



2011-2012 Leadership

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DECEMBER 2011 ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

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December Meeting: Holiday Tea Celebration & Silent Auction

Please join us as we celebrate the closing of 2011 with a holiday tea and a silent auction benefitting the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund!

When: December 11th, 2011 from 3-5pm

Where: The home of Mary and Darwin Womack

Details: All board members should plan to arrive at 2:30 to help set up for the auction. Everyone who plans to attend should also plan to bring a small gift for auction. Please note that there will be a money tree so if you do not bring an item for auction, you may participate in the fund raising by donating to the money tree. Board members are also encouraged to bring a desert or snack dish to share.

Guests are welcome to attend!

RSVP: To Frances Smith. Please email your RSVP if possible. Otherwise you may contact her via phone

CO Presidents' Article: Opportunity Knocks

By: Mary Lynn Merkle and Ruth Yurchuck



AAUW has just released *Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School*, the most comprehensive, nationally representative research conducted in the past 10 years on sexual harassment in middle and high schools. Sexual harassment pervades the lives of students in grades 7-12. Nearly half of those surveyed reported that they had been harassed in the 2010-11 school year. Of that number, a majority (87 percent) said that being harassed had a negative effect on them. Among the responses, one-third said they did not want to go to school as a result of the harassment. AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman says this report is "a call to action to students, parents, teachers, and all of us who are concerned about the next generation." Hallman continues: "Many students feel sexual harassment is normal behavior, and often victims of sexual harassment in turn victimize other children." It's a vicious cycle that exacts an enduring emotional toll on students." (You can read more about this report and download a copy from the AAUW website). AAUW has long been in the forefront of advocating for equity for women and girls and for the safety of all children in the schools across America. (Continued pg. 4)

Time is Money: Bookfair Allocations

By: Barbara Buchanan



The Bookfair money has been calculated, the hours worked have been tallied, and the numbers are very good. The Atlanta Branch should receive a little over \$33,000. This is an impressive amount, although it is almost

\$3,700 less than we received last year. Based on the number of hours worked, the Atlanta Branch's distribution is 57.3% of Bookfair revenues (down more than 2% from last year) while the Cobb Branch will receive 22.4% (down almost 3%) and North Fulton's portion is 20.3% (up 4% over last year).

There are many people who worked very hard to insure a successful Bookfair this year. Everyone who contributed their time throughout the year deserves thanks, because we could not have done so well without each and every one of you. The Bookfair Chair, Catherine Hafer, a North Fulton member, deserves a large amount of credit for running a successful and smooth 52nd Annual Bookfair. Alta Birdsong did an outstanding job in the very crucial task of getting publicity for the Bookfair while continuing to perform the many duties of Treasurer.

Atlanta Branch members and "Friends of the Atlanta Branch" worked a grand total of 4,147 hours on Bookfair this year. A whopping 2,935 hours of that time was spent in the Bookroom. We also worked 422 hours emptying bookdrops, in sometimes brutally hot or cold weather, and always in physically demanding conditions. The finalé was our Bookfair, which required Atlanta Branch members to work 789½ hours.

The following are just a few of the Atlanta Branch Bookfair volunteers who made outstanding contributions of time, energy and expertise. These women worked 100+ hours in any capacity of the bookfair:

- Judy Lambert: 897 hours
- Ellen Milholland: 518.3 hours
- Joyce Cohrs: 367.8 hours
- Barbara Buchanan: 318 hours
- Bea Meyer: 249 hours
- Alta Birdsong: 166 hours
- Carol Bevier: 151 hours
- Mary Wommack: 139 hours



Frances Smith and Tami Anderson at Bookfair

- Barbara Bennet: 133 hours
- Mary Lynn Merkle: 112 hours
- Phyllis Miller: 104 hours

We had 37 Atlanta volunteers who came to the Bookroom during the last year. Of those 37 people, only 9 people contributed more than 87% of the Bookroom volunteer hours. Our dedicated Bookroom volunteers have a huge amount of knowledge and expertise, which has made our book sale legendary as an Atlanta "institution". Our "87% workers" are the first 9 people on the list of "100 Hour Volunteers" above.

Eight people accrued 92% of the volunteer hours spent on picking up books from book drops for the Atlanta Branch. They are: Alta Birdsong, Barbara Buchanan, Mary Lynn Merkle, Bea Meyer, Phyllis Miller, Sarah Rondeau, Betty Slater, and Kim Tamvacakis.

We had 76 Atlanta volunteers who worked at the Bookfair in Perimeter Mall but only 9 people performed 36% of the work at the Mall. Those 9 people are: Alta Birdsong, Barbara Buchanan, Huiping Du, Judy Lambert, Bea Meyer, Ellen and Jim Milholland, and Mary and Darwin Womack.

Reading all of these numbers may have been tiring, but it is necessary to illustrate how a relatively small group of our members, not to mention several non-members and a few husbands, are exceptionally dedicated workers. **Just think what we could do if more Atlanta members became more involved in our Bookfair!** It is also important to remember that the pay-off of our hard work on Bookfair is yet to come. When we give our money to our targeted not-for-profit projects, we will then be able to see that our fundraising has been successful.

The Numbers are in: Bookfair Financial Breakdown

By: Alta Birdsong



The financial figures from Bookfair earnings are finally in! The following is a breakdown of revenue collected from our efforts at Bookfair:

\$57,407.87 - Bookfair revenue after sales tax
26,447.17 - Net Online revenue
2,381.99 - Revenues through bookroom
156.00 - Service fee collected on bad checks
\$86,393.03 - Revenues earned FY 2011
6,471.09 - 2011 Bookfair Allocated not spent
\$92,864.12 - Total

Deductions from the above will be for the 2012 Bookfair budget, which was set at \$31,000. However,

due to the quality of the tables purchased last year, more funds may be needed in the budget to secure better tables. In addition, \$1,000 will be deducted for the Financial Service Fee of the Atlanta Branch. The net funds will be allocated based on a % of hours worked per branch. The hours are being reviewed, but as of this date the percentages are:

- 57.3% Atlanta
- 22.4% Cobb County
- 20.3% North Fulton

There were \$1,011 in returned checks, and all but \$14 has been collected. The worthless checks, for which funds have been recovered, were from out-of-state book dealers.

What Just One Woman Can Do: Ms. Lucy A. Willard

By: Ruth Yurchuck and Sarah Hegener



Lucy Willard is a long time friend and member of AAUW. I am impressed by Lucy's dedication to AAUW Atlanta Branch and

to the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs and Tallulah Falls School. I conducted a phone interview with Lucy to learn a little more about her, and her involvement with these organizations.

Lucy began work on her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree at Georgia State University and moved to Arizona to complete this degree and also obtain her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree at Arizona State University. She has been a nurse all her life and has taught nursing classes at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

A member of the Atlanta Woman's Club (AWC) since 1984, Lucy served as its president from 1994 to 1996. (FYI: AWC, a non-profit philanthropic organization whose members work together on community improvement projects, is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs (GaFWC). The GaFWC owns and operates Tallulah Falls School (TFS), a private college preparatory day and boarding school. The school is fully accredited with elementary, middle, and high school classes. It is the only school owned and operated by a non-profit woman's organization).



Lucy has worked tirelessly on behalf of TFS, making significant financial contributions to the School for many years. She was named as an honorary trustee for its middle school, which is newly renovated at a new location on the TFS campus. In recognition for Lucy's many contributions to Tallulah Falls School, the school trustees (members of the GaFWC) recommended naming the middle school building for her, and it is now known as The Lucy A Willard Middle School. This facility is equipped with modern classrooms and technology to assist the faculty in providing students with an enriched educational opportunity. Over the years Lucy has surely touched the lives of many students.

The Atlanta Branch salutes Lucy's generosity and gentle spirit, and the contributions she has made to Tallulah Falls School, the AWC, and our Branch. Let's all follow Lucy's lead and make a difference as AAUW Atlanta Branch members!

AAUW Atlanta Branch gets a little cooler with Cool Girls, Inc.

By: Sarah Hegener



AAUW Atlanta Branch had a successful meeting with Cool Girls, Inc. on Saturday, November 11 at their office in downtown Atlanta. Volunteer Manager, Andrea Hill, met with our group to give us information about the programs and events Cool Girls, Inc. provides for school aged girls. We learned about the Cool Sisters program, which is a program that matches the girls with volunteers in a mentor/mentee relationship. Members attending our meeting were able to sign up for more information about becoming a volunteer for the Cool Sisters program. Ms. Hill also told us about a few other fun programs and events they put on for the girls. These programs include the daily afterschool program, an annual shopping spree at Saints Peter and Paul Episcopal Church in Marietta, as well as an annual fashion show the girls participate in. AAUW Atlanta Branch is excited to

begin working out the details of our Signature Project we will be starting with Cool Girls, Inc. The program will help high school girls prepare for college by familiarizing them with the college application process. Cool Girls, Inc. and AAUW Atlanta Branch will partner to create this program starting September 2012. Pam Antinori, co-leader of our Signature Project with Cool Girls, Inc., gave us a break down of the plans that have been made thus far for the program. She shared with members our plans to work with the Cool Futures program at Cool Girls, which is a program that encourages the girls to attend college. This is a great opportunity for AAUW Atlanta to become involved in our community and spread awareness about higher education. We are looking forward to seeing our plans for this project unfold, and we appreciate that work that has been to create the program thus far.

Public Policy Update: Georgia Women's Assembly

By: Diana Witt



On November 10, 2011, Diana Witt, Sharon Bevis-Hoover, Tami Anderson and Blondie Chitunya-Wilson attended the Georgia Women's Assembly at Loudermilk Center. This was a day-long series of workshops and presentations on how Georgia women can advocate for the crucial issues concerning Georgia women and girls. AAUW-Atlanta and AAUW Georgia both supported this event and were displayed in the program and acknowledged at the conference.

We divided up so that each of us could attend separate sessions. I attended Tax and Budget Reform and how non profits can advocate and lobby, Blondie attended Women's Engagement in the Political Process and the impact of the Federal health care reform law, and Tami attended the Human Trafficking and Old Ladies in Action, which addressed Senior Women's Justice issues. At lunch we gathered with our colleagues from the Cobb branch as well as Pat DeWitt from GA AAUW and compared notes. We hope to coordinate some of our activities and reach out to other groups who were there, including the League of Women Voters, the Junior League, Georgia Women Lawyers Association among others. It was a wonderful networking opportunity. I was also pleased to note a real mix of ages and cultural groups there. There were several college women's groups, as well as women's health and child welfare organizations whose constituents are younger than us. I distributed every AAUW brochure I had and spread the message about AAUW Atlanta. I leave you with a 3-point call to action that

ALL OF US can do, no matter what our income, age, or accessibility.

1. This is absolutely the best time of year to talk to your local legislator or state Senator. They are in their districts now, waiting to hear from you. Contact them about key initiatives you care about. Phone calls, emails, and letters are all good. If they aren't around, speak to their staff. There are guidelines for this in your AAUW Handbook.

2. Once the session has begun in January, contact your legislators at the offices in the Capitol.

Again, mention the issues you care about. We will be providing information about bill numbers and committee hearings as the legislative session begins.

3. After the session is over, contact them again. Either thank them for their vote, or express disappointment about how they voted. Remind them you are a constituent who will be making a voting decision based on their actions.

The bottom line we heard over and over: our legislators often feel they are isolated once they are elected. They want to hear from us and get our input, so let's give it to them.

Please contact me if you have any specific questions about this event at publicpolicy@aauwatlanta.org

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December Travel Group

The Travel Group will visit Christmas at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center, 980 Briarcliff Road, on December 8th. We will gather at 10:30 a.m. at the entry. Admission cost is \$20.00 (\$15.00 for those over 65). Lunch will follow the tour at a nearby restaurant. Call Betty Arden to make a reservation and for information about the shuttle from the parking area to the Arts Center. All members are welcome to participate.

Calendar

December 3: Executive Board meeting at the home of Mary Lynn Merkle, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

December 7: Contemporary Literature Group at the Eshenour's home, 6:30 p.m.

December 8: Travel Group at Callenwolde Fine Arts Center, 10:30 a.m.

December 11: Holiday Celebration at the Womack's home, 3-5 p.m.

January 4: Contemporary Literature, 7:30 p.m.

Contemporary Literature Group Meeting: Gather at Eshenour's on Wednesday, December 7, 2011, for a potluck supper. Bring a dish and a wrapped book to swap for another. Please bring a book the group never discussed. "The Elegance of The Hedgehog" by Muriel Barbery will be briefly discussed

Co-Presidents' Article Continued

Working their way through the halls of Congress are two bills in both the Senate and the House that will help make this happen.

The Safe Schools Improvement Act (H.R.1648 and S.506) would amend the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act -part of the No Child Left Behind Act—to instruct school districts to implement a comprehensive anti-bullying policy. This bill includes specific enumeration for sexual orientation and gender identity and would require states to include bullying and harassment data in the statewide needs assessments. This action will help collect important statewide data to measure and understand the full scope of bullying, harassment and discrimination in our schools. Enumerated policies have been found to be important in addressing harassment and bullying and in implementing policies that work.

The second bill is the Student Non-Discrimination Act (H.R.998 and S.555). The SNDA would establish a comprehensive Federal prohibition of discrimination in public schools based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. It would ensure that all students have access to public education in an environment free from discrimination, harassment, bullying, intimidation, and violence. This bill has been modeled after Title IX.

Again, enumerated protection in which a minority group is specifically named, strengthens the implementation of policies and provides a safe learning environment.

Both SSIA and SNDA, both in committee now, are in the early stages; and there will undoubtedly be changes. However, the need for providing all of our children with a learning environment in which they can best develop their skills and abilities is an important goal.

Let Senators Isakson and Chambliss and your Representative know that you think this proposed legislation is very important. Our voices count!!

Educational Fund Allocation 2011

By: Phillis Miller

At the general meeting held on November 12 at Cool Girls Inc., branch members voted to spend the following educational funds: Legal Advocacy Fund-\$3,500; The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund-\$1,250; The Leadership Programs Fund-\$1,000; and the Public Policy Fund- \$1, 250. This makes a total of \$7,000 to be sent to National AAUW Educational fund from AAUW Atlanta Branch for 2011.