



AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN

# ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

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## 2009–2010 Leadership

### Co-Presidents

Mary Lynn Merkle 404/633-7183  
Ruth Yurchuck 770/934-1536

### Program Co-Vice Presidents

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Diana Witt 678/372-1530

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### Recording Secretaries

**Board Meetings**  
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**Branch Meetings**  
Blondie Chitunya Willson 678/429-2921

### Treasurer

Alta Birdsong 770/394-2681

### College/University Relations

Betty Slater 404/237-6806

### Community Action

Tami Anderson 404/875-9503

### Diversity Co-Chairs

Marie Bonheur-Gulotta 678/765-2645  
Bea Meyer 404/634-0305

### Historian

Sarah Rondeau 404/257-0304

### Hospitality

Anne Habersetzer 770/394-0671  
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### Scholarship Co-Chairs

May Ruth Bradberry 770/399-7628  
Barbara Buchanan 770/998-2444

### Web Information

Terry Eshenour 770/698-0852

### Finance Committee Co-Chairs

Huiping Du 404/365-0372  
Lynn Fountain 404/256-4768

### Contemporary Literature

Kay Collins 404/266-2183

### Travel, Day

Betty Arden 770/955-6381

### Gourmet, Evening

Sally Byers 770/491-3781

### Advisory Committee Chair

Kay Collins 404/266-2183

### Publications Editor

Stephanie Babbitt 404/296-7571

## December Meeting: Holiday Tea and Celebration Featuring Silent Auction

Please join us for our next meeting on Sunday, December 13, from 3:00–5:00 p.m. This will be our annual holiday gathering, where members will have the opportunity to meet some of the year's AAUW scholarship recipients and AAUW Fellows. This event also features our annual silent auction. Please bring items to be auctioned off. (Suggested items: cookies or other treats, gently used articles, crafts or other handmade items—whatever inspires you!)

We are meeting at the home of Mary Womack: 3945 Club Drive N.E., Atlanta.

Board members, please bring a food item to share, such as finger foods, snacks, or desserts. (Diversity co-chair Marie Bonheur-Gulotta suggests that it would be nice if people would consider bringing foods of a regional or ethnic nature in keeping with the branch's recent explorations of diversity.) Please arrive at 2:00 p.m. to help set up!

Directions: From Lenox Square, go north on Peachtree Street. The next traffic light after Peachtree Dunwoody Road is Club Drive. Turn left onto Club Drive and follow it to 3945. ❖

## November Board Meeting Highlights

by Mary Lynn Merkle

Our AAUW Atlanta website was a major topic of discussion. Our Webmaster, Terry Eshenour, presented information and descriptions of possibilities to make our site more interesting, helpful and usable. The board voted to move forward in improving our site.

The Scholarship Committee co-chair Barbara Buchanan, anxious to begin the process of getting applications out to colleges and universities, presented the proposed changes to tighten up the application and selection process. The Committee not only worked hard to assure that we have more highly qualified applicants, but they are also writing guidelines for the Esther Davis scholarship money.

The Community Fund budget was presented by co-chairs Lynn Fountain and Huiping Du; and, after a brief discussion, it was approved by the board. It will now be presented to the general membership at our December branch meeting. (You can preview the budget on page 3 of this newsletter.)

Diversity co-chair Marie Bonheur-Gulotta brought up the need for Atlanta branch to partner with other groups who share our mission. A possibility named for consideration was Georgia Women for a Change, an organization with which AAUW of Georgia is also considering partnering.

It was a long meeting, but much was accomplished. And our branch will reap the benefits of these accomplishments. Thanks to those board members who helped make it all happen! ❖



L-R: Webmaster Terry Eshenour with board members Ruth Yurchuck, Sarah Rondeau, and Barbara Buchanan

## President's Column: Bookfair Celebration, November 2009

by Ruth Yurchuck, Co-president

The 50th Annual AAUW Bookfair, held September 22–27, 2009, was a huge success, thanks to the hard work of many members of the Atlanta, Cobb, and North Fulton branches. This year's Bookfair co-chairs, Sylvia Goodyear and Debbie Karvey of the Cobb County branch, hosted a celebration brunch at Sylvia's home on November 21, 2009. All members who worked at Bookfair or helped prepare for it were invited, and approximately 25 members from all branches enjoyed a delicious variety of food brought by those in attendance. The Atlanta branch was represented by Alta Birdsong, Barbara Buchanan, Joyce Cohrs, Mary Lynn Merkle, Betty Slater, and Ruth Yurchuck.

Following the meeting checks were distributed by the Bookfair treasurer, Alta Birdsong, to each branch based on number of hours contributed by members of each of the three branches. Total Bookfair proceeds to be distributed this year were \$50,875.77, of which the Atlanta branch allocation was \$28,433.51 (55% of the total distribution). The Cobb County branch received \$14,187.60 and the North Fulton branch, \$8,838.62 (27% and 17%, respectively, of total sales). In addition, checks were awarded to Judy Lambert, (a non-AAUW member who contributed all of her 900 hours to the Atlanta branch), Joyce Cohrs (Atlanta branch), Karen Peters (Cobb branch), and Julie Keller (North Fulton) in special recognition of their hours in the bookroom. Our own May Ruth Bradberry, who was not able to attend, was announced as Bookfair chair for 2010.

At the business meeting which followed the brunch, Alta and Sylvia updated the status of Better World Books (BWB) and explained how this for-profit organization will affect future Bookfairs. BWB has agreed to remove its collection box from Dunwoody and will not place any book drops in Dunwoody; they have also agreed to donate up to 2,000 children's books to our bookroom. The relationship of Bookfair and BWB has been negotiated with the help of AAUW

national and BWB. Reading Tree, another non-profit organization, also has book drops in the metro Atlanta area. Alta recommended establishment of an ad hoc committee of four to five people to look at Bookfair issues, such as finding additional book drop sites, upgrading the collection boxes, and improving signage related to AAUW and books donated. Debbie Karvey and Barbara Buchanan agreed to work on this committee. There was also discussion of contacting mall owners to get permission for placement of book drops. **If you know anyone who is in a decision-making position with any mall or large store such as Home Depot or Lowe's, Sylvia will serve as contact person for these connections.** Another suggestion was to award named grants to stores or malls who provide book drop space.

Alta related that the idea of making Bookfair a 501(c)(3) organization was not possible because all AAUW branches would have to become 501(c)(3) organizations, as AAUW national has become. She suggested that all branches pool resources and provide book donors with a receipt based on the percent of donation to the national organization.

Joyce, who serves as bookroom chair, offered several suggestions about Bookfair: taking pictures during setup, storage, and take-down; no longer offering maps for sale; eliminating the writing and speaking category of books and placing this type of book in either business or reference; and combining the science and nature categories.

Additional volunteers are needed for the bookroom and, for those who are not "regulars," it is important to contact those who work on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday to be sure there is someone present to orient the new volunteers and that there is something first-time volunteers can do on a particular day. Call the bookroom (404/261-7648) and leave a message if you would like to contribute your time.

2010 is almost here, and let's offer our support to May Ruth as she becomes Bookfair chair! ❖

## Honoring Our Life Members

by Mary Lynn Merkle

It was a special pleasure to honor our two newest 50-year members, Sally Byers and Jean Melvin, at our November branch meeting. They have both been loyal members and have served in various capacities through the years. Sally is currently chair of the Gourmet group, and Jean is serving on the Educational Foundation committee.

They join five other branch life members: Anne Habersetzer, Virginia McCamey, Edith Miller, Dr. Floreine Hudson, and Mayme Stiyer.

Each of the life members present received a white rose to celebrate their long years of connection to AAUW and especially to Atlanta branch. ❖



L–R: Anne Habersetzer, Jean Melvin, Mary Lynn Merkle, and Sally Byers

## Atlanta Branch Proposed Community Fund Budget July 1, 2009–June 30, 2010

Line Item	Balance 6/30/2009	Transfer Between Line Items	To be Disbursed as of 12/31/09	Allocation of Bookfair Funds	Proposed Budget 7/1/09–6/30/10
Fundraising Reserve	\$1,000.00				1,000.00
Community & Fund Mgmt. Reserve	175.21			24.79	200.00
Community Action	250.00			6,750.00	7,000.00
2009 Branch Project	1,800.00			0.00	1,800.00
Special Community Program—RFS	0.00				0.00
Education Found	8,000.00		8,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
Legal Advocacy Fund	3,500.00		3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
AAUW—Leadership Training	4,000.00		4,000.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
Local Scholarships	0.00			6,000.00	6,000.00
Student Affiliates to Nat'l Conference	503.88			1,596.12	2,100.00
E. Davis Memorial Scholarship	4,000.00				4,000.00
Donations	0.00			0.00	0.00
Contribution to General Fund	0.00			3,000.00	3,000.00
Unallocated Community Funds	5,071.94			(1,078.02)	3,993.92
Interest Income - Community Funds	859.38			(859.38)	0.00
	<b>\$29,160.41</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$15,500.00</b>	<b>\$29,433.51</b>	<b>\$43,093.92</b>
2009 Bookfair Funds Allocation - including interest				\$28,433.51	29433.51
Financial Service Fee				1,000.00	13660.41
Total Bookfair Funds to be allocated				<u>\$29,433.51</u>	43093.92

**Note:** Request that the E. Davis Memorial Scholarship be awarded to a deserving GSU woman this FY.  
Beth Farokhi has provided GSU contacts to enable the branch to do this.

## Officer Profile: Blondie Chitunya Wilson

The Atlanta Branch is fortunate to have Bernadette “Blondie” Chitunya Wilson as its newest officer. Recently appointed Branch Recording Secretary, Blondie has been an ardent supporter and advocate of women’s rights and advancement since her high school days in Zimbabwe. She is a graduate of the Zimbabwe Institute of Mass Communication, where she studied journalism, and she holds an M.B.A. from American InterContinental University. Having worked in a variety of media-related roles, including magazine editing, and also having owned a business, she is currently a doctoral student in the field of Media Psychology. Blondie and her husband Bob Wilson have two children.

Having come to Atlanta to further her education, Blondie chose to join AAUW because she believed the organization’s mission to be very much in line with her own goals for advancing women’s rights. Her previous affiliations have included the Zimbabwe Association of Women in the Media, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), and African Sisters for Information Knowledge & Empowerment (ASIKE). She attended the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, held in Nairobi, Kenya, as a delegate from Zimbabwe.

Blondie has a wide variety of other interests as well. She particularly enjoys travelling and collecting souvenirs from around the world,

watching movies, creative writing, reading (her favorite book is Jane Austen’s *Sense and Sensibility*), swimming, and collecting art. She also participates in a number of professional and student organizations related to her education, including the American Psychological Association (APA), the Broadcasting Educational Association (BEA), the American Marketing Association (AMA), the Fielding Graduate University Multicultural Student Association (MSA), and the Student Film Makers Association. She has previous experience as an officer as well, having been a founding member of the American InterContinental University Marketing Association and serving over time as Public Relations Officer, Liaison Officer, Publicity Secretary, and Committee member.



Blondie Chitunya Wilson

*continued on page 4*

## Calendar

### December

- 2 Book Group meets
- 10 Travel Group meets
- 13 Branch holiday celebration  
Silent Auction to benefit RFS Project
- 28 Newsletter deadline

## Officer Profile *(cont. from p. 3)*

Blondie has high hopes for the potential achievements of AAUW in years to come. Her specific dreams for the organization and for the Atlanta Branch in particular are:

- to offer guidance to women who are working on dissertations dealing with women's issues
- to increase the number of qualified women from diverse backgrounds within the organization
- to encourage women to pursue male dominated professions.

The Atlanta Branch thanks Blondie for her willingness to serve as an officer and wishes her every success as she continues her education. ❖

### January

- 6 Book Group meets
- 23 Branch meeting

### February

- 3 Book Group meets
- 20 Branch meeting

## Book Group

The Book Group will meet Wednesday, January 6, at the home of Carol Fetters: 1271 Verdon Drive, Dunwoody, 30338; 770/399-5656. The discussion will be about *The Strangeness of Beauty* by Lydia Yuri Minatoya. We start gathering about 7:30 p.m. ❖

## Travel Group

On December 10 at 9:30 a.m., the Travel Group will meet at the Ansley Mall Kroger parking lot to carpool to the High Museum of Art. The group can tour two new exhibits, "John Portman: Art and Architecture," and "Leonardo daVinci: Hand of Genius." Lunch will follow. RSVP to Betty Arden at 770/955-6381. ❖

## Contents

December Meeting: Holiday Tea and Celebration .....	1
November Board Meeting Highlights .....	1
President's Column: Bookfair Celebration, November 2009.....	2
Honoring Our Life Members .....	2
Atlanta Branch Proposed Community Fund Budget .....	3
Officer Profile: Blondie Chitunya Wilson .....	3
Book Group .....	4
Travel Group .....	4
Top Bookfair Volunteers.....	4

## Board Meeting

The Atlanta Branch 2009–2010 leadership team will not meet in December.

## Top Bookfair Volunteers

The Atlanta Branch extends its sincere thanks to those individuals who gave more than 50 hours to the 50th Bookfair in the branch's name:

152.25	Corol Bevier	262.75	Joyce Cohrs	301.75	Ellen Milholland
231.75	Alta Birdsong	82.75	Ruth Gogel	66.75	Jim, Brandon, and Joey Milholland
103.75	Bill Bradberry	900.75	Judy Lambert	63.75	Betty Slater
184.25	Barbara Buchanan	77.25	Mary Lynn Merkle	128.50	Dorothy Tracy

### ATLANTA NEWS

Atlanta Branch AAUW  
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