



# ATLANTA NEWS

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

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## 2008-2009 Leadership

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### Contemporary Literature

Kay Collins 404/266-2183

### Travel, Day

Betty Arden 770/955-6381

### Gourmet, Evening

Sally Byers 770/491-3781

## HAPPY 106th BIRTHDAY

## ATLANTA BRANCH

### Saturday, March 21st

### Copeland's of New Orleans 3365 Piedmont Ave.

11:00 a.m. Welcome to the Members

11:05 a.m. Women's Watch Afrika, Inc.  
Community Action Grantee

11:15 a.m. Fashion--AAUW Chic  
Elizabeth Gordon, author of The Chic Entrepreneur

12:00 p.m. Lunch (including singing "Happy Birthday")

12:45 p.m. Business Meeting

Menu: Penthouse Salad with Grilled Chicken, Choice of Dressings, Toasted Brioche Cheese Bread, Iced Tea and Coffee, Birthday Cake. Cocktails can be ordered at your expense.

Cost: \$20.00

Reservation Deadline: Tuesday, March 17th,  
St. Patrick's Day

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

We celebrate our 106th birthday by having one of our members, Elizabeth Gordon, share her experiences as the author of The Chic Entrepreneur. The book is a business strategy book for women that pioneers the feminine approach to building and growing a business.

We will all have a chance to wear something special for our birthday party. Elizabeth will be signing her book which can be purchased for only \$14.00. Remember to bring some friends to this program--especially women who might be thinking about starting a business or those who already own a business.

**Directions to Copeland's of New Orleans:** Copeland's is northwest of Peachtree on Piedmont. From Peachtree you pass Highland Drive NE and Tower Place Drive on the right. Copeland's is in the next "block" also on the right. There is a free parking garage across from the light for the Kroger Shopping Center. There is a passage from this garage to Copeland's.

## President's Letter--Diana Witt

March is Women's History Month. It seems particularly appropriate to have Elizabeth Gordon presenting our program on March 21st, since she will be talking about women and business success. The reservation deadline is March 17th, but early reservations are very helpful for our hospitality chairs.

Earlier this year the branch received a request for individual funding from Ashley Johnson, a Georgia Tech doctoral student. Ashley will attend Innovate, an international conference in Vietnam and Taiwan that will explore issues surrounding globalization, technology and innovation for women in Asia, and she requested financial assistance. The Community Action committee agreed to help, and Ashley will be leaving for this conference, with our assistance, on March 11th. I had a chance to meet with her briefly at Georgia Tech on March 5. I gave her some materials relating to AAUW National's STEM Initiatives to take with her to the conference. It turns out that she is working with a group of college students on the initiative. She now has these materials, and has downloaded a Power Point presentation and some national AAUW research reports on STEM. She and her fellow women college students plan to use these materials in Vietnam and Taiwan. I am really pleased with this initiative. We have raised the awareness of AAUW not only internationally, but also with the next generation of potential AAUW members. Ashley has promised to do a program for us in the 2009-2010 year while she is still attending Georgia Tech.

Even though I cannot attend because of an unavoidable work conflict, I am urging as many branch members as possible to attend the upcoming state conference in Milledgeville, April 24-25, 2009. I have been working on the state committee for changes to the state web site and infrastructure, which hopefully will include options for branches to opt into access to web site design services at a reduced cost. A report on this will be made at the State Conference, and I will share with you the details of our findings.

On March 5 there was a showing of the film, "A Powerful Noise," in celebration of International Women's Day. I understand some of our branch members attended and participated in the lively discussion that followed. I look forward to hearing from them at our meeting on the 21st at Copeland's.

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Spring is almost here!

Diana

## COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTEE FOR MARCH-- WOMEN'S WATCH AFRIKA, INC.

By Betty Slater

Women 's Watch Afrika, Inc. (WWA) is a non-profit, non-governmental, grassroots women's organization focused on the alleviation of gender discrimination and the development of women and girls. The primary goal of WWA is to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to promote the social and economic development of women and girls.

Ms. Glory Kilamko, executive director, will be at our March 21st meeting to share with us how WWA used the Community Action grant given to them by our Atlanta branch.

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### On Friendship--

*Through knowing her I became a better person, and she said the same of me.*

(Amanda Cross, American writer)

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## Interest Groups

### Contemporary Literature:

(Kay Collins, Coordinator)

On Wednesday, April 1, we will meet at the home of Carol Fetters to discuss Cage of Stars by Jacquelyn Mitchard. We will gather about 7:30 PM and start the discussion about 8:00 PM. Contact Kay Collins, 404/266-2183, with questions.

**New members are always welcome. It isn't required that you've read the book!**

### Travel, Day:

(Betty Arden, Coordinator)

We will have a guided tour through the new National Museum of Patriotism (275 Baker Street) on Thursday, March 12th. We will meet at the Kroger Store, Ansley Mall at 9:30 a.m. for carpooling. Lunch will be at the Peasant Bistro which overlooks Centennial Park. For more information contact Betty at 770/955-6381.

On April 9th we will go to Atlantic Station to visit the Millennium Gate. We will meet at the Kroger Store, Ansley Mall at 9:45 a.m. for our 10:30 a.m. appointment. We'll lunch together at one of the many eateries found at Atlantic Station.

### Bridge: ??????

(Phyllis Miller, Coordinator)

Phyllis is **still** looking for a few fellow bridge players. Please call her at 404/636-1412.

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## Catching up with our members—Sally Byers



Sally, who joined AAUW because she wanted to connect with other women who had common interests, has been “connecting” for almost 50 years---40 of those with Atlanta branch. During her tenure with Rochester (NY) branch she served as president and chaired many groups. In Atlanta she also served as president, as Bookfair chair and also as chair of many other com-

mittees. She is currently chair of the Gourmet group which she started as a study group to learn about different cultures through learning about their foods. Sally’s leadership skills have been recognized by her having been given several honors. Among those are Leadership DeKalb, Personality of the South and Outstanding Young Women of America.

During her working years Sally was a counselor, a volunteer administrator and a psychometrist. Now, in addition to AAUW, she participates in the League of Women Voters (DeKalb), Perimeter Adult Learning Services, Alliance Theater Guild, Chamber Seniors, Seniors and Lawmen Together (SALT), American Legion Auxillary, Lions and Eagles, and St. Andrews (an organization for people of Scottish ancestry). She also enjoys bridge and reading.

Sally and her husband, Donald, have two sons. Scott is a major in the US Army and lives in Augusta along with two grandsons, Brandon and Cameron. Todd lives in Dallas and is a manager for Royal Coffee.

Sally looks forward to Atlanta branch continuing to enrich our lives with learning and to be in close contact with current events in the legislative and political fields.

Thank you, Sally, for your warm heart and cheerful nature. You are a gift to Atlanta branch!

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## DON'T MISS IT!!!

**What?--The 2009 AAUW of Georgia State Convention: “Breaking Barriers for Women”**

**When?--April 24-25  
Friday 4:00 p.m to  
Saturday 5:00 p.m.**

**Where?--Georgia Military College,  
Milledgeville**

**Why?--It’s our opportunity to meet with our counterparts across Georgia, to share, to learn, and to have fun.**

**How much?--**

**Registration: \$30.00  
Friday dinner: \$16.00  
Saturday lunch: \$13.00**

**Hotel information:**

**Comfort Suites, Milledgeville  
2621 No. Columbia St.  
478-453-2212  
\$82.80 per night (2 persons per room)  
Reserve by March 24, 2009**

**Go to our website**

**([www.aauwatlanta.org](http://www.aauwatlanta.org)) for registration information.**

Check with Betty Slater, Mary Lynn Merkle, Alta Birdsong, or Susan Diffenderfer if you are interested. We will try to share rooms and to carpool if at all possible.

## NEXT ATLANTA NEWS DEADLINE-- Friday, April 3rd

We are now sending 57 newsletters by email and about 22 by USPS. That is a savings of \$52.00+ every single issue. Thank you, everyone! If you have questions, please contact editor Mary Lynn Merkle ([merkle1651@comcast.net](mailto:merkle1651@comcast.net)).

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### BRANCH OFFICERS NEEDED!

The Nominating Committee, under the leadership of Kay Collins, is searching for candidates for the following offices: program vice-president, recording secretary for board meetings, recording secretary for branch meetings, and five nominees for the next Nominating Committee. Other Nominating Committee members are Mary Womack, Frances Smith, Gillian Horsley and Sarah Rondeau.

Any member interested in serving our branch in a leadership position should contact a Nominating Committee member.

The slate will be announced in the April newsletter, and the election will take place at the April meeting with the installation of new officers at the May meeting.

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A special invitation for AAUW members

## Ansley Park Art Open House

**Date:** Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> 3 p.m.- 6 p.m.

**Place :** 242 The Prado

Ansley Park, Atlanta 30309

**Cost:** FREE!!!

Come and view the work of some of Ansley Park's artists while you tour this magnificent home and enjoy the refreshments provided.

AAUW member Gillian Horsley will have some of her work on display. (To preview her work see

[www.fromphoto2forever.com](http://www.fromphoto2forever.com))

*Gillian Horsley*

## REFLECTIONS FROM FEBRUARY

by Betty Slater

Susan Diffenderfer and Carol Fetters presented their experiences with ovarian cancer to branch members at our February 21st meeting. Their experiences were different, from symptoms experienced to methods of chemotherapy chosen to treat their disease. They shared their stories of dealing with hair loss (often a traumatic part of cancer therapies) and wigs. Susan showed us some of the items that she and others use to "cover up" hair loss, and Carol shared how her hair curled. They both agreed that it was family and friends who helped them in their recovery. Their stories were both moving and inspiring.

Ovarian cancer is a silent killer, accounting for about 4% of all cancers in women. Chances for recovery are good when detected early, but early detection accounts for only 19% of diagnosed cases. Carol and Susan stressed how important it is to "listen" to our bodies and to check it out when something doesn't feel normal. Pamphlets about signs and other information about ovarian cancer were distributed.

We were all appreciative of the perhaps life-saving information gained. Atlanta branch made a donation to support the prevention and treatment of ovarian cancer in the names of our friends and fellow members--Carol and Susan.

Suzanne Economopoulos described the mission and program of our Community Action grantee, The Center for Positive Aging. Founded in 1982 by two forward thinking women, today it offers a variety of community-based programs and services, using a wellness model of aging, combined with a strong emphasis on volunteerism. Its mission is "Connecting you with the resources you need--ageless mind, body and spirit."

The Center is always looking for volunteers. These volunteers are trained to facilitate programs, particularly at the senior high-rises around our community. If interested, phone 404/872-9191.

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## DID YOU HAPPEN TO NOTICE???

Atlanta branch member Toni Larson's picture was in a recent Sunday edition of the Atlanta Journal Constitution. She was attending a meeting of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Rosie the Riveter Association.

Looking good!!



## Getting to know our Board members: Betty Slater



Our program vice-president, Betty Slater, is a great cheerleader for AAUW and its mission. She has provided us with a variety of interesting and stimulating meetings this past year, and she currently serves on AAUW of Georgia's board as the College/University representative. And she's been "cheerleading" and leading for a number of years. In the 28 years she has been in Atlanta Branch she has served as co-president, program vice-president (this is her second go-around), membership vice-president, Bookfair co-chair and steering committee chair.

So how did Atlanta Branch get so lucky as to have Betty join?! Back in 1979 she met husband Bob at a Toastmaster convention in Huntsville, Alabama. She was representing North Carolina and Bob was representing Georgia. They did "interstate dating" for a while, and then in 1981 they married (which meant a move to Atlanta for Betty). Shortly after the move she received help from the Educational Information and Referral Service operated by AAUW, Atlanta Branch in Lenox Square—and has been a member ever since.

Betty spent her all working years as an educator. She was a Director for Headstart in New Jersey, an instructor in education at Catawba Valley Community College in North Carolina, has supervised student teachers for GSU and taught in public schools in Georgia, Virginia and New Jersey.

Community service does not end with her many activities on behalf of AAUW. She has served United Way helping to raise money for early childhood education and for the homeless. She is a very active member of the North Side Women's Club and has served as president, vice-president and, currently, as treasurer. The club is part of the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs which owns and operates the Tallulah Falls School.

Betty plays golf and enjoys attending sporting events. When the word "travel" is mentioned, her bags are packed and ready to go. She is an avid news reader and also enjoys historical fiction. A favorite activity is attending the theater.

Betty's belief in AAUW's mission makes her hope that we will continue to reach out to the community colleges and four-year institutions. She hopes that new members will help our branch grow in size and service by being willing to take on leadership roles. She also hopes that we will become more savvy about technology and

computer skills, and that somehow the branch can facilitate and encourage this.

We at Atlanta Branch are most fortunate to have the energy, the friendliness, the enthusiasm and the organizational skills that Betty shares with us.

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## AAUW PRIDE

\*\*\*\*\* AAUW recently won the 2009 Associations Advance American (AAA) Award of Excellence. The award was part of a national competition sponsored by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) and The Center for Association Leadership. Only 24 organizations nationally received this award.

AAUW received the award for its Campus Action Projects, which enable student leaders and campus faculty to design and implement effective programs that enhance campus offerings, promote leadership, and improve academic and career outcomes. Each year, AAUW chooses a mission-based topic that the projects will focus on, such as sexual harassment or pay equity.

AAA committee chair Janet C. Gibbs said, "AAUW's CAP program truly embodies the spirit of the Associations Advance America campaign. It is an honor and an inspiration to showcase this activity as an example of the many contributions associations are making to advance American society."

\*\*\*\*\*Our Educational Foundation chair, Phyllis Miller, recently received notice from the national office regarding our contributions to the Foundation. Our many hours of labor in the bookroom, at the bookdrops, and at the Bookfair, all culminate in our ability to contribute almost \$17,000 to be distributed to graduate fellowships, legal advocacy, leadership and the Eleanor Roosevelt fund.

We have been able to contribute more than any other branch in Georgia, and we have been recognized nationally for the support we give to national programs.

Bookfair and all the preparations leading up to it is hard work. The above information makes it all worthwhile.!

Volunteer!! The bookroom is open each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10:00-2:00!

# ***OUR MISSION--***

*Education and equity for all women and girls,  
lifelong education and positive societal change.*

## **Dates to Remember:**

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|--|---|
| Mar. 12: Travel Group<br>Nat'l Museum of Patriotism                  | April 9: Travel Group<br>Millennium Gate, Atlantic Station  |
| Mar. 21: Birthday Party/Branch Meeting<br>Copeland's of New Orleans  | April 18: Branch Meeting/Election of Officers<br>Lenbrook (PLEASE NOTE DATE)  |
| Mar. 29: Board Meeting<br>Place to be announced                      | April 24-25: AAUW of Georgia State Convention<br>"Breaking Barriers for Women"<br>Georgia Military College, Milledgeville |
| April 1: Contemporary Literature<br><u>Cage of Stars</u> by Mitchard | May 6: Contemporary Literature<br><u>The Last of Her Kind</u> by Nunez  |
| April 3: Newsletter Deadline   |   |

# SEE YOU ON THE 21st!

ATLANTA NEWS

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