it truly makes a difference in the lives of these remarkable young refugee women.



**2008-2009 Young Women's Leadership Fellows  
Hazel Amedi and Suado Hassan**



**Hazel Amedi with an RFS Afterschool Student**

The Leadership Fellows in the AAUW/RFS Young Women's Leadership Program receive mentoring, leadership development, and work experience through this unique program. As a result, they are gaining the confidence and skills needed to become successful as they look forward to college and career opportunities. We are so proud of the accomplishments of the 2007-2008 Leadership Fellows, Sylvia and Mireille and know that the support and guidance they received through this program has helped them develop into mature, confident and capable leaders. We have watched these young women, who were bright but shy when we first met them, apply for college, interview for scholarships and even speak at several public events on behalf of RFS and the refugee community. This year's Leadership Fellows, Hazel and Suado both have high aspirations for their future careers, and thanks to your generous support, they are receiving invaluable opportunities to receive career guidance and mentoring from other successful women in the community. By also serving as paid assistants in the RFS Afterschool Program, they are inspiring role models for younger refugee and continue to develop their leadership skills by serving others.

Thank you for your support of this program. We look forward to our work together in 2009!

Allen Shaklan  
Executive Director



ATLANTA BRANCH AAUW						
PROPOSED COMMUNITY FUND BUDGET						
July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009						
	Disbursed as of		Trans between	Variance	Allocation of	Proposed Budget
Line Item	Balance 6/30,	12/31/08	line Items	07-2008 Budget	Bookfair Funds	7/1/08-6/30/09
Fundraising Reserve	\$ 1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,000.00
Community & Fund Mgmt	\$ 200.00			\$ 200.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 200.00
Community Action	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00		\$ 0.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
Branch Project (previously	\$ 0.00			\$ 0.00	\$ 1,580.15	\$ 1,580.15
*Special Community Progr	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 2,640.60		\$ 1,259.40		\$ 1,259.40
Education Foundation	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,025.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
Legal Advocacy Fund	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,518.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
Local Scholarships	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00		\$ 0.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
E. Davis Memorial Scholar	\$ 3,565.00			\$ 3,565.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,565.00
Donations	\$ 0.00			\$ 0.00		\$ 0.00
Contribution to General Fu	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 0.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
**Unallocated Community	\$ 5,284.20	\$ 0.00	\$ (171.90)	\$ 5,112.30	\$ 0.00	\$ 5,112.30
Student Affiliates to Natl C	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,071.01	\$ 71.01	\$ (0.00)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Election Education	\$ 2,000.00			\$ 2,000.00	\$ (2,000.00)	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 1,910.95	\$ 814.46		\$ 1,096.49		\$ 1,096.49
Miscellaneous	\$ 0.00	\$ 57.89	\$ 57.89	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
	\$ 51,860.15	\$ 37,626.96	\$ 0.00	\$ 14,233.19	\$ 33,080.15	\$ 47,313.34
	49949.2 +1096.49					
	(Original 2007-08 budget plus interest)				33080.15 to be allocated from Bfair	
	*3900+5000 (national)-7100-319.6-222+1259.40					
	An additional \$889. was sent to RFS from Holiday Auction					

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NOVEMBER 2ND, 2008 BOARD MEETING

- \*There was discussion about the possibility of increasing the Bookfair accounting fee. This will be discussed at the next Bookfair Steering Committee meeting.
- \*As a cost-saving effort the newsletter will now be sent to all members with an email address unless the member requests otherwise.
- \*A celebration brunch for Bookfair workers is planned for Nov. 8th at the home of Sylvia Goodyear.
- \*The importance of having an Atlanta branch member chair the 50th annual Bookfair in 2009 was discussed.
- \*Meg Beyer, a student at Agnes Scott College, is a member of the national student advisory committee.
- \*It was brought to the attention of our Hospitality co-chairs that side conversations during the program presentation prohibited some people from adequately hearing our excellent speaker.
- \*Proposal to share the proceeds of the Silent Auction between the Refugee Family Services Young Women's Leadership program and the Legal Advocacy component of the AAUW Educational Foundation. It will be further decided by the membership at the Nov. 15th meeting.

**ANNOUNCING!!-Bookfair/bookroom hours for October and November!!!**

by Alta Birdsong

Carol Bevier	26.5	Alta Birdsong	21.	Ken Birdsong	2.0	Ken Brockschmidt	1.5
Barbara Buchanan	13.25	Joyce Cohrs	50.5	Kay Collins	1.75	Datej - Davis, HA	3.75
Connie Eshenour	13.74	Lynn Fountain	6.0	Judy Lambert	200.0	Diana Luykx	.5
Mary Lynn Merkle	4.75	Bea Meyer	10.5	Phyllis Miller	24.5	Sarah Rondeau	3.0
Betty Slater	5.5	Kim Tamvackis	2.75	Dorothy Tracey	11.0	Darwin Womack	1.0
Mary Womack	12.75						

**Total Hours 418.25**

**Now is the time to get involved in the Bookroom. You can be trained in the sorting of books and the procedures within the Bookroom. You may find that you are ready to price a category - one or more.**

**Don't wait until the "crush" in late August and September!! You are needed now!!**

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**Dates to Remember:**

Jan. 26: Reservation Deadline

Jan. 31st meeting

Jan. 31: Women Legislators Speak

Luncheon, Maggiano's

Feb. 4: Contemporary Literature

Tipping Point (Gladwell)

Feb. 7: Newsletter Deadline

Feb. 12; Travel Group

Atlanta Community Food Bank

Feb. 15: Board Meeting

Feb. 21: Branch Meeting

Cancer Survivors and Medicare

April 24-25; AAUW State Conference

Milledgeville







**Tuesday, January 20, 2009**

**Inauguration Day**





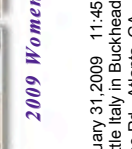
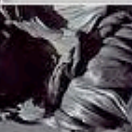
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Atlanta Branch AAUW  
1651 Executive Park Lane  
Atlanta, GA 30329

REGISTRATION FOR JANUARY 31ST, 2009 ---WOMEN LEGISLATORS SPEAK






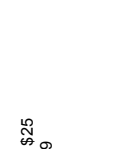
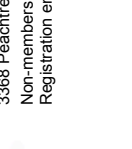

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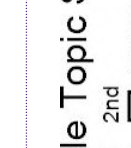
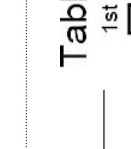
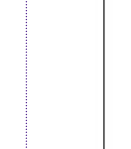
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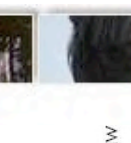
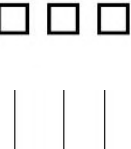
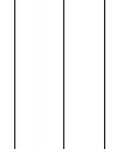
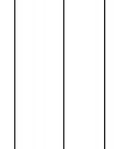
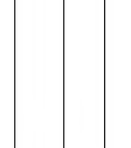
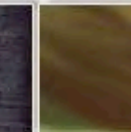
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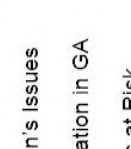
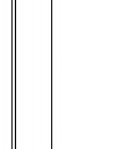
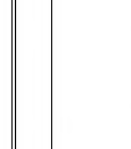
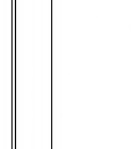
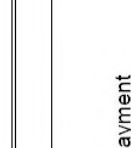
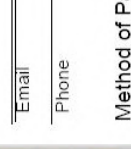
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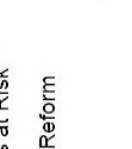
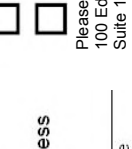

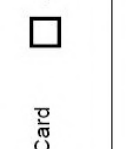
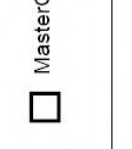
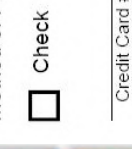

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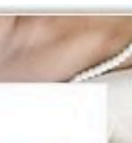





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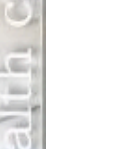


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