



MARCH 2012 ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN | VOL. 62 No. 5

March Branch Meeting

2011-2012 Leadership

Co Presidents

Mary Lynn Merkle & Ruth Yurchuck
presidents@aauwatlanta.org

President Elect

Sharon Bevis-Hoover
presidentelect@aauwatlanta.org

Program Vice President

Pat Bevis programs@aauwatlanta.org

Membership Vice President

Dot Ransom membership@aauwatlanta.org

Board Secretary

Diana Witt Board-secretary@aauwatlanta.org

Branch Meeting Secretary

Blondie Chitunya Wilson & Betty Slater
Member-secretary@aauwatlanta.org

Treasurer

Alta Birdsong treasurer@aauwatlanta.org

University Relations

Betty Slater universityrelations@aauwatlanta.org

Community Action

Tami Anderson
communityaction@aauwatlanta.org

Diversity

Bea Meyer diversity@aauwatlanta.org

Historian

Sarah Rondeau historian@aauwatlanta.org

Hospitality

Anne Habersetzer & Frances Smith
hospitality@aauwatlanta.org

Public Policy

Diana Witt publicpolicy@aauwatlanta.org

Public Relations

Betty Slater public_relations@aauwatlanta.org

Scholarship Chair

Barbara Buchanan scholarship@aauwatlanta.org

Web Information

Terry Eshenour webmaster@aauwatlanta.org

Finance Co-Chairs

Huiping Du & Lynn Fountain
finance@aauwatlanta.org

Contemporary Literature

Kay Collins advisory@aauwatlanta.org

Travel Group

Betty Arden travel@aauwatlanta.org

Gourmet Evening

Sally Byers gourmet@aauwatlanta.org

Advisory Committee Chair

Kay Collins advisory@aauwatlanta.org

Publications

Sarah Hegener publications@aauwatlanta.org

AAUW Funds

Phyllis Miller aauwfunds@aauwatlanta.org

AAUW Atlanta Branch will hold its March 2012 meeting at historic Spelman College on **March 24th**. The meeting will begin at 11 am in the Suites Dining Room where Dr. Geneva Baxter, Associate Dean and a member of our Branch, will speak about Spelman's rich history. Please RSVP by **March 19th** to Frances Smith. Please RSVP by email if possible.

This is a lunch meeting with a "Salad Sensation" buffet featuring chicken, tuna, garden pasta, potato and tossed salads, assorted breads, beverage and dessert. The cost will be \$13.00

Directions to Spelman:

From I-75/85 North and South :Take I-20 West and exit (#55B) at Lee Street.

Turn right onto Lee Street and continue through the next traffic light (Westview Drive). You will see a large parking lot on the right-hand side. Turn right into the first driveway and you will approach the gates of Spelman College.

From I-20 West Exit (#55A) at Lowery Blvd. Cross Lowery Blvd. and continue on Oak Street to the next traffic light. Turn left onto Lee Street and cross the bridge over I-20 and continue through the next two traffic lights. You will see a large parking lot on the right-hand side. Turn right into the first driveway and you will approach the gates of Spelman College.

From I-20 East Exit (#55B) at Lee Street. Turn right onto Lee Street and continue through the next traffic light (Westview Drive). You will see a large parking lot on the right-hand side. Turn right into the first driveway and you will approach the gates of Spelman College.

From Downtown Atlanta :Take Peachtree Street south to Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and turn right. Continue on M.L. King Jr. Drive to Northside and turn left. Continue on Northside through next four traffic lights (passing Burger King on the right). Turn right at the fifth traffic light (Westview). Continue on traffic at the corner of Westview and Lee Street. Turn right onto Lee Street; then turn right into the gate of Spelman College

Parking:

There are public safety booths located at both gates of the College. Upon your arrival, the public safety officers will inform you of where to park and give other directions and instructions as needed. Members can park in the Fine Arts lot, which is the first parking lot on the left after you pass the security checkpoint.

If members want to park in the parking deck, the entrance is on the right after you pass the security check point. If you use the parking deck, park on the second level and exit from the rear. The exit will lead them directly to the Suites, which will be on their right. Student volunteers will direct participants to the Suites Dining Room.

Co-Presidents' Article: Opportunities Everywhere

By: Ruth Yurchuck and Mary Lynn Merkle



As we consider our AAUW mission, "seeking equity for women and girls," we find all sorts of places where we can participate in and gain additional skills in implementing that mission. We are currently partnering with some programs at Cool Girls, Inc. and may be continuing that partnership in years to come. Anyone of us is invited to take the training to become a mentor to one of the girls (grades 2-12) who are being served. Project chair Pam Antinori has taken that training and can answer your questions about it.

Cool Girls, Inc. is also planning a fundraiser, the 11th annual Hot Pink Party, on April 28th at the Georgia Aquarium. There will be celebrities, refreshments and a silent auction, etc. Tickets are \$100.

Do you read some of those opinion pieces in our local newspapers and think, "Someone should respond to that!" AAUW is planning a webinar to help us do exactly that. AAUW's Webinar on Writing Op Eds for Advocacy will be held on Wednesday, March 14th at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in participating, go to <http://bit.ly/vggQx4> (or go to the AAUW.org website and find Samuel Lehman, AAUW's Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator).

Emory University's Center for Women is offering a keynote address "Women and Water: Empowering Women to Create a Sustainable Future" on March 22nd, 7:00 p.m. at the Center for Ethics. If interested, check their website.

AAUW of Georgia will have its 2012 State Convention in Savannah on Friday evening, April 13th and Saturday, April 14th. The very exciting guest from AAUW is Linda Hallman, our Executive Director. It will be a fine Convention in a beautiful city. Details will be in the "Cherokee Rose" coming out soon.

The dates are set for our 2012 Bookfair. The Bookfair provides us with the funds to support our endeavors on behalf of equity for women and girls. Help is desperately needed for the pick-up of donated books at our Bookdrops and for sorting and packing those boxes of books. Please see Ruth, Mary Lynn, or Sharon for more information if you can help.

And the dates you should save???. Sunday, September 23rd is the set-up day; opening night is Tuesday, September 25th; and the sale continues through Sunday, September 30th. We need everyone!!

We hope everyone will find a niche to make her Branch membership rewarding and personal. The above list includes just a few ideas. The list of needs and opportunities is long. The more participation we have, the stronger our Branch will become. We hope you'll each sign on or sign up!

scholarships. Boys went to college to be doctors and lawyers. Boys went into family businesses with their fathers. Girls, on the other hand, were class secretaries and prom planners. Girls were the team cheerleaders, and there were no scholarships for them. Girls became nurses and teachers and secretaries and elementary principals.

Do I Hear an Echo?

By: Mary Lynn Merkle



While I was in Florida last month I received a phone call from my eight-year-old grandson, Sam. He had been assigned to do an oral history report, and he picked me to be his subject. After I recovered from realizing that I was a "historical figure" in his eyes, I began to respond to his very thought-provoking questions.

One of his first questions was if I felt I had the same opportunities as boys did when I was in school. No, I didn't! But times were different in the Mid-20th Century. I knew that boys were class presidents. Boys were sports heroes who regularly received college

When women married and started a family, the assumption was that mothers would stay home with their children, and they would become den mothers and room mothers. Continued pg. 4

Public Policy Report

By: Diana Witt



Things have been busy for AAUW Atlanta Branch on the Public Policy front. Pat DeWitt, some of the and some of Cobb County Branch members attended the GA State Legislature Lobby Day Feb. 23 to advocate for the GA Job Family Collaborative

HB 432 (Family Care Act) and other women's issues. I was unable to attend, but hope to be able to go to the March event. On other fronts, our Georgia State Student Affiliate chapter is holding their ElectHer conference on March 9. I am out of town, but our president will be attend. I will see everyone at Spelman in 2 weeks, and promise to have more to report in April.

March Travel Group Recap

The Travel Group enjoyed lunch together at the Four Seasons restaurant. The word that come to mind "elegant." Prior to lunch the group toured The Art of Gaman: Arts and Crafts from the Japanese American Internment Camps 1942-1946, the current exhibit at the Breman Jewish Heritage and Holocaust Museum. The word that comes to mind is "poignant."

If you are interested in "traveling Atlanta and environs," contact Betty Arden at 770/955-6381. Pictured from the left and around the table are Dottie McCulloch, Billie Collier, Phyllis Miller, Vallie Staten, Kay Collins, Sally Byers, and Betty Arden)



Spotted: Betty in the AJC!

By: Sarah Hegener



Betty Slater made her debut in the Atlanta Journal Constitution on Friday, March 9th! She is pictured below showing off her basketball skills at the Atlanta FanFest. FanFest is an exciting annual event that was hosted by Phillips Arena during the ACC Tournament basketball games last week. Betty and other fans were able to enjoy music, games, competitions, food and beverages, and appearances by ACC Legends. Georgia Tech fan, Betty, is shown participating in one of the FanFest games before the Georgia Tech vs. Miami Basketball

game on Thursday, March 8th. We are excited to see a member of AAUW Atlanta in the AJC. Impressive skills Betty! Keep up the good work! Check out the photo-gallery at ajc.com to see more photos from the event.



GSU Elect Her program Success

By: Mary Lynn Merkle



Congratulations to the Georgia State University Branch of AAUW for their sponsorship of an Elect Her workshop held on March 9th. Tasha Cole, a trained facilitator from the Elect Her program led a very informative set of activities to help young women get started in the elected office process and encouraged the participants to begin by getting involved in student government.

Special accolades are due Dr. Myra Carmon (advisor of the student branch and Atlanta Branch member), Ms. Diana Dey (president and Atlanta Branch member), and Ms. Betty Slater (Atlanta Branch's College/University Relations chair). This team procured an outstanding line-up of speakers who had much to share with the students.

Bookfair Fun and Friendships

By: Mary Lynn Merkle



All year long AAUW prepares for our annual Bookfair fundraising event by collecting book donations from the Whole Foods location on LaVista Rd and from the Bookroom in Buckhead. We are very grateful for the generous donations that make Bookfair possible. The yearlong effort of gathering and storing these book donations has proven to be a fun experience for all involved. We are united in our love for the betterment of the lives of women and girls, and it delights me to see the women of AAUW working together to raise funds for this cause. Pictured are Phyllis Miller who is emptying the AAUW

book drop at the Whole Foods on LaVista, and Mary Lynn Merkle, who is loading books into the van for delivery to the bookroom. You can see how much fun they're having by their smiles. Won't you join the fun!?



Do I Hear and Echo? continued

We joined AAUW so we could hang-out with other interesting informed women. And we all felt we were fulfilling our destinies. Then came Betty Friedan's The Feminine Mystique and MS magazine with Gloria Steinem who told us that we could be good wives and mothers AND MORE! Our AAUW Branch did "consciousness raising."

We began attending school board meetings and town council meetings, and some of us ran for the school board and the town council. We shared our newfound freedom to be whole with our sons and daughters. They began their growth into freedom by entering careers not on gender stereotypes, but by their particular skills and affinities. Women could be doctors, and men could be nurses and would be

respected for their choices. And all was well. Then the presidential election debates of 2012 began. The pundits, the columnists, the candidates on all sides began attacking some of those freedoms women (and families) have taken for granted for many years. To some of the writers and speakers women have a place; and it should be their pleasure to return to those days of yore when families are nuclear, after-school and daycare programs are far-off memories, and life is once again a "fairytale of perfection." Not a chance! Women have worked toward equity and fairness for almost 50 years. We're not there yet, but surely we won't take a step back! We will rise up once again and demand equal opportunities. Thank you, Sam, for reminding me of another time—and how far we've come!

Calendar:

March 17: Board Meeting, 10:00 AM
 March 24: General Meeting, 11:00 AM
 April 1: Newsletter Submission Deadline
 April 4: Contemporary Literature, 7:30 PM
 April 12: Travel Group
 April 13 & 14: AAUW of Georgia, Savannah

Bookfair 2012 Dates

- **Bookfair 2012:** September 23, through September 30.
- **Set-up:** Sunday evening, 9/23.
- **Opening nite sale:** Tuesday, 9/25.
- **Sale continues:** Wednesday 9/26 thru Sunday 9/30.

Contents

- March Meeting Announcement pg.1
- Co-Presidents' Article pg. 2
- Do I Hear an Echo? pg. 2
- Public Policy Report pg. 3
- GSU Elect Her Update pg. 3
- Calendar pg. 4
- Do I Hear an Echo Continued pg. 4
- Finding Fun and Friendships pg. 4
- Bookfair Save the Date pg. 4

Contemporary Literature

The April 4 meeting will be at the home of Mary Hanson, xxxx Atlanta; xxx-xxx-xxxx. The book to be discussed is "Infidel" by Ayaan Hirsi Ali.