



2010–2011 Leadership

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

Co-Presidents

Mary Lynn Merkle
Ruth Yurchuck president@*

Program Vice President

Diana Witt program@*

Membership Vice President

Dot Ransom membership@*

Recording Secretary

Blondie Chitunya Wilson secretary-meeting@*

Treasurer

Alta Birdsong treasurer@*

College/University Relations

Betty Slater universityrelations@*

Community Action

Tami Anderson communityaction@*

Diversity

Bea Meyer diversity@*

Historian

Sarah Rondeau historian@*

Hospitality

Anne Habersetzer
Frances Smith hospitality@*

Public Policy

Diana Witt publicpolicy@*

Public Relations

Betty Slater publicrelations@*

Scholarship Co-Chairs

May Ruth Bradberry
Barbara Buchanan scholarship@*

Web Information

Terry Eshenour webmaster@*

Finance Committee Co-Chairs

Huiping Du
Lynn Fountain finance@*

Contemporary Literature

Kay Collins advisory@*

Travel, Day

Betty Arden travel@*

Gourmet, Evening

Sally Byers gourmet@*

Advisory Committee Chair

Kay Collins advisory@*

Publications Editor

Stephanie Babbitt publications@*

February Meeting

Date: February 5

Time: 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Place: North Avenue Presbyterian Church
607 Peachtree Street Atlanta, 30308-2226

Now is your chance to become an abolitionist and combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) right here in Atlanta. AAUW Atlanta Branch members are invited to a unique private meeting with Street Grace and Cool Girls. We will hear from speakers from both organizations about their activities to help victims of sex trafficking and their efforts to get legislation passed to stop this heinous crime. They will also discuss mentoring and other volunteer opportunities that branch members might be interested in. There will be plenty of time for questions. Light refreshments will be served.

This is one of the potential signature activities for our Branch this year, and we hope all of you will come to learn more about what these organizations have done and what we may be able to do to protect women and girls from being exploited.

North Avenue Presbyterian Church is located at 607 Peachtree St. (on the corner of North Avenue and Peachtree) one block south of the Fox Theatre. Enter the parking ramp from Courtland or North Avenue. Park and walk up the ramp and take the elevator to the third floor. Turn right out of the elevator. The meeting room is at the end of the hall on the left.

Please RSVP to Frances Smith: francesjsmith1921@yahoo.com or 404/231-0482. The reservation deadline is January 31, 2011.

SEE YOU THERE!

Diana Witt, program chair
678/372-1530; diana.witt@comcast.net

Presidents' Column: Where Are You In This Picture?!

by Mary Lynn Merkle and Ruth Yurchuck

Have you ever received an invitation to a party, decided not to go, and then heard from good friends how much fun it was from those who attended? Well, this year Atlanta Branch is having the very kind of "party" that you don't want to miss. While preserving the integrity of our Branch's 106 year history, we are examining where we are and where we need to go, setting some new goals.

To conduct the research needed for a Branch Signature Project, three task forces have been established. By May we hope to have selected one or two of these and to get started on making a difference for women and girls in our Atlanta community and beyond.

One option involves a potential partnership with CARE. Co-chairs Colleen D'Alessandro and Lynn Fountain are exploring this option, with committee members Sharon Bevis Hoover, Diana Dey, Huiping Du, Blondie Chitunya-Wilson, Diana Witt, and Nikita Boston. Plans are under-



way for 3 or 4 of this team to participate in the CARE conference scheduled for March in Washington, D.C.

Another option involves a possible partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Susan Diffenderfer and Barbara Buchanan are gathering information about this project.

(continued on p. 6)

News Features on the “New” Branch Website

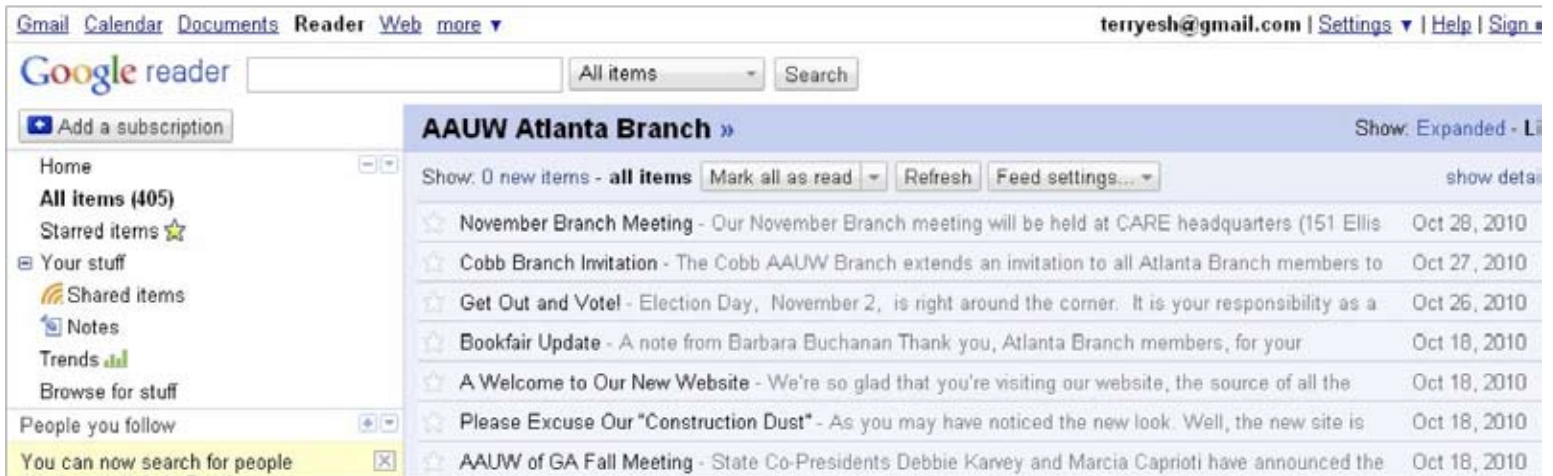
by Terry Eshenour, Webmaster

As you probably are aware the Atlanta Branch website underwent a major update in early October. The intention was to make it a site to go to for current information about AAUW-related news and women’s-rights topics. The other site design criteria were to provide relevant updates about Branch activities, provide a convenient means to input new information and offer members an opportunity to provide feedback.

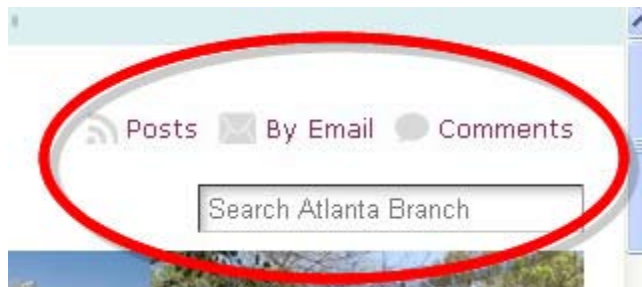
The new website is static and dynamic, using “blog” components for the dynamic portion and traditional web pages for material that is intended for reference, e.g., how to join, what we do, our history. The opening home page contains all the dynamic portions that update daily; it contains the core newsworthy items for national, state, and Atlanta Branch.

Home page content is divided in three sections. The center section contains Atlanta Branch posts; the left column has national AAUW updates, legislative news and blogs; the right column contains Branch current Calendar events, recent posts, and AAUW Georgia links.

In the “new media” age, we are inundated with information that can be overwhelming at times. The new website has built-in tools for reporting all Post and Comment updates to a news reader (Google Reader, NewsCrawler, NewsGator) or by e-mail. Using a screen shot of my Google Reader (below), it is possible to see the presentation in a structured manner of Branch posts. If you have multiple sites that you follow, the Reader aggregates for convenient reading.



In the upper-right corner of the home page are options for subscribing using a news reader like Google Reader (see left). Click on the feature that you would like to follow. Follow the instructions that appear.



Individual Posts can be followed, shared, e-mailed, or printed by selecting from the drop-down menu below each post (see right).

The blog, news feeds, and news reader concepts may be new to you. Should you be unclear as to the purpose and how to use the features, please send me an e-mail at webmaster@aauwatlanta.org. I would be delighted to assist. ❖

forward to seeing you there



March Meeting Preview

The March meeting will be held on March 5, at the Hudson Grille, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Habitat for Humanity task force will report on their efforts, and as time permits, the other task forces will give updates.

AAUW National Recognizes Atlanta Branch EF Support

by Phyllis Miller

In 2009, Atlanta Branch supported AAUW through EF contributions that have given much visibility to the AAUW community. In 2010, we again contributed \$14,000 to bring about change and break through barriers for women and girls. In my copy of the 2010 annual Report, Executive Director Linda Hallman and President Carolyn Garfein recognized the work of our funds to lobby for change, help Latinas reach their educational goals, seek justice, work for pay equity, light the STEM spark, and break through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

The recognition is summarized below:

2009 Top States and Branches from the 2009 Annual Report

LAF: top protectors of the legal rights of women facing discrimination

Branch: Atlanta sixth
State per capita: Georgia first

AAUW Eleanor Roosevelt Fund: these states and branches provide for understanding of issues that are important to women and girls.

State: Georgia third
Branch: Atlanta second
State per capita: Georgia first

AAUW Leadership Programs Fund: top leaders for development of women's potential to lead in schools and communities

State: Georgia sixth
Branch: Atlanta sixth
State per capita: Georgia first

AAUW Funds: top supporters

State per capita: Georgia ninth

Combined Support: elicits special thanks to these most generous states and branches for their combined support of all AAUW programs

Branch: Atlanta ninth
State per capita: Georgia first

Branch Financial Information as of December 31

by Alta Birdsong

Balances:

Atlanta Branch General Fund:	\$8,854.22
Atlanta Branch Community Fund:	\$51,828.15
AAUW Bookfair (2011):	\$35,284.79

The SunTrust Checking Account has been designated as the Bookfair checking account for all revenue and disbursements for the 2011 Bookfair. ❖

Activism Opportunity

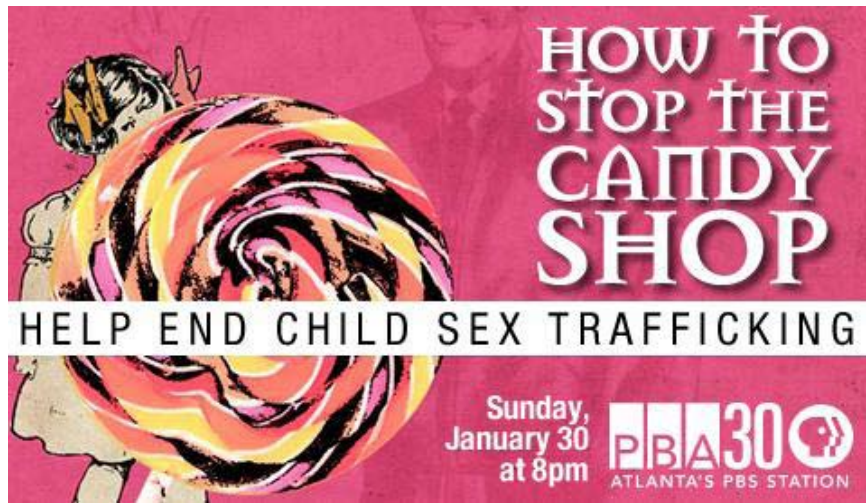
Circle Tuesday, February 1 on your calendar. This is Lobby Day at our state capital. Members are urged to attend. Street Grace and Georgia Women for Change are mobilizing their members, and certainly we want to be among those speaking up for passage of legislation that will help fight child sex trafficking in Georgia and protect those innocently caught up in it. Particulars about the bill to be introduced were not available at the time this newsletter was prepared. Please watch the branch website for more information and instructions as the date comes closer.

You can prepare for your visit by reviewing the information about child trafficking in our October newsletter on page 4 (available at aauwatlanta.org). Also, if you need to verify who your legislators are, just log on to the state assembly website at www.legis.ga.gov/en-US/default.aspx.

Book Group

Our February 2 meeting will be held at the home of Connie Eshenour, 1393 Holly Bank Circle, Dunwoody, 30338; 770/698-0852. We gather about 7:30 p.m. to discuss *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver. If you have questions please call Kay Collins, 404/266-2183. ❖

Sex-Trafficking Film to Air on Public Television



For those of you who missed the more-than-capacity crowd at the Fox Theater for the premiere of *Stop the Candy Shop*, one of Atlanta's public-broadcasting stations, PBA 30, is airing the film on Sunday, January 30, at 8:00 p.m. This film was produced to introduce the subject of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) to the general public and organizations interested in supporting the goals of Street Grace and all others working to stop this heinous crime.

In Georgia alone, over 7,000 men buy sex from children every month. There is a pressing need in this state for education, activism, and stronger legislation. Watch (or TiVo) this film if you can, especially if you plan on attending the February 5 Branch meeting or if you would like to see the branch take on combatting CSEC as one of its signature projects! ❖

Profiles of 2010 Scholarship Recipients

by Barbara Buchanan

In this newsletter and in future issues, we will profile one of our seven 2010—2011 Scholarship Recipients. The recipients will be presented in alphabetical order.



Ilona Prisacaru

Ilona Prisacaru is an outstanding student in the Accelerated Nursing Program at Georgia State University. The Scholarship Committee found her high grade-point average and successful college career to be even more remarkable when we learned that she came to the U.S from Romania barely three years ago and learned English after she got here. Her grade point average is just below a 4.0.

Because she is in the accelerated nursing program, she must devote 80 hours per week to school, so she is not employed. Her husband lost his job in the economic downturn and only recently found a job as a truck driver. Ilona is the caregiver of her 4-year-old step-grandchild.

In one of several letters of recommendation that accompanied her scholarship application, a former professor at Georgia Perimeter College said "Ilona has set the curves in both my Human Anatomy and Physiology lecture and laboratory classes. She received the

Student of the Semester recognition for her activities in the laboratory class." As noted in her letters of recommendation, Ilona expresses a strong passion for helping others. In her scholarship application essay Ilona wrote: "I chose nursing as my profession because a nurse is one of the most important people responsible for the care of an ill loved one... there are many key members of the health care team... but the nurse is the one who spends most of her time directly involved in caring of someone in need. She added, "...as a nurse I might have the opportunity to provide care and a loving and friendly atmosphere... maybe that little extra attention is just what my patients need to make a speedy recovery."

The Scholarship Committee received a very gracious thank-you letter from Ms. Prisacaru in which she said: "I was surprised and honored to be one of the recipients of the AAUW Atlanta Scholarship. I am aware of some of the things you do for our community, particularly in support of education for women.... The challenges of getting an education are outweighed by the knowledge that people like you care about me.... Again, thank you for investing in my future."

When Ilona Prisacaru reaches her goal to graduate in the top 5% of her nursing class, we should all be hopeful that she will be the nurse "setting the curve" for other professionals if any of our loved ones need nursing care to achieve a speedy recovery. ❖

AAUW Atlanta Branch Name Grant Honorees for 2010–2011

by Phyllis Miller

On behalf of Atlanta Branch AAUW Educational Fund Committee four persons have been awarded a Name Grant Honoree certificate and pin in appreciation of their significant contributions to AAUW for 2010–2011. Whenever a branch donates to the AAUW Fund, the national organization provides the branch with an opportunity to honor those members who have given exemplary service to the branch. For each \$500.00 donated by the branch to the AAUW Fund, that branch is given the opportunity to honor a member.

With the Atlanta Branch having given over \$12,000 to the Fund for many years, we would have been entitled to numerous honorees each year. The decision was made to limit the number of honorees in order to make it a more prestigious recognition for our members. The Atlanta Branch maintains those names in its annual handbook.

The names of those being honored are submitted to AAUW, and a pin and certificate are awarded to the honoree and the names of the branch members receiving this honor are maintained at the state and national level. For 2010–2011, they are:

FRANCES SMITH

As hospitality co-chair, Frances has found places for Branch meetings that are accessible and reasonably priced. She also takes member reservations for meetings and instituted a system of permanent member name tags which she distributes before various functions and collects them as members leave. She has graciously made her home available for Board meetings for the past two years.

BLONDIE CHITUNYA-WILSON

As a new member Blondie responded to the request to be secretary for general meetings and quickly became acquainted with Branch members, faithfully recording meeting minutes. When the appointed Board secretary was unable to continue in that position, she also agreed to take minutes for these meetings as well. She has also become active in other Branch activities.

STEPHANIE BABBITT

As Publications Editor, Stephanie has contributed her talents as an expert editor and writer to provide members with an informative, well-designed newsletter. She has also assisted the co-presidents in developing other Branch promotional material. Stephanie has also published our yearbook and this year's addendum to the yearbook for the past several years.

TERRY ESHENOUR

Terry has served as the Branch webmaster for almost two years. With Board approval, he pursued updating of our website with the assistance of Ann McKay, webmaster for AAUW of Georgia and the Warner Robins branch. Our website aims to be more current and more user friendly and reflects the diversity of our Branch activities.

Our Branch has been enriched by the efforts of these four people, and we are happy to highlight their contributions. ❖

New Member Introduction: Janice Zumot

by Mary Lynn Merkle



Janice joined Atlanta Branch last September. She has been thoroughly enjoying Branch activities and is a member of the Contemporary Literature group.

Although she grew up in Warsaw, VA, and graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, she has lived in Atlanta since 1978, when she was transferred here for work. Janice and her husband Sam are now self-employed in the travel industry. They organize international group tours and have been at it for the last 28 years. A bonus for this kind of job is that she has traveled extensively here in the U.S. and all around the world. The next big trip on the agenda is planning and hosting a trip for about 2,000 people to Madrid.

Besides reading, her hobbies (in addition to travel) are exercise and yoga—and eating out! She and Sam have one daughter, Carmen, who lives here in Atlanta.

Janice heard about AAUW about ten years ago from a neighbor. Ever since then she has been following up on the website. It was something that she continued to be interested in because she wanted to participate in helping women improve their lives. She has now officially joined, and she looks forward to continued active participation as we grow and plan our future good works! ❖

Presidents' Column

(continued from p. 1)

Gillian Horsley, who has already been a part of the community effort to put an end to sex trafficking in Atlanta, is working on a third option, how we might become one of the 25+ organizations who are already involved. This is one of the potential projects with a great deal of member support.

In the midst of these new efforts, we continue our "normal" activities—small groups, general meetings, board meetings, Bookfair efforts.

The question for each of our members is this: Are you attending our "party"? You already have the invitation and we need you in the picture! To be successful, it is necessary for everyone to participate, using their time and talents to find the path that is the best for the future of Atlanta Branch and for women and girls in our local community.

We look forward to hearing from you about the option(s) that stirs your passion and where you see yourself fitting into this process. ❖

Calendar

February

- 1 Lobby Day
- 2 Book Group
- 5 Branch meeting
- 10 Travel Group
- 18 Newsletter deadline

March

- 2 Book Group
 - 5 Branch meeting
-

Travel Group

On February 10, at 10:30 a.m., the Travel Group will be given a guided tour of the Shepherd Center, 2020 Peachtree Road, N.W. The center is one of the top rehabilitation hospitals in the nation, specializing in medical treatment, research, and rehabilitation for people with spinal-cord injury or brain injury. We will hear about all of the exciting new things that are going on at the center.

For further details, call Betty Arden at (770) 955-6381. ❖

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Board Meeting

The Atlanta Branch 2010–2011 leadership team will meet February 5, at 9:30 a.m., at North Avenue Presbyterian Church, prior to the General meeting. ❖

ATLANTA NEWS

Atlanta Branch AAUW
1651 Executive Park Lane
Atlanta, GA 30329