



NOVEMBER 2011 ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

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AAUW Atlanta Branch November Meeting

2011-2012 Leadership

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Our next meeting will be Saturday, November 12, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the offices of Cool Girls, Inc. Andrea Hill, Director of Volunteer Services, will brief us on the Cool Programs they offer to girls in our community. In addition, Pam Antinori and Susan Diffenderfer will update us on our Signature Project to assist girls in preparing for college and on how you can get involved!

We will serve a light breakfast at the beginning of the meeting. There is no charge for the meeting, but we are suggesting that each member bring a \$5 gift certificate for Target, Wal-Mart, or a similar store to assist the teens in the Cool Futures program with their holiday shopping. Alternatively, just bring cash or a check, and we will purchase a gift card for you. Please RSVP to Frances Smith at hospitality@aauwatlanta.org

Cool Girls is located in Suite A-220 of the Southern Dairies Office Park at 621 North Avenue, NE, Atlanta, 30308. Their phone number is xxx-xxx-xxxx. They are easily reached by taking the I-75 / I-85 connector to the North Avenue exit, then traveling a mile and a half east to Cool Girls. There is plenty of free parking available in two lots.

Please take a look at the Cool Girls website <http://www.thecoolgirls.org/>
Come prepared with your questions!

Co-Presidents' Article: Politically Astute or just Political?

By Mary Lynn Merkle and Ruth Yurchuck



Unless you do not read the newspaper, current magazines or watch the news, you are certainly aware that we are in the election season. It's impossible to pick up a magazine or newspaper without seeing the results of the latest polls: who's ahead in the race to the White House and local offices, who won the latest debate, and who will be a footnote in history. With over a year to go until actual voting occurs, there's plenty of time to decide. But what is clear at this point is that the members of AAUW are partisan. (continued pg. 5)

Our Dynamic Duo: Pat Bevis & Sharon Bevis-Hoover

By Mary Lynn Merkle

Our Program Vice-president Pat Bevis (the Mom) and our President-elect Sharon Bevis-Hoover (the daughter) have been an integral part of Atlanta Branch for many years.

Pat joined Atlanta Branch over 40 years ago, and over those 40 years AAUW has morphed. Pat remembers those years when every member was called to be reminded of meetings, and when the banquet at State Conventions required formal attire. Does anyone remember the sisters who always took their leather liquor case to the State meetings?

Pat has two daughters: Sharon (who we will read more about) and Melissa. Melissa lives in Lawrenceville and has two daughters. Pat has been in real estate since 1976, loves her work and has no plans to retire; and, since she owns the company, that is her option.

Pat became interested years ago in the United Nations Association when she represented AAUW in that organization. She continues to participate in UNA-USA.

A fun fact about Pat is that when she was serving as president of Atlanta Audubon some years ago, she housed a tiger in a cage. It was being used as "show and tell" for one of the Audubon meetings—out of the cage. Pat has always been involved in branch activities and has always of-

fered a helping hand when asked (including serving as our current Program VP).



Sharon has been a member of Atlanta Branch since she graduated from Agnes Scott College in 1984. However, her activities with our Branch began much earlier. As a child she worked in the bookroom (then located in the basement of Lenox Square Mall where the Bookfair was held for many years). Perhaps that's where and when she began loving books and reading—an attribute that her children Nicholas (15) and Madison (13) also share. Through her col-

lege years and her professional life in Information Technology, Sharon has been the recipient of many

honors and awards including nominations as Woman of the Year in Technology two years running.

Sharon has always loved to travel both in and out of the U.S. Daughter Madison is a great travel partner, and this summer they enjoyed a holiday in New York City. Nick spends time with Mom when they're snow skiing or SCUBA diving.

Sharon spent several years working out of the country

with Coca-Cola. Husband John took a 5-year sabbatical from his career, and the family lived in Madrid, Spain for two years and in London, England for two years. Upon their return to the U.S., it was time for Sharon to take her sabbatical. Lucky AAUW! With lots of expertise and energy to spare she has agreed to be our next president (May 2012) and has taken an active leadership role as president-elect.

Sharon's hopes and dreams for Atlanta Branch are that we will engage each and every member, whether they participate to contribute to our mission, or for personal development, or to be part of our community. She also wants our activities to include all of AAUW's priorities: research, education, advocacy, and philanthropy.

Public Policy Report: September 2011

By Diana Witt

September and October have been busy months for the Public Policy wing of the Atlanta Branch. Diana Witt and Sharon Bevis attended the September 23 meeting of the 2012 Project, held at the State Capitol. Pat DeWitt also attended, representing Georgia AAUW. This was a really fascinating meeting with members from the 2012 Project National Headquarters at Rutgers University in New Jersey. They provided both

encouraging and discouraging statistics on gains and losses women have made in getting elected to local, state, and national office in the last 10 years. They pointed out that a census year brings both threats and opportunities due to population shifts and redistricting. This climate historically has presented opportunities for women and

other underrepresented groups to make electoral gains, and urged everyone to work hard to elect women in 2012. Other groups attending included the State League of Women Voters president, some political consultants from both parties, and Georgia legislators from both parties. It was a tremendously rewarding and educational meeting. A followup strategy session will occur at the

end of the Georgia Women's Assembly, which will be held on November 10.

The GWA event is a day-long session at Loudermilk Center, which I will be attending. AAUW Atlanta Branch is a sponsor for this event, which allows us 2 free registrations, a \$65.00 value. (continued pg 5)

Bookfair Update

By: Barbara Buchanan

Thank you, Atlanta Branch members, for an outstanding effort in support of our 52nd Annual AAUW Bookfair. The final numbers are still being calculated as this article is being written, but it is estimated that we will have at least as much money as last year to distribute to the Atlanta, Cobb and North Fulton Branches. Sales at the event were very slightly less than last year's, but the steady increase in internet sales over the past year should boost the income for 2011.

Because time to count the hours worked and tabulate expenses after the conclusion of the sale is needed, the Bookfair's fiscal calendar ends on October 31st. Each Branch will receive funds from the Bookfair based on the number of hours worked by their members throughout the year as well as during the sale in Perimeter Mall. That is why it is so crucial that Atlanta members and associates work hard to earn as large a portion of the proceeds as we can.

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 52nd Bookfair, but there were several who were outstanding this year. Alta Birdsong did an exceptional job as publicity chair (again), using carefully targeted advertising and free announcements to get us the biggest "bang for our buck". She got a Channel 11 camera crew to show film on the "Ways to Save" segment of the evening news, with mention of the sale several more times on Channel 11, as well as WABE radio. In addition, Alta continues to pay our expenses and kept our financial information precisely, while pricing



Customers browsing at Bookfair

and managing a large category in the bookroom as well as consistently picking up books from the Dunwoody book drop. Our wonderful and knowledgeable members Joyce Cohrs and Judy Lambert have contributed many hundreds of hours working in the bookroom this past



Before the unveiling of the books

year, pricing huge numbers of books in numerous categories. Bea Meyer has taken on the responsibility of Bookfair Steering Committee Chair and Lynn Fountain continues year after year to organize a precision timed tear down that goes amazingly smoothly.

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 during the year and at the sale has not been announced yet but when those numbers are known, we will recognize our many "super Bookroom heroines". All that is known for certain right now is how many shifts all the Branches signed up to work at the sale. Since many people end up working more hours at the sale than they signed up for, all three Branches should be expected to have earned more hours than the following numbers indicate:

- The Atlanta Branch had 47 people sign up to work a collective total of 474 hours at the Bookfair.
- Cobb Branch had 25 people volunteer to work 333 hours.
- 20 people from North Fulton signed up to work a total of 156 hours.

These hours will be added to the time members spent in the Bookroom, picking up and delivering books to the Bookroom and additional time spent outside of the Bookroom working on the 52nd Annual AAUW Bookfair.

The most obvious conclusion to this information is that we spend a lot of time and effort to make our book sale a success. We should all be very proud of our longevity in managing a hugely successful not-for-profit fundraising event.

Student Volunteers Help Make Bookfair a Success

By: Betty Slater



It was wonderful to see such energy and excitement from student volunteers at Bookfair. I encountered students from Agnes Scott Col-

lege who had given a program at North Fulton about their GEMS program. Some of these young women along with their faculty members had attended the Atlanta branch's holiday event in December. These ladies were there for setting up and tearing down. I asked for their names and majors as well their plans for the future. The following are Agnes Scott students that I met on Sunday evening when I was helping to take down Bookfair.

-Alma Thamas Biology/Pediatrician
-Nicole Caldwell Chemistry/
Chemical Engineering
-Eony Beachamp Biology /OBGYN



Georgia State Students at Bookfair

-Brianna Hudson- Biology/Medical Science
- Kallie Browning - Chemistry Engineering
-Chineyenua Okaye - Biochemistry- Plastic Surgeon
-Alexis Johnson - Neuroscience / MD
-Nora Ayala (scholarship recipient)
- Phoebe Ahoke
-Ashley Mondestin
-Nikita Boston (grad student at Emory)
-Jennifer Cannady
-Zhang Zhang
-Rachquel Puranaa - Biology/ MD

Another group of student names appeared on the sign up list thanks to Huiping Du and Georgia State University Collegiate Affiliate chapter.

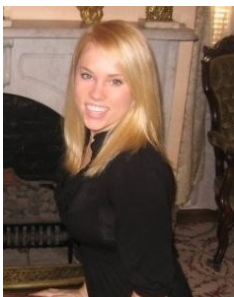
We are so grateful for the hours that each person gave to helped with Bookfair:

-Angela Fagan
-Monica Brown
-Die Tran (scholarship recipient)
-Mo tong
-Deyong Zhazh
-Tam Le
-Ye Cui
-Chao Zhao
-Ngoc Anh Tran
-Robbie Wilbanks
-Autumn Wright
-Farshad

Everyone appreciates the efforts given by these students as well as those given by our branch members.

AAUW Atlanta Supports Internship Opportunity

By: Sarah Hegener



Hello! My name is Sarah Hegener and I am the new AAUW Atlanta Branch intern. I may have met some of you on those days I volunteered at the Bookfair. I began my internship by attending the September 2011 board meeting at the home of Frances Smith, and since then I have had the opportunity to attend the 2011 AAUW Georgia Leadership Conference, as well as to format and edit this edition of the AAUW Atlanta newsletter. Thus far, I have had a great experience working with the women of AAUW and learning about the importance of what we can do to support women and girls in our community. I am excited to become involved with the AAUW Atlanta Branch's partnership with Cool Girls, and to see how our project to help young women prepare for college will unfold.

As for me, I am a senior at Georgia State University. I will be graduating in May 2012 with a degree in finance. I plan to attend law school as a part of the fall 2012 entering class. I will be applying to Georgia State law school, as well as several other schools in the southeast region. I am interested in becoming a lobbyist. I recently spent a summer in Washington DC working for a trade association called ACMA, which is based in Arlington, VA. During my internship, I had the opportunity to experience a lobby day on Capitol Hill and have been interested ever since. I am hoping that my internship with AAUW Atlanta will expose me to some of the advocacy work they do for women and girls.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to work with AAUW Atlanta Branch. I hope to become as involved with this organization as possible. I am very eager to continue working with the women of AAUW Atlanta and I thank you all for your support thus far!

Continued: Politically Astute or Just Political?

Partisan, you say?! How can that be? But we are: we have a bias for looking at issues from the perspective of educated, informed women.

Well, here is the point! It is surely NOT whether the red, white and blue campaign button is decorated with a donkey or an elephant. AAUW's mission states that we will advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Women across the country who are part of the "big teal machine" are discovering opportunities for advocacy through events such as Project

2012 and the 21st Georgia Women's Assembly. They are finding opportunities to educate our communities about the importance of fairness and justice on the job, in the courts, in the legislature and wherever there are inequities, and they are becoming aware of all the recent research that make our efforts toward equity easier.

And while AAUW members share a mission, it's understandable that we don't always agree on who is the best candidate for a given office and what will happen if that person is elected. So what are the parameters for deciding?

Use your bias as an educated woman. After we gather information from reliable media sources, review candidates' credentials and listen to their presentations, watch the debates; and then, with integrity, we select our candidate.

So what are the parameters for deciding? Use your bias as an educated woman. After all, who better to make informed choices!!!

**"WE HAVE A
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Continued: Public Policy Report September 2011

Some of us have already registered for this event, but we hope to have good attendance from our branch. Please contact Mary Lynn if you would like to be one of the sponsored attendees.

Georgia AAUW is also sponsoring, so it is possible for us to have a real presence at this event. Please contact me if you have any questions about programming.

Finally, the Georgia AAUW Fall Leadership meeting was held at Shorter College Riverdale on October 22. Pat DeWit, our state public policy chair, reported on AAUW's collaboration with the Georgia Job/Family Collaborative in its lobbying effort to get the Georgia

legislature to pass the Family Care Act. This act would allow employees to use paid sick leave for care of immediate family members. The Collaborative has identified Georgia legislators who might support this bill. Pat and the GA AAUW public policy committee is urging branch members to contact these legislators and urge them to support the bill. Legislators that are close to Atlanta Branch members include:

Judy Manning - Cobb County:
judy.manning@house.ga.gov

Edward Lindsey- Buckhead:
Eward.lindsey@house.ga.gov

If you know anyone who lives in Norcross, or Duluth, please urge them to contact one of the following:

Hugh Floyd -Norcross:

Pedro Marin - Duluth

Georgia State House phone numbers are in your AAUW Directory if you prefer to call.

See you all on November 12!

Reminder about Reimbursements

When requesting disbursements or reimbursements from the general or community fund, please submit the printed form along with the appropriate receipt or the document requiring disbursement. This form is available from the presidents or the treasurer. In the future, the treasurer will make this form available online as well, and you may send it online with your scanned documents. Thank you. Alta Birdsong

GSU Wins Elect Her Award

AAUW Collegiate Affiliate Branch at GSU has been awarded The Elect Her award from AAUW National. They will be having workshops monthly on their campus to share how to Elect a Woman to political. These students and their advisor, Dr. Myra Carmon, are doing an outstanding job!

December Board Meeting

The December board meeting of Atlanta Branch will be held on Saturday, December 3rd, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the home of Frances Smith. Because our November 12th Board meeting is abbreviated, please bring your discussion items to the December meeting if possible.

Executive Board Meeting

We will have an abbreviated board meeting immediately prior to our General meeting on November 12th at Cool Girls. We will meet from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. with the General meeting scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m.

Holiday Auction

The Holiday Party Silent Auction will take place on December 11 at the Home of Mary Wommack at 3pm. Please bring an item for auction! AAUW Atlanta Branch members will be given recognition for their active participation in the Branch. The Silent Auction will be held to benefit an AAUW program to be determined by members.

Travel Group

The AAUW Travel Group will meet at 10:30 AM on November 10th for a guided tour of the recently renovated Buckhead Theatre. Following the tour we will have lunch at the Capitol City Grill. Call Betty Arden.

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Contemporary Literature Group

Contemporary Literature will meet on November 2 and again on December 7 at the home of Connie Eshenour; The book they will be talking about is "Loving rank" by Nancy Horan.

Calendar Reminders

- November 2....Contemporary Literature Group Meeting
- November 10th....Travel group meets @10:30am at Buckhead Theatre
- November 12th.....Executive Board Meeting @9:30am at Cool Girls
- November 12th.....General Board Meeting at 10:00am at Cool Girls
- December 3rd.....December Board Meeting at the home of Frances Smith from 9:30am-11:30am
- December 11th.....Holiday Party and Silent auction at the home of Mary Wommack @ 3pm.

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