

APRIL 2012 ATLANTA BRANCH

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN | VOL. 62 No. 6



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Join us at the April Branch Meeting

Please join AAUW Atlanta Branch for our April Meeting Luncheon. The meeting will be held on **April 21st** at the 57th Fighter Group Restaurant at **11.00am**.

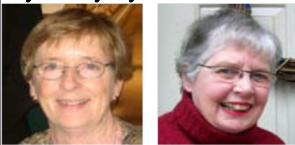
Please make reservations with Frances Smith by April 16th. RSVP by email is preferred.

For lunch, there will be a delicious deli buffet serving beer cheese soup, penne pasta salad, garden salad, seasonal fruit salad, chicken salad, honey glazed ham, slow roasted prime rib, sliced American and Swiss cheeses, and a variety of breads and rolls. There will also be lettuce, tomatoes, pickles and mayonnaise available to complete your sandwich. Dessert will be assorted cookies and brownies and beverages will be coffee, tea and soft drinks. A cash bar will also be available. The cost is **\$25.00** with gratuity and tax included. The Program will consist of reports from the CARE potential Signature Project and from the Nominating and Bylaws Committees.

57th Fighter Group Restaurant is located at 3829 Clairmont Road. Directions are as follows: The restaurant is on Clairmont Rd. between I-85 and Peachtree Industrial Blvd. From P'tree Industrial, go south on Clairmont. Pass the airport entrance road. The restaurant driveway will be on the left, approximately 1.1 miles from P'tree Industrial. From I-85 go north on Clairmont 2.25 miles, the driveway will be on the right.

Co-Presidents' Article: Making Strides

By: Mary Lynn Merkle and Ruth Yurchuck



Members of the Atlanta Branch are individuals with diverse experiences and opinions. We relish these differences because they create healthy discussions and lead to taking appropriate actions on behalf of the Branch. But there is one thing we do share, commitment to our

mission statement: advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. We have evidence that our Branch activities have advanced equity for women since the beginning of this year, 2012. Some examples:

- At our March meeting at Spelman College, former NCWSL attendees Lauren Kenney...pg. 5

Ready, Set, Bookfair 2012!

By: Barbara Buchanan

NOW IS THE TIME TO START WORKING ON THE BOOKFAIR. As we get closer to the sale, personnel in the Bookroom will be too busy to train new volunteers, so please do not put off until tomorrow what you can do today.

Bookfair proceeds are divided between the Atlanta, Cobb and North Fulton AAUW Branches, based on how many hours members of those Branches work. If Atlanta members do not do their part during the year, **the Atlanta Branch loses money!** And remember, your work in the Bookroom is counted at 1½ times the same amount of hours working at the sale in the Fall; picking up books from a book drop location counts twice as many hours as work done at the sale.

There are many different job opportunities in the Bookroom to be filled:

- We need volunteers to help sort new books as they are delivered to the Bookroom. (counts as 1½ time)
- Bookdrops are continuously being filled with donated books. We need helpers to empty them and bring them to the Bookroom. (counts as double time)

Throughout the year leading up to our Bookfair, a few Atlanta Branch members work diligently to make the sale a success. Many of those volunteers also hold of-

fices and/or perform other jobs in various capacities within the Branch, in addition to Bookfair work. **If more members of our Branch joined them in the Bookroom, the work load would be much lighter for us all** and the Atlanta Branch would continue to receive the same portion of money. If you have mobility/lifting restrictions we can find light, sedentary jobs for you. If your time is limited, volunteering even a few hours per month will help. The Bookroom is usually open on Tues/Thurs/Sat from 10:00 to 2:00. It is located at 3060 Pharr Court North, Atlanta GA 30305 in the Buckhead area. Call the Bookroom at 404/261-7646 if you need directions to the Bookroom or have any questions.

**Bookfair earns the money
that fuels the
AAUW powerhouse. How
much money the Atlanta
Branch has, as well as how
we distribute it, depends on
you.**

I Will Not be MissRepresented!

By: Sarah Hegener



I came across a website that immediately caught my attention while browsing the internet one day last month. The site, misrepresentation.org, is dedicated to a documentary produced by a group of female independent film makers that has hit home with many women across America. The film, written by Jennifer Newsome, was aired at the Sundance Film Festival in 2011 and was premiered on the new Oprah Winfrey Network. The film explores how the media's misrepresentations of women have led to the underrepresent-

ation of women in positions of power and influence. It exposes how the media sells American youth on the concept that women and girls' value lies in their youth, beauty and sexuality. I think we can all agree that the sooner we break that cycle of oppression, the better for all women and girls.

The MissRepresentation campaign is working to raise awareness for the film that brings this issue to light. They are doing so using social media, schools, and communities to promote the screening.

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Public Policy Report

By: Diana Witt



On March 27 I attended the Women's Herstory event held at the AT&T center by the newly formed National Center for Civil and Human Rights. This center will be located on land acquired from Coca Cola. Funding for construction is in place and building will begin soon, with completion expected in 2014. The Civil Rights Center shares many partners with AAUW Atlanta. Among them are Agnes Scott College, Cool Girls Inc., Georgia Women for a Change and Georgia State University. I had a nice conversation with Deborah Richardson, who is on the board of the Center, about ways in which AAUW and the Center might partner together in the future. I urge you to visit the Center website, <http://www.civilandhumanrights.org> to look at their mission and programs. The keynote speaker for the AT&T event was historian and activist Malika Saada Saar. She spoke about one of our signature issues: sex trafficking. Among other things, she noted that while victims of international sex trafficking are rescued and sheltered, the United States is the only country where sex trafficking victims are blamed and given criminal records. They are often imprisoned rather than rescued. She noted that

against sex trafficking are being strengthened in the U.S., much still needs to be done to help the victims of this crime.

There were numerous AAUW-Atlanta Branch ties to other institutions at this event. Among them, Refugee Family Services representatives were there, in partnership with the Georgia Council for International Visitors, a very interesting group that helps international students visiting Georgia to experience Atlanta's educational and cultural opportunities. The moderator for the program was Laifi Maparyan, who spoke at the Georgia AAUW State Conference at Kennesaw a few years back. Best of all, LaToryia Maddox, a sixth grader with the Cool Girls program, introduced the keynote speaker. She did a wonderful job and provided additional evidence that Cool Girls is an excellent partnership fit for our branch. Many of the people at this event will be at the Cool Girls fundraiser on April 28. I plan to attend, and I hope to further connections with many of the organizations with which I networked. It's very important that we target these like-minded associations for further collaboration and possible AAUW membership. I'll keep you posted.

Strong Women build Strong Colleges

By: Sarah Hegener



AAUW traveled to Spelman College's beautiful Atlanta campus on Saturday, March 23 for our branch meeting. The meeting very inspirational; as we had the opportunity to speak with Spelman faculty members about the amazing programs they have implemented for their students. Dr. Tarshia Stanley, Chair of the English Department, presented a brief history of Spelman. Ms. Angela Boudreax, a Spelman graduate and Coordinator of the Social Justice Program talked about the fairly new Social Justice Fellows Program, a program which is designed to involve the women at Spelman in social policy advocacy in both the nonprofit and business sectors. The SJF program provides top notch students with need

based scholarships to help fund their education at Spelman. Dr. Cynthia Neal, a sociology professor who leads the SJF program states: we want to produce women who are equipped with the intellectual engagement and personal experiences required of 21 century change agents. In addition, we want to produce women who hold positions where they are able to make structural changes in the ways we address the needs of persons in society who are voiceless. This statement cannot be more true in a time when women are on the brink of breaking through the social stigma that prevents them from pursuing positions of power.

Continued pg. 4

Strong Women Build Strong Colleges, Continued

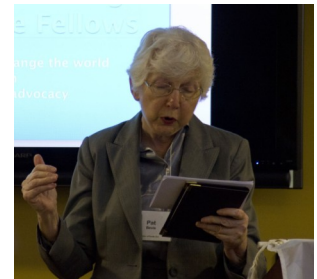
The SJF program provides participants with both faculty and alumnae mentors, as well as internships in the realm of social advocacy. These experiences are designed to foster relationships between the students and advocacy agencies and to give students the opportunity to work hands-on with potential future employers. We were very impressed with the presentation we saw at Spelman and inspired by the hard work the faculty has put forth to create such a great opportunity for students. The SJF Program allows Spelman women to take charge of their futures- not only to make a difference in their communities but to stand up as strong women and let their voices be heard.

Spelman also provided us with a delicious lunch and good fellowship. Three collegiate women

who attend AAUW Atlanta affiliate universities joined us at the meeting: Diana Dey (Georgia State University), Sequenza Williams (Clark Atlanta University), and Lauren Kenney (Agnes Scott College). We are glad these women were able to join us for such a delightful afternoon. Below are photos taken at the event by Huiping Du.



Faculty member Dr. Tarisha Stanley



Pat Bevis speaking at our business meeting



Betty Slater introducing our collegiate members



Sharon Bevis-Hoover speaking at our meeting



Former Spelman student Angela Boudreax

AAUW Sponsors Cool Girls Events

By: Pam Antinori

AAUW Atlanta will be making generous donations to several of Cool Girls Inc.'s upcoming events! We will be sponsoring Cool Girls Inc.'s annual Pink Party Gala, a fashion show featuring the members of CG's after school program. The event will take place at the elegant Georgia Aquarium on April 28. AAUW has made a donation of \$2500 to go towards the Gala, which affords us the "Inspire Level" donation title. Our donation has also reserved 8 tickets for our members to attend the event on April 28. The following members will be attending: Mary Lynn Merkle, Sharon Bevis-Hoover, Pat Bevis, Diana Witt, Betty Slater, Pam Antinori, and Gillian Horsley. Gillian is also generously donating one of

her beautiful paintings to the Cool Girls Inc. live auction which takes place the night of the Pink Party Gala. We greatly appreciate Gillian for making this donation in representation of AAUW Atlanta!

Cool Girls Inc will also be hosting their annual "Beautiful Me" day long event at Clark Atlanta University on May 11. The subject of the event is teen pregnancy. We would love to further our support of Cool Girls by making donations to this event as well. Cool Girls has requested that sponsors donate toiletry items to be given as gifts to the girls attending "Beautiful Me". We would greatly appreciate members of our branch donating a bottle of body lotion. Items may be brought to our April 21 meeting, or given to... Continued pg. 7

Human Trafficking Victim Numbers Soar

By: Sarah Hegener



An astounding 2.4 million people have fallen victim to human trafficking crimes at any given time, 80% of which are forced into sexual labor. This devastating fact was announced by the UN Crime fighting office in their report on the increasing prominence of human trafficking around the world. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime estimate that the criminals facilitating these crimes are making a whopping total of \$32 billion per year in the human trading business. Unfortunately, the large majority of these criminals are never caught and only 1/100 human trafficking victims are ever rescued, says Yuri Fetov, head of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

Human Trafficking is finally beginning to receive the attention that it deserves. For years the crime has been discounted as governments across the world have focused their money and attention on other illegal trades such as drugs and weapons. M. Cherif Bassiouni, a law professor at DePaul University in Chicago, agrees with this statement Quoting, "there is no human rights subject on which governments have said so much but done so little."

Actress Mira Sorvino is the UN Goodwill Ambassador on Human Trafficking. Sorvino stresses that police forces are neglecting to take proper corrective action against sex trafficking criminals. Only about 10% of US police stations recognize human trafficking as a crime in need of specific protocol, she says.

The sad truth is that about 80% of human trafficking victims are women. Professor Bassiouni has hinted that the lack of police attention to sex crimes focused on women is a result of our patriarchal society. "We must change attitudes of male-dominated police departments throughout the world who place this type of a crime at the lowest level of their law enforcement priorities", he says.

Currently, the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Sex Trafficking have pledges of about \$1 million but the fund has only received \$307,000 in contributions. We hope to see these donations increasing, and to see the appropriate amount of attention paid to this horrific crime in the future.

This article is based on the report by Edith M. Nederer for ABCnews.go.com

Making Strides Continued



(senior at Agnes Scott College) and Diana Dey (Georgia State University student) were present. Also

present was Sequenza Williams, Clark Atlanta University student who will be attending the 2012 NCWSL conference.

- The March 8 *Elect Her* program sponsored by the Georgia State University AAUW Student Chapter (funded by a grant awarded to the chapter) presented outstanding speakers and provided valuable experiences for students attending
- Sarah Hegener, our first Branch intern, has been accepted at the University of Georgia Law School
- The Branch approved the recommendation of

the Board of Directors to support the Cool Girls, Inc. Pink Splash Party on April 28 at the \$2,500 level. This level of commitment will help this organization continue to provide opportunities for their target population, young women.

- Applications for local scholarships for non-traditional students will be solicited from our national AAUW partner colleges and universities Georgia State, Agnes Scott, Clark Atlanta, Atlanta Metropolitan, Georgia Tech, SCAD, and Oglethorpe. The forms are available on our Branch website.

So as we continue development of signature projects and take steps to advance awareness of our Branch, we will continue to live into our Mission statement. With your help, we will grow stronger in our efforts!

GSU ElectHer deemed a Success!

By: Betty Slater

What a wonderful name for this leadership program presented by national AAUW and Running Start, a program which is committed to bringing young women to politics! In its first year, Georgia State University Chapter (our collegiate affiliate) won a \$5,000 grant to present this program on their campus. With the outstanding guidance and advising of Dr. Myra Carmon and the excitement of GSU Chapter President Diana Dey and her GSU board, an *Elect Her* program was presented on their campus on Friday, March 9, 2012.

AAUW research has found that women who run for student government will often run for political office. Ms. Tasha Cole, GSU *Elect Her* facilitator, came from Washington, D. C. to lead the students attending. She made each person feel so welcomed and encouraged each person attending to be that leader who can serve. She shared information about the numbers of women serving in our state and federal legislature: In 2011, women comprise only 17 % of Congress and 23% of state legislatures. Ms. Cole stressed that women have to be asked to run for office. Women will often put off running for office until deciding the time is right to run! Running Start works to show young women that they are qualified to lead and inspires them to think of themselves as candidates at an early age.

Dr. Carmon arranged for Ms. Stacy Abrams, the youngest minority leader for the Georgia House of Representatives, to talk with the women attending. She was so impressive in answering questions from these students and presented each of them the challenge of running. She related her experiences and told them that her method of working with the other members of the House of Representatives was to get bills out on the floor. Ms Abrams expressed the need for more

Georgia women to run for political office. She spoke from the heart and is very willing to give her time to encourage women to be involved in the political process. Following Rep Abrams, Grace Lee, Vice President of GSU student government, shared her story of running for office on the college campus.

She talked about setting clear goals for the college so that students will know her issues. Her comments reinforced the "Nuts and Bolts" exercise on stating their strategy to win on their college campus with issues that they felt were important to Georgia State University. Clark Atlanta University's Caroline Archia-Adams, assistant to a Georgia legislator, shared with the group about her experience of working with political campaigns in New Hampshire and Wisconsin. She urged women to get involved in any way they can, and talked about the importance of building a team and knowing your goals.

Ms. Natalie White, the Marketing Director of the Atlanta Dream, gave an inspiring talk about her experience of making contacts, believing in yourself, and the importance of building with a team. She talked about making a plan and being true to yourself. The importance of the message is essential for crafting campaign messages in business and politics! Each student had the opportunity to present an "elevator speech" or a pick up talk so that people remember you!

This busy and productive workshop, *Elect Her*, ended with a reception in which the students had an opportunity to practice their speeches with each other and shared how they will continue to involve more women in their student government and serving the state of Georgia. AAUW Atlanta Branch Co-President, Mary Lynn Merkle, and College/University Relations member, Betty Slater, extended thanks to Dr. Myra Carmon and Diana Dey, Branch members, who did an outstanding job of putting on this workshop for the women of Georgia State University. The entire event was supported by the student board members. Thanks are also extended to the Byrdine Lewis School of Nursing at Georgia State University for their help in putting this event on. The hope is that next year the message will be shared with more women!

Atlanta Branch Dream Team

By: Betty Slater

On Sunday, May 27, 3:00 p.m. the Atlanta Branch has the opportunity to see our Title IX work in action! We can go as a group to see our Atlanta's Women Professional Basketball team play. Ms. Natalie White, Director of Ticket Sales and Service, has arranged for us to attend the game on Sunday, May 27 for only \$10.00. The team will be playing against Indiana. We will be inviting our Georgia State University Chapter to join us on that Sunday. This a great opportunity for our group to bring our friends, grandchildren, neighbors, and spouses to see women playing professional basketball. We can car pool or ride Marta to downtown Atlanta for the Sunday afternoon game. We need to support these women. Please let Betty Slater know by May 19 if you will be joining the group! Call or email Betty.

Local 2012 Scholarships

By: Barbara Buchanan

The Atlanta Branch has budgeted \$5,250 to distribute to Scholarship Recipients for 2012. The Board recommended, and the Branch has approved, to target students who attend one of the 7 National AAUW Partners located in the Atlanta Metro area:

1. Agnes Scott College
2. Atlanta Metropolitan College
3. Clark Atlanta University
4. Georgia Institute of Technology
5. Georgia State University
6. Oglethorpe University
7. Savannah College of Art and Design

Application and guideline information has been sent to these institutions and is also available on our web site. The deadline to submit applications is June 15.

AAUW Sponsors Cool Girls Cont.

Pan Antinori. We are all united in our support for women and girls, and this is a great way to engage in support. We appreciate your time and money donations!

MissRep Cont.

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There will be a screening of MissRepresentation in Atlanta at May 17th at the Druid Hills Golf Club. I personally plan to attend the event and would be very happy if any one would like to join me.

If you would like more information about the film and the Misrepresentation campaign, please visit them on the web at misrepresentation.org or like their page on facebook at facebook.com/MissRepresentationCampaign If you would like to attend the screening, please feel free to email.

The more people that become involved with this campaign the stronger our voices become. Let's stand up for the women of our future and speak out against our wrongful representation in today's media.

NCCSWL Leaders

By: Betty Slater

On Thursday, May 31, three young women will be leaving very early in the morning to attend the 2012 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. We are so pleased to send Gwen Hughes from Georgia Institute of Technology who will be graduating in 2015 with a major in public policy. From Georgia State University will be a college chapter member, Breonna Smart, who is getting her degree in Science/Biology in 2013. Sequenza Howes-Williams attends Clark Atlanta University. She attended our branch meeting held on March 24. She was quite impressed with our group as we all were impressed with Sequenza who will be completing her studies from Clark Atlanta University getting a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2015. We look forward to hearing about their experiences at NCCWSL in the fall.

AAUW Travels to Johns Creek

Thursday, April 5, the travel group visited Johns Creek Environmental Campus. Members enjoyed the award-winning facility which was built to provide state of the art wastewater treatment while providing walking trails and a natural environment along the Chattahoochee River.

Volunteers for ASO

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By: Betty Arden

The annually awaited Atlanta Symphony Decorators' Show House and Gardens is scheduled to be held from April 21st to May 13th (closed Mondays). Camille Yoh, chair of volunteers, has asked Atlanta Branch for help. Betty Arden, our Branch contact, has set Friday, April 27th, as Atlanta Branch day. Morning, afternoon, or both are available.

For those who would like to participate but are unavailable on April 27th, your help on any of the other dates will be appreciated.

If you are able to volunteer for the Show House, contact Betty Arden.

Contemporary Lit Group

Our May 2 meeting will discuss "Clara and Mr. Tiffany" by Susan Vreeland. The meeting will be at the home of Connie Eshenour, 1393 Holly Bank Circle, Dunwoody. Please join us starting about 7:30 PM. At our June 6 meeting we will select books for next year. We will have a pot luck supper at a place to be determined. Bring suggestions to the May meeting or give to a group member.

Calendar

April Board Meeting- April 10

April Branch Meeting- April 21 (bring lotion)

Cool Girls Pink Party Gala- April 28

Contemporary Literature Group Meeting- May 2

Board Meeting- May 6, 2:00pm

Cool Girls "Beautiful Me" day- May 11

MissRepresentation screening- May 17

Branch Annual Meeting- May 19

Atlanta Women's Basketball Game- May 27

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PAY YOUR 2012-2013 DUES

Even though our fiscal year ends on June 30, it's easier on our Membership Vice-president, Dot Ransom, if you bring your 2012-2013 dues to either the April 21st or the May 19th Branch meetings.

Dues are \$87.00 this year--\$49.00 (\$46. of which is tax deductible) to national AAUW, \$20.00 to AAUW of GA, and \$18.00 to Atlanta Branch. These are actually the same as your 2011-2012 dues. However, because the State dues weren't increased from \$10.00 to \$20.00 until after members had already renewed at the old rate of \$77.00, the Branch picked up the additional \$10.00 for all members.