



JANUARY 2012 ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

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February Meeting Announcement

2011-2012 Leadership

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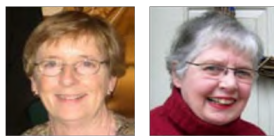
Please plan to attend our meeting on Saturday **February 4th**, which will focus on public policy. We will begin at 11 am. Diana Witt is arranging a panel to discuss legislative issues before the Georgia Assembly.

Location and Directions: The meeting will be held at the Gordon Biersch Brewery, located in a Buckhead shopping area at 3242 Peachtree Road, a block south of Piedmont. Parking is in the garage at the right of the restaurant.

This is a lunch event, and members have a choice of a roasted turkey and swiss sandwich on toasted sourdough with coleslaw or pasta marinara (fresh mozzarella, marinara source and parmesan cheese over bowtie pasta). The cost is \$20.50 each, and checks are greatly appreciated as Anne Habersetzer will not be there to help Frances Smith with registration and check in. **Please RSVP to Frances Smith by Tuesday, January 31.**

CO Presidents' Article: Be it Resolved!

By: Mary Lynn Merkle and Ruth Yurchuck



January is always a good time to reflect, evaluate and resolve. We're hoping that you will support these resolutions for AAUW Atlanta Branch for 2012. In no particular order of importance, here they are:

- BRING a friend to a 2012 meeting.
- ACCEPT the invitation to serve the branch in a leadership position.
- SUPPORT the incoming leaders as they set new goals and activities.
- ATTEND at least one general meeting this year.
- PLAN to increase participation in Bookfair including work in the bookroom.
- SUPPORT public policy initiatives that reflect AAUW's mission at the state

Local and national levels. **Continued on pg. 4**

A Tribute to a Friend

By: Ruth Yurchuck



2011 was a banner year for my close friend and colleague, Dr. Myra Carmon. Myra is relatively new member of the Atlanta Branch and was an active participant in our two planning retreats in 2010.

Most recently she worked tirelessly with Branch member Diana Dey to establish the Georgia State University (GSU) AAUW Student Organization, a first for our Branch. Our very successful Atlanta Branch fall kickoff meeting which was held on the GSU campus was primarily due to the careful planning and attention to detail which Myra and Diana provided. At our December Holiday Celebration she was recognized as a Name Grant Honoree for 2011; in my opinion, no one could be more deserving of this honor.

This year Myra's second big event was her retirement from the faculty of the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing and Health Professions at GSU, effective December 2011. The School of Nursing held a special retirement celebration in late November to honor Myra for her 25 years of service to the School and to the community. Myra was surrounded by family and friends who wanted to share this special occasion with her.

For those of you who have not met or worked with Myra in AAUW activities, I want to give you a snapshot of what an exceptional person she is. She is a certified pediatric nurse practitioner and has been active in that professional organization locally and nationally. She is a past president of the Georgia Nurses Association (GNA); and as Legislative Committee member, devoted many hours in lobbying state legislators to support legislation that would promote improved

health care outcomes for clients in all settings. Her years of lobbying work were critical in passing legislation allowing Advanced Practice Nurses in Georgia to have prescriptive authority. Under her leadership legislators were encouraged to see the improved health care benefits for citizens of Georgia, particularly those without health insurance, in rural areas and in metro Atlanta.

Myra is an active member of the Atlanta Woman's Club (AWC), which is a part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the largest volunteer service organization for women in the country. This organization is non-sectarian and non-partisan, and its main purpose is community improvement through service in specific areas of work such as promoting education, encouraging healthy lifestyles, preserving natural resources, and working toward world peace. She is now serving a second term as chair of the AWC Board of Trustees which manages rental of our meeting place, the Wimbish Mansion at Peachtree and 14th Streets. Funds from rentals support the programs of described above. She spends countless hours working with our employed staff and seeing that the facility is maintained in excellent condition.

Myra maintains a schedule that would overwhelm most people with professional and volunteer responsibilities. Her husband Ken, daughters Angela and Belinda and son Warren, (all residing in the metro Atlanta area) have supported her in all phases of her life, and she is grandmother to seven grandchildren. Myra's contributions to the Atlanta Branch are just beginning, and we are most fortunate to have Myra in our midst.

Report from AAUW Funds Committee

By: Phyllis Miller



AAUW Atlanta Branch allocated \$7,000 to AAUW National Funds, which allowed the Atlanta Branch to name three Name Grant Honorees for year 2011 - 2012.

They are: Dr. Myra Carmon, Diana Dey, and Carol Fetters (in memor-

iam). Announcement of these honorees was made at the December Celebration Tea. Dr. Carmon and

Diana Dey were honored for their contributions to establishing the Branch's first collegiate organization at Georgia State University (GSU) and their work preparing for the fall kickoff meeting at GSU in September. Carol Fetters was recognized for her long-time contribution as hostess of the Branch Contemporary Literature group. These women have truly made significant contributions to the mission of AAUW.

Public Policy Report: Program Notes

By: Diana Witt



I look forward to 2012 and the exciting program we have planned for February 4 at Gordon Biersch. Since it is an election year, the Public Policy committee is using the program time in February to bring you up to date on what has happened since several of us attended the workshops hosted by Georgia Women for Change, and the 2012 project in September and November. Ann Rosenthal from GWC will address us on how AAUW might support women in Georgia who want to run for public office on the federal, state and local level. She will also discuss the initiatives in sex trafficking and other leg-

islation that we all have been following. I am hoping to have representatives from the Atlanta Junior League and the League of Women Voters, who also attended the Nov. 10 GWC workshop. They will discuss the public policy initiatives of their organizations and how AAUW Atlanta can collaborate with these groups to move the agenda we all share: Making things better for women and girls in Georgia.

Please plan to attend this important meeting on February 4th. Meeting details are on the front cover of the newsletter.

A Look Back at our Holiday Celebration

By: Mary Lynn Merkle



Could this have been the best Holiday Celebration ever? The weather was great, Mary and Darwin's hospitality was outstanding (as always), and the Silent Auction was very successful.

Adding to the Celebration was the attendance of five former Young Women's Leadership Program fellows: Mireille Kibibi, Duaa Khalid, Fatmata Katter, Sylvia Murerwa, and Marie Kwizera. Each of the young women updated us as to their current activi-

ties. All are enrolled in higher education, and they thanked AAUW Atlanta Branch for helping to make their successes possible.

Accompanying the women were three staff members from Refugee Family Services: Leann Malone, Director of Development (and the one who made all the arrangements); Debora Furce, Youth and School Services Program Manager; and Danice Brown, After School Program Coordinator.

It was certainly one of the best!!!

Update on GSU Elect Her Project

By: Sarah Hegener



A few weeks ago, I met with AAUW GSU Affiliate Branch Faculty sponsor Myra Carmon to discuss the exciting plans for the Elect Her program taking place this spring at GSU. The Elect Her event will be a program inviting college women to learn about how to run for and become elected to Student Government officer positions at Georgia State. GSU women will be invited for an afternoon of discussion with experienced campaign winners at the GSU Dalbergh Hall. Panel members will give their testimony on how to run an

effective campaign for a student government position, and why women should become involved in the SGA if they are interested in pursuing a political career. The panel members have not yet been finalized. Details of the program are in the process of being refined but thus far the GSU Branch has reserved a date in the middle of March for the event. We plan to give the GSU branch and Dr. Myra Carmon all the support we can for this event. If you have any ideas please contact me at shegener1@student.gsu.edu More details to come!

Contents

- January Board Meeting pg.1
- Co-Presidents' Article pg.1
- A Tribute to a Friend: Myra Carmon pg. 2
- Report from Funds Committee pg. 2
- Public Policy Report pg. 3
- A Look Back at our Holiday Celebration Pg. 3
- GSU Elect Her Update pg. 3
- Travel Group/Book Group pg. 4
- Calendar pg. 4

Co-Presidents' Article continued

- **FIND** a place in our relationship and plans to work with Cool Girls, Inc. where you can participate
- **ATTEND** at least one of the AAUW of Georgia meetings.
- **PREPARE** an elevator speech about the value of AAUW membership to share with old or new acquaintances.

FEEL FREE to add your personal AAUW resolution to this list and share your additions with Branch members!.

Calendar

January 28: Board meeting

February 1: Contemporary literature meeting at Connie Eshenour's home; 7:30pm

February 4: February meeting at Gordon Bierch Brewery; 11:00am

February 9: Travel Group meeting at the Academy of medicine at Georgia Tech; 1-30am

March 1: Newsletter article submission deadline

March 7: Contemporary literature meeting

March 8: Travel group; place and time TBA

March 24: Branch meeting at Spellman College

Travel Group Meeting:

Academy of Medicine GaTech

The Travel Group will meet on February 9th to view the newly restored Historic Academy of Medicine at Georgia Tech located at the corner of 7th and West Peachtree. The grand opening is scheduled for this month. We will meet at the entry at 10:30 a.m. After our tour we will have lunch together. Call Betty Arden for more information.

February Book Group Meeting

The next meeting of the book group will be Wednesday, February 1 at the home of Connie Eshenour, 1393 Holly Bank Circle, Dunwoody, GA. We'll discuss *Sacred Hearts* by Sarah Dunant. Begin gathering about 7:30 PM with discussion starting about 8:00 PM. Questions contact Kay Collins