



2010–2011 Leadership

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

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You Won't Want to Miss Our May Meeting!

Please join us for our annual branch celebration:

May 14
9:00 a.m.

Ansley Golf Club, 196 Montgomery Ferry Drive, N.E., Atlanta 30309.

Members will gather in the Williamsburg Room at 9:00 a.m. to enjoy Ansley's delicious brunch. The cost of the meal will be \$25 per person, including tax and tip. The business meeting will include election of Branch officers for 2011–2012 and presentation of updates about our potential signature projects. Debbie Karvey, AAUW of Georgia co-president, will help us celebrate the progress made during this year and install officers for the upcoming Branch year.

Please RSVP to Frances Smith (hospitality@aauwatlanta.org) by May 9. See you there!

Diana Witt, Program Chair
program@aauw.org • xxx/xxx-xxxx

AAUW Atlanta Branch Candidates for May 2011

by Connie Eshenour

The Nominating Committee now presents the Board's recommendation for the Branch's consideration in preparation for the voting that will occur at the May 14 Branch meeting. Installation of officers will also occur at this meeting. Your attendance at this meeting will be very important.

This announcement should come with sound effects of horn and drum roll!

Women coming forward and offering their services to the Atlanta Branch will impress you as being awesome and more than qualified. Each in her own right is really cool and forward thinking... just the sort of women we need to lead our new organizational structure.

Interim Co-Presidents for one year: Mary Lynn Merkle and Ruth Yurchuck

President- Elect: Sharon Bevis-Hoover

Interim Program Vice-President: Pat Bevis

Recording Secretaries: Diana Witt (Board) and Blondie Chitunya Wilson and Betty Slater (Branch)

Sharon Bevis-Hoover will bring valuable career experience, knowledge, skills and communication on the cutting edge to our leadership. Her qualifications will allow her to guide and direct us into the future as a remodeled organization, a Branch that conducts goal oriented business efficiently and speedily.

Each of the other candidates is known to you due to her recent service to the Atlanta Branch in a meaningful leadership position. We thank them for their desire to continue in an important leadership role.

If you need to ask the Nominating Committee any questions about these candidates, please contact the head of the nominating committee, Connie Eshenour. ❖

A Fond Farewell

May Ruth Bradberry will soon be moving to Sacramento. The branch will honor her with a luncheon at Violette's (French), 2948 Clairmont Road, on Tuesday, May 3, at 1:00 p.m. We'll order from the menu. There are plenty of lunches available for \$10 or \$11. We can have separate checks with an automatic 20% tip added.

Reservations are necessary. Please RSVP to Mary Lynn Merkle or Ruth Yurchuck by April 26.

Co-Presidents' Article: Overview of the State Convention

by Mary Lynn Merkle and Ruth Yurchuck

We want to share with you some of the highlights of our AAUW of Georgia Convention Friday, April 1, and Saturday, April 2. Five members of Atlanta Branch attended: May Ruth Bradberry (State treasurer), Diana Witt, Blondie Chitunya-Wilson, Ruth Yurchuck, and Mary Lynn Merkle.

Patricia Ho, a director-at-large on the National Board, was our keynote speaker at the Awards Banquet on Friday. She shared with us some of the results of the membership survey in which some of our members may have participated. We will share some of those results at a later time. A significant observation emerging from the data: to encourage interest in membership, we must be project-oriented.

Patricia spoke about the upcoming National Convention (June 16–19). Carolyn Garfein, a member of the North Fulton branch and the current national president, is running for re-election. Patricia is on the slate for vice-president. Because of the 2009 change in the national bylaws to one member/one vote, we will all be receiving election information. Voting may be done online, but it will be necessary to have your member number and a PIN number (which will be included in the mailed packet).

Atlanta Branch received two awards at the Banquet: second place for per capita contributions to AAUW Funds, and first place for

the highest numbers of new members (thanks to our membership vice-president Dot Ransom for her diligence).

Officers were elected and installed. Laurie Shaw of Houston-Peach Branch is the incoming co-president, and Bea Piddock of Cobb Branch is the new treasurer.

One of the most important decisions affecting all AAUW of Georgia members was the introduction of a proposed increase in state dues to support the 2011–2012 budget. A separate article about this proposal is included elsewhere in the newsletter.

Saturday afternoon programs were filled with pertinent information. Danielle Cefalu of Hurley Eldercare (a law firm) spoke about protecting assets when facing paying for assisted-living or nursing-home accommodations. Kelli Persons, staff member of the League of Women Voters of Georgia, spoke particularly about the importance of the upcoming redistricting in our state.

Lastly, our own public policy chair, Diana Witt, and the State chair, Patricia DeWitt, informed us about important legislation coming up. We all celebrated the passage of HB200 relating to human sex trafficking and protecting young women.

Thank you to all for supporting our attendance at this Convention. ❖

Introducing New Member Nikita Boston

by Mary Lynn Merkle



Nikita received a very special graduation gift from Jennifer Ingram from AAUW of Maryland. It was a “give a grad a gift” membership. And last October she joined our Atlanta Branch.

Nikita came to Atlanta for graduate school. She is pursuing a Master’s in Public Health from Emory University. In addition to carrying a full course load, she also volunteers with the Georgia Coalition for Refugee Mental Health, and she is co-chair of a fund at Emory called the Global Elimination of Maternal Mortality from Abortion (GEMMA).

She has lived in Georgetown, Guyana (the only English-speaking country on the continent of South America), and she lived in College Park, MD, when she was working on her undergraduate degree at the University of Maryland. She has also traveled extensively in the U.S. and internationally—including such far-off places as Czech Republic, China, Suriname, and Trinidad.

Her dreams for Atlanta Branch are to expand our membership and to continue to do great things for the women in our community.

It is Atlanta Branch’s good fortune that Nikita received that graduation gift from Jennifer! ❖

Facebook Help



Like us on Facebook

Bookfair wants to use Facebook to make an impact.

Can you, or someone you know, help us?

Facebook and other social media are a good way to publicize Bookfair. We already have a Facebook page, but we want to make it more dynamic. Advice from someone who can make Facebook work harder for Bookfair is needed so that we can sell more books. And, of course, selling more books will bring in more money to support our Branch projects through philanthropy and advocacy. Contact Barbara Buchanan, Alta Birdsong, or Bea Meyer if you, or someone you know, can help. Other contacts: bookfairaauw@gmail.com or the Bookroom phone: 404/261-7646.



Atlanta Branch members at the AAUW of GA convention. From left: Diana Witt, Mary Lynn Merkle, Patricia Ho (director-at-large of AAUW and a candidate for vice-president), May Ruth Bradberry, and Ruth Yurchuck. (Blondie Chitunya Wilson also attended the convention but had not arrived when this picture was taken.)

Save the Dates

Bookfair And Bookroom Information

by Bea Meyer

The 2011 bookfair dates are as follows:

October 2, 3, 4 — set up

October 4 — opening night
(entry fee charged to customers)

October 5–9 — bookfair sale dates (no entry fee)

October 9 — tear down

Information regarding hours will be provided later.

I'm placing a "call" to members to sort books in our bookroom and also to pick up books at the bookdrops. We need your help in both of these areas. Please call Bea Meyer at xxx/xxx-xxxx or email at diversity@aauwatlanta.org for information. I also offer a special thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who are already working with our books!

In Memoriam: Jean Brockschmidt

by Mary Lynn Merkle



Long-time Atlanta Branch member Jean Brockschmidt passed away on April 19 after a long illness. She has been unable to attend our meetings for quite some time because of health issues, so some of you may not know her. However, many of you will remember her (and her husband Ken) for their years of picking up books, working the bookfair, storing things at their home, and being willing to help however possible. Through the years she served in several board positions, and Atlanta Branch was one of her priorities.

She was born in Saginaw, Michigan, and was graduated from Carleton College in 1948. In addition to her husband, she is survived by a son and a daughter. The family has requested donations to the Alzheimer's Association in lieu of flowers.

There will be a memorial service for Jean in early June. The place, date, and time have not been set as of publication. When we know more, we will pass the information along directly. I'm sure that there are several of us who would like to attend if we can. ❖

2011 CARE Conference: A Brief Report

Four members of Atlanta Branch (Sharon Bevis-Hoover, Nikita Boston, Blondie Chitunya Wilson, and Colleen D'Alessandro) attended the 2011 CARE Conference and International Women's Day Celebration, held March 9 in Washington, D.C. According to the CARE website, "CARE's annual conference brings together advocates from nearly every state, partner organizations, corporations, and leaders in global health, media, and politics to advocate for the vital need for foreign assistance funding, the importance of quality education for girls, and the significance of economic opportunities for women." The first CARE conference had barely 25 attendees. 2011's conference had almost 1200, with 49 states and 40 countries represented. Attendee ages ranged from 9 to 90. Colleen D'Alessandro notes, "It was one of the more exhilarating and intense conferences I have ever attended."

In addition to typical conference meetings and sessions, the CARE event featured a Lobby Day, with attendees going to Capitol Hill to meet with their elected legislators. This year, 331 legislator meetings took place: 91 with Senate offices, 240 with Representative offices. The Atlanta Branch attendees met with Representative John Lewis and Senator Saxby Chambliss's Chief of Staff. The 2011 attendees also participated in the 100th celebration of International Women's Day.

Colleen observes, "Two of the top principles of AAUW tie directly to CARE: 1) the primary focus being women and girls, and 2) the



From left: Sharon Bevis-Hoover, Colleen D'Alessandro, Nikita Boston, and Blondie Chitunya Wilson

central commitment to education." AAUW's research is recognized in CARE's "MythBusters" report.

At the conference, the branch members learned more about CARE's corporate and academic partners and the programs they support. For example, the CRO of Goldman Sachs spoke about their "10,000 Women Initiative." In conjunction with CARE, Goldman Sachs is providing education, focused on business skills, to help women thrive in their communities. And Sharon Bevis-Hoover shared her breakfast table with Anne Knapke of Corporate Responsibility for Cargill, who discussed the company's partnership with CARE.

The attendees found CARE's The Join My Village program to be of particular interest. Its aim is to deliver education in finance, health, and literacy to women and girls in the poorest communities in the world. Colleen says, "I attended the seminar on 'Microfinance in Africa: Smart Investments and Innovative Partnerships Making A Difference.' The opening presentation was about this 'unbankable population' and how opening the door to financial security allows for other things like better health care and education to thrive. It's all interconnected, particularly in countries like Malawi. Education strengthens financial

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CARE conference attendees visit the office of Representative John Lewis



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.



Jennifer Sisson

Jennifer Sisson is an Industrial Engineering major at Georgia Institute of Technology. Her journey to get to Tech took some unusual turns along the way. She worked full-time at Publix Supermarket for nearly 10 years before realizing that going to college was the only way to improve her life. After making that decision, her life has taken some very interesting paths. She attained an Associates degree in Computer Science at Georgia

Perimeter College, then transferred to Georgia State, at the same time getting a part-time internship at Georgia Pacific in their IT department. In her AAUW Scholarship application she said, "...my world was expanding, interests increasing, and dreams growing." And then, simultaneously, she was accepted into Georgia Tech and also hired as a salaried, full-time team leader at Georgia Pacific.

While working at Georgia Pacific, she maintained a very high grade-point average at Tech. As she began her senior year, she was hired by

a professor at Tech as a research assistant. She says that her "academic interests lie with Systems engineering—understanding process, systems, the flow things (people, goods, resources) and how to most efficiently and effectively use them. I have two goals upon graduation. One is to work in humanitarian logistics and ideally, in an emergency preparedness/response organization... Two, I would like to pursue at a minimum a Master's degree and potentially a Doctorate... My biggest goal in life is to keep learning, experiencing, and growing as a person." A letter of recommendation that accompanied Jennifer's application discusses her "numerous challenging responsibilities at Georgia Pacific" while maintaining a high GPA in a "strenuous curriculum". It goes on to say that "Only a person with her disciplined sense of fulfillment would be able to accomplish this." The scholarship committee concurred and was happy that we could award Jennifer one of our Atlanta Branch, AAUW, local scholarships for 2010. ❖

CARE (continued)

understanding, and finances enable better education and all lead to a stronger, healthier community and more stable populations and governments."

Atlanta Branch was not the only AAUW organization to have representation at the conference. Two people from AAUW National were there, and at least two other chapters sent attendees. Sharon says, "I wish AAUW had attempted to identify its members and set an opportunity to meet up." If the experiences of this year's attendees are any measure, AAUW will be back at the CARE conference next year; perhaps such a get-together can be arranged! ❖



From left: Colleen D'Alessandro, Blondie Chitunya Wilson, and Nikita Boston enjoy a concert at the conference

New Campus Group In Development Stage

by Betty Slater

Diana Dey, an Atlanta branch member, along with college advisor Dr. Myra Carmon, are organizing a campus group at Georgia State University. Diana has eight women who are interested in starting a student group on the Georgia State University downtown campus. Diana has some wonderful leadership and perseverance in working with Georgia State University's administration. Please give her a word of encouragement when you see her at the May meeting!

Agnes Scott College and Oglethorpe University have selected student leaders to attend the 2011 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders to be held on the campus of the University of Maryland, June 2–4. Lauren Kenney is a third-year Biology major at Agnes Scott College. She is from Charlotte, North Carolina. Next year, she will be serving as the Student Council President. I am certain the conference's workshops will be helpful to her as she leads women at Agnes Scott College.

Oglethorpe University, thanks to the work done by our member Colleen D'Alessandro, selected Annie Morgan, an English major who will be graduating in 2012. Annie comes from Jefferson, Georgia.

I am certain both these young women will be using the conference to encourage women on their campuses. Hopefully, the Atlanta branch members will be meeting them very soon. ❖

Contemporary Literature Group

Our Contemporary Literature group will meet on Wednesday, May 4, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Mary Hanson, xxxx X. Xxxxx Xxxxx Xx., Atlanta, xxxxx; xxx/xxx-xxxx. We will be discussing *Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah. ❖

Travel Group

The Travel group will meet on Thursday, May 12—place and time to be announced. To reserve a space, call Betty Arden at xxx/xxx-xxxx. ❖

Board Meeting

Our board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 1, at 3:00 p.m., at the home of Frances Smith. Our main “conversation” will be about HOW and WHERE we spend our hard-earned dollars. It’s very important that we get ALL the viewpoints. We hope you will try to attend and bring with you not only your own thoughts, but those of our branch members with whom you are in communication.

If you have other items/reports that you would like to have included in the agenda, please let us know!. ❖

Calendar

May

- 1 Board Meeting
- 3 Bradberry luncheon
- 4 Contemporary Lit Group
- 12 Travel Group
- 14 Branch Meeting

June

- 1 Contemporary Lit Potluck
 - 14 Combined Board Meeting
 - 16–19 National AAUW Convention (President-elect Sharon Bevis-Hoover in attendance)
 - 19 Newsletter deadline
-

ANOTHER Board Meeting

Plans are underway for a combined meeting for both old and new board members at the home of Mary Lynn Merkle. Please save Tuesday, June 14. We will have a light (and easy) dinner at 6:30 followed by lots of sharing and planning. More information will follow. ❖

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ATLANTA NEWS

Atlanta Branch AAUW
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