



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

2009–2010 Leadership

Replace * with "aauwatlanta.org" in all email addresses

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ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

Vol. 61, No. 2 ❖ October 2010

November Meeting: CARE Headquarters

Now that Bookfair 2010 is in our rearview mirror, it is time to move forward with our potential "signature" projects. AAUW Atlanta Branch and guests will meet at the headquarters for CARE on Saturday, November 6, 2010, from 9:30 until 11:30 a.m. Many of us met Helen Robinson during our Fall Membership Tea as she gave us a preview of the work that CARE does in reaching out to women and girls. The November meeting will feature a tour of CARE and an opportunity to continue the discussion with Helen. This meeting will provide the branch with more information to consider as we look at a Partnership with CARE.

Directions to CARE are listed below. Please tell the Security Desk that you are attending the CARE/AAUW meeting.

CARE

151 Ellis Street, NE; Atlanta, GA 30303
404/681-2552

Located on Ellis Street in downtown Atlanta, in between Courtland Street and Piedmont Avenue

From Marta: Get off at the Peachtree Center Station and take the escalator to the Ellis Street exit. Take a right out of the train station, then turn right on Ellis Street (once you make the right you will be opposite the Ritz Carlton Hotel). Walk 3 blocks and CARE will be on your right (after you pass Avis and Budget Rental Car). Check in at the Security Desk in the lobby and they will direct you.

From I-75:

If you are **NORTH** of Downtown Atlanta, Take I-75 South to Exit #249A, Courtland St. (Since Courtland is a one-way street, the exit ramp feeds directly onto Courtland.) Drive approximately three blocks until you see an Avis Rent-A-Car (large red/white sign over building) on your left and a traffic light, which marks the intersection of Courtland St. and Ellis St.

Turn left and follow Ellis St. approximately 1/8 mile until you see a small park (green space with an iron gate) on your right. As soon as you pass this park, take a right into the CARE driveway. **DO NOT** pass the building, because the driveway to the visitors' parking lot is immediately on the right before the building. Enter the driveway and press the call button at the security gate. Tell the security guard which meeting you are attending and then park in the visitors' lot. Take the walkway from the lot to the front entrance of the building. Check in at the Security Desk in the lobby.

If you are **SOUTH** of Downtown Atlanta, Take I-75 North to Exit #248C, International Blvd. Take a left at the second traffic light on the ramp and follow International Blvd. until it intersects with Courtland St. Turn left onto Courtland St. and go one block until you see an Avis Rent-A-Car (large red & white sign over building) facility on your left and a traffic light, which marks the intersection of Courtland St. and Ellis St. The remainder of the directions are in the paragraph above. ❖

Holiday Party Plans

by Diana Witt, Program Chair

It's not too soon to start thinking about our Holiday Party. As usual, we will be doing our Silent Auction. Our wonderful Huiping Du has again graciously agreed to manage the auction, so please contact her if you have any questions or suggestions. Huiping can be reached at frchd@langate.gsu.edu or 404/771-0035.

The party will take place on December 12, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., at Mary Womack's home: 3945 Club Drive, N.E., Atlanta, 30319. Board members will provide refreshments as usual and should plan to arrive at 2:30. Please plan on attending this annual festive event. Let me know if you have any questions!



Presidents' Column: New Directions For Atlanta Branch

by Mary Lynn Merkle and Ruth Yurchuck

We are on our way! Our Kick-off meeting on September 12 in the Student Center at Oglethorpe University was an informal gathering filled with opportunities to learn more about AAUW and the Atlanta Branch. The room was filled with members and their guests, enjoying the presentation of the two students the Branch sent to the National College Women Summer Leadership Conference (NCWSLC) and the PowerPoint presentation developed by Betty Slater, Myra Carmon, Huiping Du, and Sarah Rondeau. Helen Robinson, a representative of CARE, provided information about current projects and talked with members about a potential special project that could be developed with our Branch. Members Gillian Horsley and Tami Anderson discussed a potential project focusing on issues of sex trafficking in the city of Atlanta. But the best part of the afternoon was the hum of conversation among all present, which created a sense of energy and excitement about our future as a Branch. All and all, it was time well spent.

So—during this year of exploration and development of potential signature projects, your Co-Presidents have great expectations for the Atlanta Branch in the present and the future. To this end, we want to commit to the following:

- At least five general branch meetings at which we'll learn, socialize and proceed with important issues;

- Opportunities to explore each of our proposed projects and create ways in which we can participate in meaningful partnerships;
- At least seven newsletters to keep us informed;
- Continued monthly small-group activities such as Contemporary Literature and Travel Group (both of these groups welcome new membership);
- Regular board meetings to keep our Branch leadership involved in moving forward in a responsible way during this time of transition and keeping members informed and involved;
- Inclusion of general membership in the decision-making through newsletter surveys, dissemination of information on our new website, member involvement in potential projects being developed, and having the opportunity to vote for the project(s) that should be continued after this term of office is concluded;
- Continued participation in Bookfair activities which makes all of our philanthropic efforts possible.

So please stay tuned and join us in this great adventure! There is a place for your talents and abilities. Help us make it all happen! ❖

RFS Completes Challenge Grant!

Last spring our branch issued a challenge to Refugee Family Services (RFS) to match our community action grant of \$1,100. This was done to encourage them to find other sources of funding for their Women's Leadership Program, which prepares two outstanding young women to investigate colleges and apply for admission. Our branch has been a partner in this very successful program since its inception. RFS is assured now of the \$2,200 to needed for the Fall program.

Attention All Members

We are planning to have a page on our website which will share special information among our members. Some events we might share are special honors in professional lives, big anniversaries and birthdays, or recognition in other groups or organizations. It will be fun to learn what our members are up to besides Atlanta Branch AAUW. Send submissions to Ruth Yurchuck! ❖

Profiles of 2010 Scholarship Recipients

by Barbara Buchanan

Shawna Floyd



As part of the application process for our Atlanta Branch local scholarship awards, each applicant must have a letter of recommendation, preferably from a professor. In Shawna Floyd's recommendation letter, Professor of English at Agnes Scott College, Willie Tolliver, Jr., wrote: "Quite simply, she is one of the most gifted student scholars I have encountered in my fourteen years of teaching at Agnes Scott College." And he also wrote: "What I value about Shawna is her extraordinary talent as a writer. This, combined with her keen and searching intelligence, will take her far."

Not only was the Scholarship Committee impressed with Professor Tolliver's high regard for Shawna, but we found his recommendation to be consistent with awards that this student has received. In early 2010, Shawna was given the Merony Prize in the

Humanities, an award for the rising junior at Agnes Scott College who earns the highest grade-point average in the greatest number of courses in the disciplines of the humanities.

Shawna is an English/Creative Writing major at Agnes Scott College. She is also the mother and single caregiver of two children, ages 6 and 8. In addition, she works part-time on the campus as part of the work-study program.

In her scholarship application essay, she wrote: "In May 2011, my children will see me walk across a stage as a graduate of Agnes Scott College—one of my most important goals. Soon thereafter, I plan to be attending a graduate school with the intent of earning my MFA in Creative Writing. Equipped with my degrees, my determination, my talent and my passion, I intend to take my place in the literary world as an author, my place among those fortunate to be educated as an educator and advocate for literacy, and finally, my place before the eyes of my children as not only the head of the household, but as the head of my destiny."

The Scholarship Committee was proud to be able to recognize this outstanding student. ❖

Bookfair Update

by Barbara Buchanan

Thank you, Atlanta Branch members, for an outstanding effort in support of our 51st Annual AAUW Bookfair. The final numbers are still being calculated as this article is being written, but it is estimated that we will have more money than last year to distribute to the Atlanta, Cobb and North Fulton Branches. Each Branch will receive funds from the Bookfair based on the number of hours worked by their members throughout the year as well as at the sale in Perimeter Mall.

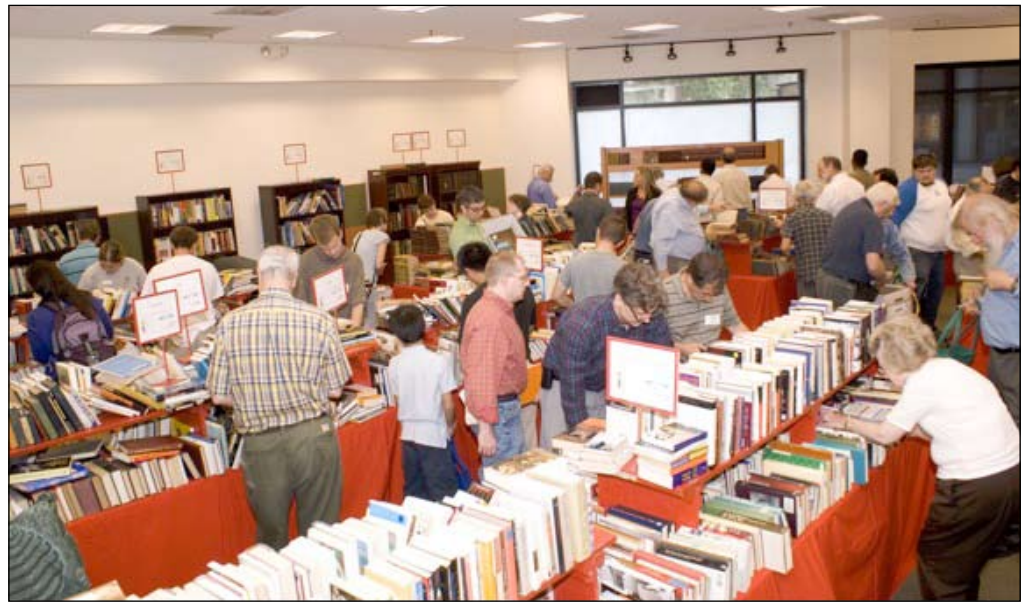
Our sales at the event were extraordinarily close to those of last year, but the steady increase in internet sales over the past year should boost the final numbers. Other milestones utilized by Bookfair volunteers have been the introduction of using social media such as Facebook to advertise our sale and a new website: www.bookfairaauw.org. We should all be proud of our growing expertise in managing a successful not-for-profit business.

But the whole process of turning used books into charitable funds could not be accomplished without the huge contribution of time and proficient ability by some of our most dedicated volunteers. There are many Atlanta AAUW members who made strong contributions to the success of the 51st Bookfair, but there were several who were outstanding this year. **May Ruth Bradberry** accepted the challenge to be Bookfair Chair and handled this

tough, sometimes stressful job, with thoroughness and aplomb. **Alta Birdsong** did an outstanding job as publicity chair, getting the attention of print media as well as getting Bookfair mentioned twice on Channel 11 news. In addition, Alta has kept our financial information precisely, while pricing and managing a large category in the bookroom and consistently picking up books from the Dunwoody



*May Ruth Bradberry,
Bookfair Chair*



Shoppers in the Collectors' Room on Preview Night

book drop. **Joyce Cohrs** and a former Atlanta member, **Judy Lambert**, have each contributed many hundreds of hours working in the bookroom this past year.

The list above is not all-inclusive, and there are many, many more Atlanta members who worked very hard to make this year's event a success. The tally of actual hours worked in the bookroom and at the sale is still being added up, but we do have the number of Bookfair shifts that our members volunteered. The Atlanta Branch had 33 people sign up to work a collective total of 457 hours at the Bookfair. Cobb had 30 people volunteer to work 414 hours, while 16 people from North Fulton signed up to work 155 hours. Some of those numbers will change when the actual recorded time is known, but as in the past, the Atlanta Branch is expected to have expended the largest amount of time and will thus receive the largest portion of Bookfair revenue. The most obvious conclusion is that we spend a lot of time and effort to make our book sale a success.

A celebration for all Bookfair volunteers will be held on December 4, 2010. More details will be announced shortly! ❖



Alta Birdsong, Publicity Chair and Treasurer

Join Me—Become An Abolitionist and Stop The “Rape For Profit” That Plagues Atlanta

by Gillian Horsley

Did you know?

1. In 2001, a groundbreaking study by Estes & Weiner revealed that between 200,000 and 300,000 children are believed to be at-risk for sexual exploitation in the United States. The sexual exploitation of children has become the third-largest moneymaker for organized crime, right behind guns and drugs.
2. Atlanta is considered a national and international “distribution hub” for sexual exploitation of children, with the victims being bought, sold and rented by the hour. Atlanta has been identified as the number-one hub for this appalling trade in the USA.
3. In terms of global figures—Atlanta features as the 15th busiest trade center in the world.
4. Atlanta’s thriving adult-sex industry grosses 5% of the total business revenue of the city. There are 15,000 licensed “exotic dancers” in Atlanta, and the thriving girlie-bar industry is a draw card for conventions and tourism.
5. In Atlanta, the most prevalent form of commercial sexual exploitation of girls appears to be prostitution.
6. 90% of runaways become part of the sex industry.
7. 1 out of 3 teens will be lured towards prostitution within 48 hours of running away.
8. The average age of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) appears to be 14, but girls as young as 10 and 11 have been exploited.
9. According to Mayor Shirley Franklin’s report on this issue called “Hidden in Plain View” (2005), there are prostitution-related activities around most public schools in Atlanta.
10. One of the ways in which girls get lured into slavery is through promises of modeling contracts. This enticement does not

differentiate on socio-economic lines—it is an effective tool for girls of all ages who live all over Metro Atlanta and who attend either the local public school or one of the many independent schools. Girls are attracted to the idea of modeling, and unscrupulous traders use their considerable networks, wealth, and guile to build up their business inventory. Frequently, because of the law of supply and demand, traders will seek out specific nationalities, ages, or ethnic groups to pander to this insatiable trade.

11. It is estimated that 250 girls are enslaved into prostitution every month in the state of Georgia. That’s about one every seven minutes—24/7.

There are many organizations whose aim it is to raise awareness of the issue of child sex trafficking in Atlanta. Street Grace is the most widely recognized umbrella organization started by a collaboration of twelve churches. The aims of Street Grace are in line with the International Justice Mission (IJM):

1. Prevention—creating awareness among the local community so we can begin the end of this issue;
2. Intervention—raising money in order to support private entities that will provide support for our local law enforcement;
3. Restoration—supporting organizations that ensure that victims of sex trafficking are assimilated back into society through restorative housing.

How we can help

Not only is there an enormous need for financial contributions to rehabilitate girls who have been trafficked, but there is a HUGE need for mentoring our Atlanta girls to prevent them from being lured by unscrupulous pimps. The Cool Girls Organization (www.thcoolgirls.org) and Street Grace (www.streetgrace.org) have numerous opportunities for us to volunteer. ❖

Free Film On Child Exploitation

A film entitled *The Candy Shop* will be shown at the Fox Theater on Monday, November 8, at 7:00 p.m. It is being sponsored by Street Grace, the coalition of Atlanta churches working to rescue children from the sex trade.

The showing is free, but passes are necessary. Tami Anderson will have six passes. Please contact her by e-mail (communityaction@aauwatlanta.org) or phone (404/875-9503) if you can go. She lives within three blocks of the Fox and parking is available on the street at her condo.

For more about the film see <http://streetgrace.org/ministry-projects>.

Update On A Partnership With Habitat For Humanity

Our branch would like to work with Habitat for Humanity. There has been an ongoing conversation with the organization. Now it is time to sit down together to examine the possibilities that have been discussed.

NEEDED are one or two members who would like to be part of the conversation as we move forward. Please contact Mary Lynn Merkle if you are willing to be part of a meeting between Atlanta Branch and Atlanta Habitat for Humanity. ❖

September Tea a Success!

by Betty Slater

Thanks to all who manned the tables sharing information about AAUW Atlanta branch and telling about our special projects as well as our social activities. To our members who brought guests: a big THANK YOU! We have to encourage people to join our group!

The students enjoyed sharing their presentation and meeting all of you. It is great to work together on such a fun event!



Community Action Grant Recipient Recognized

In the photo above (at far left) is Abby Drue, Executive Director of the Ben Marion Institute (one of the recipients of our Community Action grants this year). Abby was selected as one of the Grand Marshals of the 2010 PRIDE Parade for her work toward keeping our schools safe for all children. She is pictured with Jeff Graham (center), Director of Georgia Equality, and Anneliese Singh (right), co-founder and director of the Georgia Safe Schools Coalition (both of whom were also Grand Marshals). Abby heaped thanks on Atlanta Branch for the opportunities our grant has given the Institute to continue its effort in working toward an inclusive society that embraces differences and values kindness. ❖

Finance Committee Allocates Funds

The Finance Committee has allocated \$14,000 to the AAUW Funds Committee (formerly known as EF) for distribution to AAUW. The Committee's proposal and its acceptance by the Atlanta Board follows:

Education Foundation:	\$7,000	(to be split across various funds under EF)
Legal Advocacy Fund:	\$3,500	(LAF)
Leadership Training:	\$3,500	(NCCWSL: National Conference for College Women Student Leaders)
Total:	\$14,000	

Congratulations Are in Order!

Congratulations to our member (and secretary) **Blondie Chitunya-Wilson!** She has been selected for the Cambridge (NY) WHO'S WHO for Achievement, Honor, and Recognition on the registry of executives, professionals, and entrepreneurs.



Gillian Horsley has been accepted into the Boca Raton Fine Arts Show January 22–23, 2011. This prestigious show is held at the Royal Palm Place in Boca. This show, unlike art festivals, only invites artists whose work the judges consider to be "fine art" to participate. AAUW members are invited to come and have a glass of wine and see Gillian's work at her annual open studio on November 30, 2010, at 75 Maddox Dr., Atlanta, 30309, from 5:30–8:30 p.m. (And keep your eye out for her donations to the silent auction at our annual AAUW tea in December!)



May Ruth Bradberry has been elected to serve as Treasurer of AAUW of Georgia. This is a great honor and a testament to her exemplary service record and abilities. ❖

Calendar

October

30 AAUW of GA Fall Board Meeting

November

3 Book Group meets
6 Branch meeting at CARE HQ
11 Travel Group meets
12 Legislative meeting presented by
GA Women for Change
14 Atlanta Branch Board meeting
21 Newsletter deadline

Book Group

The next meeting of the Book Group will be Wednesday, November 3, at the home of Carol Fetters: 1271 Verdon Drive, Dunwoody, 30338; 770/399-5656. The discussion will be about *Mao's Last Dancer* by Li Cunxin. We start gathering about 7:30 p.m. Mark your calendars now for the December meeting, which will take place on the 1st at the home of Gillian Horsley! ❖

Travel Group

The Travel Group will meet at 9:30 a.m. on November 11 at the Ansley Mall Kroger store to carpool to the new Michael C. Carlos Dance Centre at 1695 Marietta Boulevard for a guided tour of the new home of The Atlanta Ballet. Lunch will follow. RSVP to Betty Arden at (770) 955-6381. ❖

ATLANTA NEWS

Atlanta Branch AAUW
1651 Executive Park Lane
Atlanta, GA 30329

State Announces New Officers

AAUW of Georgia has announced its new slate of officers for 2010–2011. They include the following elected positions:

Co-Presidents: Marcia Capriotti and Debbie Karvey
Membership: Laurie Shaw
Secretary: Erma Banks
Treasurer: May Ruth Bradberry
Immediate Past President: Pat DeWitt

The position of Program Chair is still open and will be filled at a later date.

Newly appointed chairs include:

Public Policy: Pat DeWitt
Georgia AAUW website: Ann MacKay
Parliamentarian/Bylaws: Evelyn Merk

The positions of Funds Chair and *Cherokee Rose* Editor remain open for the time being. ❖

Board Meeting

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

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