



AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN

# ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

Vol. 60, No. 6 ❖ February 2010

## 2009–2010 Leadership

### Co-Presidents

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

### Program Co-Vice Presidents

Diana Luykx 404/915-9595  
Diana Witt 678/372-1530

### Membership Vice President

Dot Ransom 770/448-0887

### Recording Secretaries

**Board Meetings**  
Angela Walton 404/617-4735

**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  
Frances Smith 404/231-0482

### Public Policy

Angela Walton 404/617-4735

### Public Relations

Betty Slater 404/237-6806

### 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

## February Meeting: Heart Month

Please join us for our next meeting on Saturday, February 20, at 11:00 a.m., at:

### Nancy G's Cafe and Bistro

Fountain Oaks Shopping Center  
4920 Roswell Road, Suite 55, Atlanta.

The phone number for the facility is 404/705-8444..

In observation of Heart Month, we will have as our speaker Stacy H. Jaskwhich of the Heart Center.

We will have a Buffet Luncheon consisting of a sandwich platter, salad bar, cookies, and tea or coffee. The cost per person will be \$15.00. To reserve your place, please e-mail Frances Smith at francesjsmith1921@yahoo.com or call her at 404/231-0482.

**The reservation deadline is Monday, February 15.**

Directions: Fountain Oaks Shopping Center is between Long Island Drive and W. Belle Isle Road. The restaurant is on the south side of the shopping center. You may enter Fountain Oaks from Roswell Road or Long Island Drive. Going north on Roswell Road, Fountain Oaks will be on the left. ❖

## AAUW Endorses Georgia H.B. 582

by Ruth Yurchuck

At our January meeting Stephanie Davis, Executive Director of Georgia Women for a Change, asked our Branch to join with her organization and publicly endorse passage of H.B. 582 and its companion bill, S.B. 304. These bills will decriminalize children who are currently being arrested for prostitution and set a minimum age for being arrested for prostitution. Currently, children who are arrested for prostitution are treated as criminals, not victims.

Following the meeting, our Executive Board endorsed public support of both these bills by email vote. AAUW of Georgia is also in the process of moving to support these bills. Updates will be provided as they are received.

State Senator Renee Unterman, who introduced S.B. 304, discussed the bill and some of her concerns about it in an interview on WABE (Georgia Public Radio) on January 26. If you would like to hear the interview, you can hear the rebroadcast at <http://tinyurl.com/y9kzcb>. ❖

## Is Opportunity Knocking?

by Mary Lynn Merkle

It soon will be time for our Nominating Committee to begin preparing for our spring elections. Very important positions will be open to our membership, and each one of them is an important part of helping Atlanta branch grow.

In May we will be installing a president-elect, a treasurer, and a membership vice-president. The president-elect will serve just one year and then will assume a two-year term as president. Both treasurer and membership vice-president are two-year terms.

Please consider your role in keeping Atlanta branch strong. If you are willing to consider one of these positions (or would like more information), pleasantly surprise a member of the Nomination Committee to let them know. Nominating Committee members are: Tami Anderson, Susan Diffenderfer, Connie Eshenour, Anne Habersetzer, and Bea Meyer. ❖

## Correction

In last month's issue, the captions of the photos from the December branch meeting misidentified Rhonda Copenny and Marnessa Vital. Ms. Copenny is the one addressing the group, not Ms. Vital; and the two names were swapped in the group photo. The Atlanta branch apologizes for the error. A version of the newsletter with corrected captions is available on the branch web site.

## President's Column: Let's Keep the Discussion Going

by Ruth Yurchuck

One of the highlights of the national convention last summer was a workshop on healthy branch culture, which I summarized in an article last fall. A healthy branch is one that is welcoming, is inclusive, and partners with other organizations. It mentors new members and encourages participation. A major goal should be **active** members, not just "younger" members. The more interesting we are as a branch, the greater the chance to increase our membership.

Changes in national bylaws adopted in 2009 and model branch bylaws now allow greater flexibility in organizational structure. Members must examine their current branch structure and make decisions about

what kind of branch they want to be, and how to organize to achieve branch goals and purposes.

At our January meeting, Board members were asked to review our current organizational structure, represented in an abbreviated chart (see box), adapted from the one prepared by Alta Birdsong.

Each Board member was asked to think of a word or phrase describing her reaction to seeing this chart and share responses with the group, and then to describe the purpose or goals of the Atlanta Branch. Our discussion was lively, but it was difficult for Board members to articulate our goal as a Branch. One member stated our goal was supporting women; another, fundraising and social interaction. This led to discussion of how meetings could be changed, and the value of using social media to attract and maintain

### ORGANIZATION CHART: ATLANTA BRANCH AAUW

#### President(s)

#### Elected Officers

President Elect  
Membership Vice President  
Program Vice President  
Recording Secretary(s)  
Treasurer

#### Appointed Officers

College/University Representative  
Historian  
Hospitality  
Public Relations  
Publications Editor  
Study Group Coordinator(s)  
Web Coordinator  
EF "Funds" Chair  
Finance Chair  
Scholarship Chair  
Public Policy  
Community Action Chair  
Diversity Chair  
Bookfair Steering Representative

younger members. One thing we all agreed upon was that the structure outlined above was too complex for the current size of our Branch. Another point of agreement was that we needed to give more thought to defining our Branch goals and then consider how to organize to achieve them.

Following the meeting, Tami Anderson sent me some thoughts prompted by our discussion. She suggested our goals are:

1) to be the agency in Atlanta for support of the organization's mission (advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research);

2) to raise funds for scholarships and programs for women; and

3) to provide an avenue for women to learn leadership skills.

She had other ideas, but her focus was clear: let's keep the discussion going. And that's what we are going to do.

Each member should contribute to this discussion and provide answers to the questions of what the goals of our Branch are and how we should organize to achieve them. Please provide input to either of your co-presidents or any of the Board members. We will provide updates of our discussion at future meetings and in future newsletter articles. ❖

## 2009 AAUW Education Fund Grant Recipients

### The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund: STEM Project

\$8,000

This project supports AAUW research to provide analysis, data, and accurate information about issues that are important to women and girls. Past reports include "Behind the Pay Gap" (2007) and "Where the Girls Are" (2008). Look for upcoming research on women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math and a report on sexual harassment in the workplace.

### Leadership Programs Fund: National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

\$2,000.00

This acclaimed, intensive, three-day conference held annually in Washington, D.C., develops women's leadership skills, networks, and ambition.

### Leadership Programs Fund: Campaign College

\$2,000.00

This program teaches leaders skills they need to run for student government. It successfully increases the number of women who are involved in making decisions that affect all students on campus. These student leaders are introduced to a national network of women who are running for and holding public offices.

### Legal Advocacy Fund

\$3,500.00

Supports the protection of the legal rights of those who are facing discrimination.

**Grand Total**

**\$15,500.00**

## Bookfair: Plans For 2010 Underway

By May Ruth Bradberry

The Bookfair Steering Committee met on Saturday, January 16, and made plans for the 2010 book sale. Perimeter Mall will be contacted to request a date in late September for the sale. Sylvia Goodyear (Cobb branch) was elected chair of the Steering Committee with Ellen Milholland (Member at Large) as secretary.

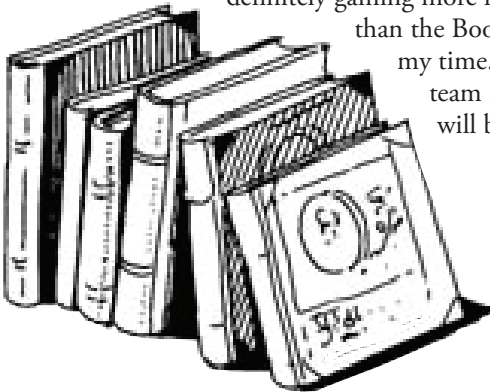
A Bookfair Assets Committee was formed with Catherine Hafer (North Fulton) as chair. Catherine will perform an inventory and record all Bookfair property.

A Bookdrop Committee was formed to research bookdrop sites, signage, and maintenance of bookdrops. Each branch will have members serving on this committee. Barbara Buchanan, Alta Birdsong, and May Ruth Bradberry will represent Atlanta Branch on the committee. The bookdrops at Whole Foods, Sandy Springs, and Harry's/Whole Foods—Alpharetta, have been removed as requested by Whole Foods. Due to their condition, these drops will be retired. The Steering Committee voted to replace any future bookdrops with metal drops (large-capacity steel collection boxes) which are being used by most other entities collecting books for resale. The metal boxes will be white with red lettering. The signage on these new bookdrops will include the Bookfair logo and website address.

The Bookfair will remain a 501(C) (4) organization so that branches can retain their autonomy in the spending of Bookfair funds. Bookfair will give a charitable donation receipt for books donated when a receipt is requested. The receipt will be for a percentage of the value of the books donated. Percentage calculated for 2010 is 50 percent; therefore, the charitable deduction for books donated in 2010 will be 50 percent of the value of the donation.

Work in the bookroom is progressing well due to the “regular” workers who donate their time on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Since I am not currently assigned to a project by my employer, I have worked in the bookroom for the first time this January. It has been one of the most enjoyable experiences I have had in volunteer work. The people working in the bookroom are so helpful, share the most interesting stories of travel and life experiences, and are just terrific people. For a person who loves to browse in bookstores, being able to see so many interesting books is an added bonus of spending time there. When I think that I am helping to raise funds for so many worthwhile women's projects and scholarships while having an absolutely enjoyable time, I am thankful that I have the bookroom where I can volunteer my time. I am

definitely gaining more from working there than the Bookfair is receiving for my time. So come and join the team in the bookroom; you will be so glad you did. ❖



## Do You Know an Emerging Leader?

AAUW of Georgia will be giving the Emerging Leader Award at the state convention in April. The purpose of this award is to recognize one of the branches' young members for leadership in AAUW, professional development, and community service. Nominations are to be sent to our State president, Pat DeWitt, by March 22. The nomination for this award is to be made by our branch's selection committee, comprising the membership vice-president, Educational Foundation chair, public information chair, program vice-president, and co-presidents.

In our Atlanta branch, we have several young women who demonstrate these outstanding qualities. Please submit the name of a person from the branch that you know is an emerging leader to one of the selection committee members. We want to have an Atlanta branch member nominated!

## Movie Event Marks International Women's Day

by Betty Slater

Please mark your calendar for Thursday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m., to attend *Half the Sky Live* at Landmark Theater on Monroe Drive in Midtown (or other select Atlanta-area theaters). This event features music, celebrity commentary, and the world premiere of “Woineshet,” a short film by Academy Award winner Marisa Tomei and Lisa Leone that chronicles the struggles of a poor Ethiopian girl who ultimately triumphs over sexual violence and discrimination.

The date was chosen to coincide with the week in which International Women's Day will fall this year. A Powerful Noise LIVE, CARE, and partner organizations are planning to bring together thousands of people in theaters across the country to celebrate, learn, and take action to empower women and girls in the fight against global poverty in 2010.

The ticket price is \$12.00. The event (and the title) *Half the Sky Live* is inspired by the best-selling book *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* by Pulitzer-prize winning journalists Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. The book can be purchased from most major booksellers.

Contact Helen Robinson, Marketing Alliance Manager for CARE, at 404/979-9476 if you have questions, or go to <http://halftheskylive.com/> to learn more about the event and purchase advance tickets. Let's have a great group of AAUW members attend this movie! ❖

**Reminder: \$46 of our Branch dues can be claimed as a tax deduction on an itemized tax return!**

## Calendar

### February

- 3 Book Group meets
- 11 Travel Group meets
- 20 Branch meeting
- 26 Newsletter deadline

### March

- 3 Book Group meets
- 4 *Half the Sky Live* movie event
- 8 International Women's Day
- 20 Branch meeting

### April

- 7 Book Group meets
- 16 AAUW State Convention begins
- 24 Branch meeting

## Book Group

The Book Group will meet Wednesday, March 3, at the home of Carol Fetters: 1271 Verdon Drive, Dunwoody, 30338; 770/399-5656. The discussion will be about *The Zookeepers Wife: A War Story* by Diane Ackerman. We start gathering about 7:30 p.m. ❖

## Travel Group

The AAUW Travel Group will meet on February 11, at 9:30 a.m., at the Ansley Mall Kroger store to carpool to Emory University, where the group will tour the Manuscript Archives and Rare Book Library. Lunch will follow. RSVP to Betty Arden at 770/955-6381. ❖

### ATLANTA NEWS

Atlanta Branch AAUW  
1651 Executive Park Lane  
Atlanta, GA 30329

## VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

by Mary Lynn Merkle

That's right! From February 12 to March 11 you may vote once every week! Why?? AAUW has announced its 2010 art contest, and Atlanta branch member Gillian Horsley has entered!! The winning entries will be displayed in the 2010–2011 AAUW calendar, and all members will receive the new AAUW 2010–2011 calendar with the winning entries. Let's make sure that Gillian's is one of them!

The entries will be shown at the following web site: <http://listsrv.aauw.org/t/37971/534973/239/0/5>. Artists' names will not be displayed, so you must locate the entries by title. Gillian's are: "Sunset over the Marsh, Edisto Island, South Carolina," and "Great Horned Owl in Snow, North Georgia Appalachian Mountains."

You can vote for up to three of your favorite entries once per week during the voting period of February 12–March 11, 2010. You must be an AAUW member to vote.

If one or both of Gillian's entries are selected, the branch will be acknowledged on the calendar. So get online and start clicking on February 12! ❖

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## Board Meeting

The Atlanta Branch 2009–2010 leadership team will meet on Sunday, March 14, 2010, at 3:00 p.m., at the home of Frances Smith.

## Email Change

Huiping Du's email address has changed to [frchd@langate.gsu.edu](mailto:frchd@langate.gsu.edu). Please note this in your branch Handbooks!