



ATLANTA NEWS

Atlanta Branch, American Association of University Women
www.aauwatlanta.org

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2009-2010 Leadership

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A View from the AAUW National Convention from a First-time Attendee

by Ruth Yurchuck

It was a great honor to represent the Atlanta Branch at the 2009 National Convention as an incoming Co-President. Without the encouragement of Alta Birdsong and Lynn Fountain, and the financial support provided by our Branch, I would have missed a really great opportunity to learn more about AAUW operations from a national perspective and to meet representatives from other Georgia branches. It is my hope that the information and experience gained from convention attendance will be helpful as we plan for the future while taking care of present needs.

The most obvious aspect of the convention was its size, with over 950 people in attendance. The large meeting room was full of women (and a few men) devoted to AAUW and its theme, "Breaking through Barriers." The registration process went smoothly, and getting to the various meeting rooms required lots of walking. The Georgia delegation, including members from the Cobb, North Fulton, Rome, Warner Robins branches, was seated at the back of the room for business meetings sessions, but we did not miss any of the action!

Another convention feature was "Shop AAUW", with an amazing assortment of merchandise with the AAUW brand. I purchased several items, one of which will be on display at our first meeting.

A "First Timers" briefing was held early on Friday morning, followed by various workshops. I attended two of the several offered in the morning: "AAUW Website Tools: What Every Leader Needs to Know," focusing on website development; and "Creating a Healthy Branch Culture and Branch Best Practices," a provocative and entertaining session. Both these workshops were so full that people were sitting on the floor. The presentations were excellent, and the discussion among participants very lively. Both of these workshops have great potential for our Branch.

The opening ceremony featured Lilly Ledbetter, the face of pay equity, and the person for whom the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was named. She is a tireless champion of equal pay for equal work. She gave great credit to the lobbying efforts of AAUW for passage of the bill in the House; the Senate has yet to approve this measure. The AAUW Public Policy staff member, Lisa Max, exhorted everyone to call, and call, and keep calling their senators and urge passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act.

The major business of the convention was adoption of the new bylaws needed to fit the new AAUW structure. Diana has summarized this elsewhere in the newsletter.

(continued on page 2)

IMPORTANT BOOKFAIR INFORMATION ON PAGES 4 AND 5!

Atlanta News, July 9, 2009, page 2

(Nat'l Convention, continued)

The impact of these bylaws changes will be examined in detail over the upcoming months. At this point, please begin to consider what you as a member of the Atlanta Branch would like our Branch to look like in terms of structure and programs. We have much work to do to remain a viable organization, and everyone's input is needed.

The election of Carolyn Garfein as national AAUW President was a fitting outcome to a packed three and a half days of work. There will be upcoming meetings within the state to further explore the impact of the new bylaws.

I would also like to thank Kay Collins for the use of her "AAUW Convention Scarf," which I wore daily and garnered much attention. Kay's scarf has traveled to several conventions, and I was glad to add St. Louis to its itinerary!

Thanks once again for the privilege of attending the 2009 national convention as your Branch representative.

Notes from the 2009 National Convention

by Diana Witt (delegate and former Co-President)

New National AAUW Bylaws were adopted at the National AAUW Conference on June 27, 2009 which will produce some significant changes for AAUW. As you know, the most controversial changes involved changes to the criteria for membership in AAUW. After a heated discussion spread over two days, it was decided to replace Article 4 in the 2009 proposed changes with the 2007 membership criteria. Basically, this means we will continue with our current criteria that include graduates of 2-year and associate degree programs, and student affiliate members, in addition to our long-standing university degree criteria. The National Bylaw Committee will now reconcile this 2007 provision with the language of the rest of the 2009 Bylaws revisions. After this very significant action was approved, the 2009 Bylaws revisions were passed.

So how do these changes affect us at the branch level? Remember, you can read the text of the 2009 changes on the National website, so I won't repeat them here. They affect us in a couple of ways. We can keep our existing board and branch structure, or we can simplify it as we choose. Sometime in August, National will send all branches models and suggestions for those who wish to revise their bylaws and structure, which will include things like reducing the number of required board and steering committee positions, holding virtual meetings, reducing the number of required meetings, etc. While we must conform to the national bylaws revisions, we will have the option of keeping our existing structure. I will be happy to discuss the details of this at our first (September) meeting and will bring my conference notes to that meeting. There was significant impact in the 2009 Bylaws revision on state structure. Basically, a state or regional AAUW organization is no longer required, though states and local branches may elect to keep both. One significant change is that state organizations will be required to draw up State Bylaws for their own dissolution, should they decide to do that. Expect discussion of this at the July 25 state leadership conference and the state conference in April of 2010.

Regarding National changes. The most significant national change is the creation of the AAUW Action Fund, Inc., which removes AAUW's 501 (c) (4) activities (e.g., political action, voter education, etc.) from the 501 (c) (3) structure. This fund

has its own bylaws, which were also approved at the national convention. The other significant change is the reduction in the minimum number of Standing Committees required at the national level. There are now four required committees; Fellowship, Audit, Finance, and Governance. There may well be more committees appointed, but these are the only required committees. A final significant change is the combination of the National Association and Foundation functions into a single governing board for both entities. Many are unsure of the consequences of this decision, as it was not fully discussed due to the complete focus on the membership criteria issues, but there are concerns that a single board can effectively administer both functions. This is sure to be fully discussed online and in the Outlook.

It was great fun and a wonderful privilege to attend this convention, and I feel it marks a fitting end to my term as your co-president. I will always be grateful to the Atlanta Branch and its leadership, who gave me so much support. I'll continue to serve AAUW-Atlanta as program co-chair, and I actually got some wonderful ideas and inspiration for that at this conference. Have a great summer, and see you all in the fall.

Reflections from Our May Meeting

by Betty Slater

With our stomachs full after enjoying the breakfast buffet at Ansley Golf Club, the members and our guests saw and heard about the Young Women's Leadership Program in partnership with Refugee Family services. The PowerPoint presentation enabled the membership to see the wonderful program as well as hear about the accomplishments of Hazhal Amedi and Sadia Hassan. Hazhal will be pursuing a degree in law after she completes high school and heads to Dartmouth College with a full scholarship. The two women who were young leaders last year have scholarships to attend Berry College and Georgia College and State University.

During the business meeting the membership voted on the grantees for our Community Action Fund. Those receiving funds are: Juvenile Justice Fund, Angela's House, Synchronicity Performance Group, The Bridge, Refugee Family Services, Circle of Friends: Celebrating Life, Inc., and Recording Books for the Blind and Dyslexic. We also elected officers and the nominating committee for the next year. Diana Witt was presented a gift as the out-going Co-President. She then presented gifts to the outgoing officers and the nominating committee.

Kate Stirk, a member of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), presented an interesting program, "Myth or Truth." She related fuller details about some of our legends. For example, Betsy Ross DID make flags. However it was her grandson who said she was the one that designed the FIRST flag. As Ms. Stirk put it, "Aren't grandchildren wonderful!!"

Following our program, Carolyn Garfein, candidate for AAUW President (and winner!), brought information about the importance of AAUW's mission, "Equity for Women." She related the importance of the upcoming national convention where the membership will make decisions about membership requirements. She was enthused about the change to "one member, one vote" concept. She thanked the elected officers who will be continuing: Dot Ransom as Membership Vice-President and Alta Birdsong as Treasurer. Then she installed our new officers: Co-Presidents Mary Lynn Merkle and Ruth Yurchuck, Program Co-Vice Presidents Diana Luykx and Diana Witt, Board Secretary Angela Walton, and the Nominating Committee composed of Tami Anderson, Susan Diffenderfer, Connie Eshenour, Bea Meyer, and Anne Habersetzer.

IMPORTANT BOOKFAIR INFORMATION ON PAGES 4 AND 5!

ATLANTA BRANCH SENDS FOUR TO STUDENT LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE AT UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
by Four Outstanding Young Women

Four young women departed on June 3rd for the 2009 National Conference of College Women Student Leaders held on the campus of University of Maryland. The conference is hosted by the AAUW Leadership and Training Institute and the NASPA Center for Scholarship, Research, and Professional Development for Women. Since its inception in 1985, the NCCWSL conference has provided a platform to help thousands of college and university women develop leadership skills, network with other student leaders, and interact with women who hold leadership positions. This year, through the generous donations and support from the Atlanta and Cobb AAUW branches, we were able to participate in this truly phenomenal event. For all of us, the conference was all that it was advertised to be, and much more, bolstering our passion for change, and challenging us to go back to our college communities and "Do Something!"

(Below are excerpts from reflections written by each of the young women.)

Rachel Zudekoff, Senior, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville, GA--"Every person that I met had a unique story and personality that involved me in some way. Some women were involved in their college student governments while others were earning their college degrees twenty-five years after graduating high school. The highlights of the conference for me were the Women of Distinction and the workshops. One of the honored women, Diane Rehm, reminded me that throughout my life I will hear the word 'No!', but I need to find my own strength and motivation to pursue my dreams. --The conference and all the empowering college women truly made this experience wonderful!"

Jordan Casteel, Junior, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA--"I was truly inspired by my engagement with speakers and students. Everyone became a teacher and provided me with wisdom that will follow me for the rest of my life. --The networks I was able to build while at the conference will help to launch me further along in creating the change I hope to see in the world and in my community. I extend to AAUW my greatest thanks and gratitude."

Onyinye Edeh, Junior, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA--"Leadership is an attribute that I truly admire and rarely hesitate to execute. I have always enjoyed participating in leadership experiences, but none of those can compare to the NCCSWL. First, and most importantly, this conference was for women! It was truly refreshing to sit in an auditorium surrounded by strong, passionate, and intellectual women who all shared a common goal of improving opportunities for all women in all areas of life. ---I was especially impressed by the bright ideas, professionalism, and courage that were evident amongst my peers and older participants. ---The advice that summarizes what I took away from the conference is 'find your inner direction/passion and nurture it.' This is what I plan to continue doing as I strive to become a woman of distinction in my community and world."

Jasmine Brandon, Savannah College of Art and Design-- "Being at the Leadership Conference in Maryland was such a great eye opener, not just for me but for every young lady that was there. --Meeting other women and hearing their amazing stories ---has made me look at life in a whole different perspective. The women there were fighters and never believe in the word 'Can't!' That's exactly what I needed to hear and see. The Conference will forever impact my life. I've learned so much, not just about the community and women's rights, but about myself; and that is the biggest gift that any conference can give to a person.---I will continue to keep my head high, to never give up, to spread the word around about AAUW and its great offerings, and to teach my kids to strive for big goals and to never give up."

We would like to say a big "Thank You" to the Atlanta and Cobb AAUW branches, especially to Mrs. Betty Slater for her unwavering support. We would not have had this remarkable experience without your generous efforts and hard work. Thank You!

Interest Groups

Contemporary Literature:

(Kay Collins, Coordinator)

Wednesday, September 2, 7:30 PM, is the first meeting for the Contemporary Literature group. The book we'll discuss is Philip Roth's The Plot Against America. It is the fictional story about Charles Lindbergh becoming U.S. President in the early 1940s, an interesting premise--and one that could generate a good discussion. We'll meet at the home of Frances Smith, 1128 Club Trace, Atlanta (Brookhaven), 404-231-0482. The complete list of books will be in the 2009-2010 Handbook. New members are always welcome. It isn't required that you've read the book! (Call Kay at 404/266-2183 for more information.)

Travel,

Day: No September gathering. More information will be coming.

(Betty Arden, Coordinator)

From Your NEW Co-President--Mary Lynn Merkle

The Atlanta Branch is my third AAUW branch. Way back in the days of young motherhood I was a member of the Shipensburg (PA) Branch. I served as Topic Chair in a 100 member branch of similar young mothers. Anyone remember "Economic Facts of Life?" I was furloughed when I began balancing a full time teaching position in special education and my family of 5 (and a dog). (We have two sons and a daughter.)

After retirement we moved to our hometown environs--Michigan. One of my first goals was to get involved in Bay City Branch. During my 9 years there I served as Program Vice-President and two terms as President. I also served on the AAUW of Michigan Board as Diversity Chair.

When our daughter and her husband had their first child, it was time for us to move to Atlanta and be "hands-on" grandparents. Again, one of my first goals was to seek out AAUW. I first met "Atlanta Branch" at the 2004 Bookfair at Lenox. How impressed I was! I was given one of those bookmarks (see page 5), and it had a membership number which I quickly called. That's how I met Bea Meyer, my first personal introduction to Atlanta Branch. And the rest is history!

I've had a lot of AAUW experiences, but nothing has enthused me more than having the opportunity to serve as one of your presidents. As Ruth and I have approached members for leadership roles, we have had many positive responses. We have women filling positions that they've held before. We have women who are fairly new to AAUW but are willing to assume leadership as a committee chair or committee member. Those who have declined a position have done so with regret.

I think you will agree with me that AAUW Atlanta Branch is up to some very important forward moves, and we can enjoy the camaraderie while we're moving!

We are going to have a terrific two years ahead of us--all working together toward our mission--Equity for Women and Girls!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

AUGUST 20, 2009

(articles to Stephanie at sbabbitt@bellsouth.net)

2009 BOOKFAIR SIGN-UP FORM

	9:30 – 12:30 a.m. p.m.	12:30 – 3:30 p.m. p.m.	3:30 – 6:30 p.m. p.m.	6:30 – 9:30 p.m. p.m.
Sunday 9/20 Set-up				PEAK Set-up starts: 7:00 ends: approx. 10:30
Monday 9/21 Set-up				
Tuesday 9/22 Set-up				
Tues. 9/22 Preview Sale				Preview sale shift is from 5:45 till 9:45 PEAK
Wed. 9/23 Sale	PEAK	PEAK		
Thursday 9/24 Sale				
Friday 9/25 Sale				CRITICAL
Saturday 9/26 Sale	CRITICAL	CRITICAL	CRITICAL	CRITICAL
Sunday 9/27 Sale		CRITICAL This shift starts: 11:00 ends: 3:00	CRITICAL This shift starts: 3:00 ends: 7:00	
Sunday 9/27 Tear-down				PEAK Tear-down starts: 7:00 ends: when finished

Please put a check in the chart above in the white space of the shifts that you prefer to work. (select 3 or **MORE shifts)** PEAK: Shifts that are busy, requiring many staff CRITICAL: Shifts not quite as busy as Peak shifts but usually under-staffed

Name: _____

Branch: _____ Phone: _____ e mail: _____

Please indicate whether you have a strong preference to work as a cashier, cashier's assistant or on the floor as a merchandiser during the sale. Cashiering and cashier's assistant are sedentary jobs, but you must be able to operate our calculators accurately and quickly. All set-up shifts require unpacking books. Evening shifts should help clean and cover tables after closing. If you must sit but don't want to cashier you may be given a security / information job. If you do not state a preference, you will be assigned as needed.

Preferred duty: cashier/assistant _____ or merchandiser _____ Please note: We will attempt to place you in your preferred duty, as much as personnel needs and policies permit. No one will be required to stand or lift books that cannot do so. If you can serve as a **Shift Chair** check here: _____ Shift Chair duties include:

assigning worker's stations at the beginning of a shift and giving information to AAUW personnel, as well as working as a relief cashier and merchandiser during the shift. Someone on each shift must be the Shift Chair.

Comments: _____

50th Annual AAUW Bookfair!!!

We should all be very proud that our annual event has reached this milestone. It is very unusual for a not-for-profit organization to be able to sustain a fundraising effort for this long. This is just further proof that AAUW members are well organized, smart, and committed.

Bookroom volunteers have been working hard to make this year's Bookfair a successful event, but we cannot do that without **YOU!!!** Please think about your commitment to AAUW and all the good work that we do in the community. It would be impossible to fund all of the local scholarships, national fellowships/grants and the local community action grants that we award without a large fundraiser like our Bookfair.

We'll see you at Perimeter Mall September 20-27!

PLEASE SIGN-UP NOW!!! HELP US TO PLAN STAFFING AND AVOID THE LAST MINUTE RUSH.

Please see page 5 for more important information

IMPORTANT BOOKFAIR INFORMATION ON PAGES 4 AND 5!

Mail or email your form to: **Barbara Buchanan**
1795 Riverside Rd
Roswell, GA 30076

barbara2@datekltd.com

Remember: If you have been recruited to work on the **BANKING COMMITTEE** (OR "FINANCE COMMITTEE") do **not** use the form above. The Banking Committee Chair will assign and keep track of your Banking shifts. They are different times than the shifts listed above. Please use the form above only to sign up for additional shifts which are different from your Banking Shifts.

Questions? Call Barbara: 770-998-2444



Get the Word Out:

Distribute Bookfair Flyers & Bookmarks

Everyone can help!

By Barbara Buchanan

How big is your circle of contacts? We need everyone to distribute as many flyers and bookmarks as you possibly can. Use your email contacts, community bulletin boards or any public format to get the word out. If all our members tell a few people about the sale we can extend our visibility.

We want people to see our Bookfair flyers and bookmarks. We need YOU to help!

Electronic distribution can reach a large number of potential customers. Contact me at barbara2@datekltd.com and I will email the flyer to you as an attachment so that you can pass it on. Bookmarks are in the Bookroom now. You may pick them up there or call me at 770-998-2444 and I will mail a few bookmarks (or flyers) to you. We are keeping track of who takes bookmarks and where they plan to distribute them, so that we don't duplicate each others' work. We also want to identify new places that may have been overlooked. There will be a "sign up" sheet in the Bookroom to use when you pick up your bookmarks and/or flyers.

Possible distribution points for printed bookmarks or flyers:

- ✓ neighborhood bulletin boards
- ✓ notice boards at your office/condo
- ✓ church programs or bulletin boards
- ✓ grocery store bulletin boards or service desks
- ✓ libraries
- ✓ schools and colleges
- ✓ dry cleaners
- ✓ hair and nail salons
- ✓ any small business or restaurant

Be proud of our fund raising event.

Reaching a 50th anniversary is an amazing achievement few organizations can brag about.

IMPORTANT BOOKFAIR INFORMATION ON PAGES 4 AND 5!

Atlanta News, July 9, 2009, page 6

Dates to Remember:

July 18:	Bookfair Steering Committee	Sept. 2:	Contemporary Literature <u>Plot Against America</u> (Roth)
July 25:	Leadership Training/Warner Robins	Sept. 12:	Branch Meeting First One of the Year
August 1:	<i>Have you signed up for Bookfair?</i>	Sept. 20-27:	Bookfair Perimeter Mall <i>(Help as MUCH as you can!)</i>
August 20:	Newsletter Deadline	Oct. 7:	Contemporary Literature <u>The Reader</u> (Schlink)
August 23:	Board Meeting Home of Frances Smith		

HAVE YOU HEARD??

Long time supporter of and volunteer for Atlanta Branch, Ken Brockschmidt (husband of member Jean Brockschmidt), was recently honored by the Dunwoody Nature Center. It is estimated that he has raised more than \$15,000. to support DNC programs by approaching individuals and businesses and convincing them that the Center is important to them and to the community. Congratulations, Ken!!

AAUW of GA SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The Summer Leadership Conference on Saturday, July 25, is open to all members with a registration fee of just \$15.00. Please contact Mary Lynn Merkle or Betty Slater if you are interested so that we can all carpool down to Warner Robins.

HELP WANTED!!

WE NEED A BRANCH SECRETARY!

HOW ABOUT YOU????!!!!

IMPORTANT BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 23RD, 2009

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WISH TO BE INCLUDED
ON THE AGENDA.

Mary Lynn Merkle and Ruth Yurchuck (co-presidents)

ATLANTA NEWS

Atlanta Branch AAUW
1651 Executive Park Lane
Atlanta, GA 30329

IMPORTANT BOOKFAIR INFORMATION ON PAGES 4 AND 5!