

# OCTOBER 2012 ATLANTA BRANCH

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN | VOL. 63 No. 2



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## Intern Article: October Branch Meeting



Greetings from your Atlanta Branch intern! It was great to meet you all at the September meeting. This intern article will be a regular part of the newsletter that will update you on our upcoming meetings, and I hope will allow you all to learn more about me and what brought me to the AAUW Atlanta Branch.

At our next meeting, I look forward to hearing a speaker on the topic of human trafficking. In the summer of 2011, I interned with Youth Spark, a non profit organization located at the Fulton County Juvenile Court. One of the main focuses of Youth Spark is to end sex trafficking of children in Georgia through advocacy, policy initiatives, and prevention programs such as mentoring at risk girls. Through my Youth Spark internship, I found that I am especially passionate about being an advocate for vulnerable populations of women and children. When I learned that AAUW Atlanta Branch was also passionate about this cause, I knew I had found a great organization to be a part of. I hope to see you at our October Branch Meeting!

### October Branch Meeting Details:

**Date:** **Saturday October 20th**

**Time:** **9:30 a.m. – 11:30am**

**Place:** **La Madeleine** (1165 Perimeter Center West, Suite 330 Dunwoody, GA 30034) at Perimeter on Abernathy (REI is nearby). Those members wanting to order breakfast must order from the serving line by 9:30am.

**Speaker:** Maja Hasic from Tapestry Training will speak on the topic of human trafficking at 10:00 a.m. Business Meeting to follow Speaker.

*If you have not responded to the evite, please notify the Hospitality Committee by October 15th if you are coming ([hospitality@aauwatlanta.org](mailto:hospitality@aauwatlanta.org)).*

## It's My Vote, I Will Be Heard

**By:** Sharon Bevis-Hoover



As you head to the polls this November, take a look at AAUW's VoteHER Toolkit, which describes how our elected officials and candidates stack up on our AAUW priority issues. The Toolkit is part of the AAUW Action Fund's It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard Campaign to get women to

the polls and to educate them on the issues that are important to women and their families.

The VoteHER Toolkit includes three components: the [Congressional Voting Record for the 112th Congress](#), [voter guides](#) comparing...

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# Bookfair 2012: All Those Books!

By: Mary Lynn Merkle



Betty Slater welcomes customers to Bookfair 2012.

Many thanks to all Branch members, family members and friends who gave up so much of your time and energy during the week of September 23 to 30th to make the 2012 Bookfair so profitable!

Many Atlanta Branch members donned the green-with-red-trim aprons at Perimeter Mall, where they were visible carrying books, bag-



Patrons peruse the selection.

Over 70,000 books were donated to Bookfair !



“There are many little ways to enlarge your child’s world. Love of books is the best of all.”

-Jackie Kennedy

ging books, tidying books displayed, and talking to customers about books.

At this time the final dollar count is not available and we do not know the number of hours contributed by members of the participating branches. We do know that Bookfair income from the Bookfair was down about 10% from last year. Nevertheless, our Branch proceeds will allow us to continue our mission—“working toward equity for women and girls”—in important ways through our scholarships, fellowships, our Signature Projects, and other projects.

More Bookfair details are to come in our next newsletter!

Photos courtesy of Huiping Du.

# NCCWSL Leaders Reflect on their Experience

By: Amira Saleh



Each year AAUW and NASPA's Center for Scholarship, Research, and Professional Development for Women host the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

The conference was held this year at the University of Maryland and over 500 young collegiate women from all over the United States attended. The conference lasts for three days and consists of sessions designed to address the needs of both current and aspiring college women leaders. Three collegiate women who attend AAUW Atlanta affiliate universities joined us at our September meeting to discuss their experience at NCCWSL 2012: Gwen Hughes (Georgia Institute of Technology), Breonna Smart (Georgia State University), and Sequenza Williams (Clark Atlanta University).

They shared with us a power point presentation of highlights from their trip including photos of University of Maryland's beautiful campus, favorite sessions they attended, and many pictures taken with the famous mascot turtle statue.

Sequenza stated that she loved the positive and encouraging environment of the conference.

## Cool Scholars Kickoff!

By: Sharon Bevis-Hoover



On September 22nd our Atlanta Branch hosted a BBQ and College Bowl to kick off the new year for Cool Girls' Cool Scholars. Fifteen middle and high school girls participated, along with their parents or grandparents. Pam Antinori hosted and organized the event with the help of Susan Diffenderfer, Myra Carmon, Betty Slater, and me. Our Georgia State student affiliates and our NCCWSL attendees were key, leading the girls in several icebreakers so that they could get to know each other. Myra ruled the grill, and an amazing amount of hamburgers, hot dogs, and other goodies were consumed. The participants learned about our plans for the year, including college visits and Saturday workshops on topics such as career visioning, SAT/ACT preparation,



Sequenza Howes-Williams, Gwen Hughes, and Breonna Smart

A continuing theme she heard in sessions was: "It's not where you start or finish, it's what you did along the way." All three women agreed that it was refreshing to have a community of women interested in leadership around them. Sequenza stated it was if they were all saying "you can do it, you can do it!"

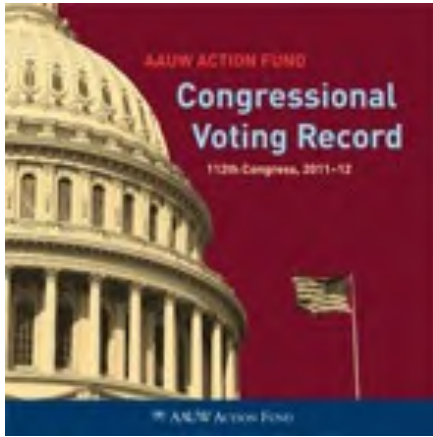
The three NCCWSL attendees then talked about their favorite sessions at the conference. *Cont. pg 5...*

and effective writing. The afternoon wrapped up with a competitive College Bowl trivia competition. The girls all left with college T-shirts, prizes, and smiling faces.



Photo courtesy of *Cool Talk*, October 2012, Cool Girls, Inc.

## It's My Vote, I Will Be Heard...Continued



Picture left: Check out the Congressional voting record at [aauwaction.org](http://aauwaction.org)

candidates in the presidential and key Senate and House races, and a summary of the [Obama administration's performance](#) in its first term. In addition, there are [four fact sheets](#) available, one for each of the issue focus areas: [access to birth control](#), [employment opportunities](#), [college affordability](#), and [fair pay](#).

AAUW has also been active with Elect Her, which encourages and trains college women to run for student government.

## A Cool Scholars Outing

By: Mary Lynn Merkle



On October 8th, the Cool Scholars from Cool Girls were treated to a day on the campus of Oglethorpe University. Nine young women toured the beautiful campus and its buildings, saw a dorm room, heard about many Oglethorpe traditions, and were provided a great lunch on behalf of President Shaw.

Atlanta Branch member Colleen D'Alessandro and special assistant to the President hosted the Cool Scholars and encouraged them to always think "college." Other Branch members accompanying the Cool Scholars were Pam Antinori (who made all the arrangements), Mary Lynn Merkle, and Betty Slater. Also joining us were Cool Girls staff members Jasmine and Yentl.

The goal is to build a pipeline of women running for office in order to diminish the long-standing political leadership gender gap. This summer, our Georgia State University Student Affiliate Group held an AAUW Elect Her event, and they are working on plans for next year.

According to Project 2012, there are a record 163 women candidates running for seats in the House, which is an improvement over the previous record of 141 in 2004. However, that still only represents 35% of the available seats in the House. With Elect Her, we strive to close the representation gap in the future.

Thanks for all that you do to support our goal of breaking through barriers for women and girls, including educating your family and friends on our priority issues. Working together, we will be heard!



The next Cool Scholars/Atlanta Branch gathering will be on October 27th when Betty Slater will lead the young women in skills, interests, and career interests. Atlanta Branch members are always invited to join!



The cool scholars who attended the outing.

## NCCWSL Leaders Reflect...Continued

Gwen's most memorable experience from NCCWSL was the opportunity to meet Lilly Ledbetter, a women's equality activist and the plaintiff in the 1998 American employment discrimination case *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.*

One of Breonna's favorite sessions was "Express Yourself Through Belly Dance". She enjoyed it so much that she decided to recreate the event on her own campus to provide GSU women the same no-pressure, fun environment she enjoyed at NCCWSL.

Sequenza, who is interested in writing and writes for her school newspaper, found "How to Get Internships in Your Field" the most helpful session she attended.

Gwen stated that it was incredibly empowering to see before her at a national level a network support system of like-minded women. "It was inspiring to see I was not the only one passionate about women's issues", said Gwen. "We were in a room with future Congresswomen, Senators, maybe even a future female president. I saw that no matter what you are doing if you are passionate about it, you can get it", added Breonna.



After what they learned at NCCWSL, our three young women were inspired to begin new leadership initiatives on their own respective campuses. Sequenza is working to start an AAUW chapter at Clark Atlanta University, Breonna heads the AAUW chapter at Georgia State, and Gwen has started Active Minds at Georgia Tech, an organization that fosters political discussion and opportunities for involvement.

Thank you to Sequenza, Gwen, and Breonna for sharing their NCCWSL experiences with us. It is by sponsoring these types of experiences for young college women that AAUW Atlanta continues to empower women and build future leaders.

## Q & A with Webmaster Terry Eshenour

**Q.** Does the Atlanta Branch have two websites? When I enter AAUWAtlanta.org in my browser the address changes to Atlanta-GA.AAUW.net Is this a spoof?

**A.** The Branch has one website that is hosted by AAUW National's Site Resources at no cost to the Branch. Web hosting is an added benefit that assures efficient and effective media for communicating. For a directory of other Branch Site Resources visit: Site-Resources.AAUW.org  
When transitioning to Site Resources in February 2012, it was decided to retain the registered domain address AAUWAtlanta.org as being less disruptive. The address is used for Branch related e-mail, too. The domain address is configured to forward to Atlanta-GA.AAUW.net Enter either address and you end up in the same location - not a spoof!

**Q.** When I go to About and Members Only, I am asked to enter a password to enter? What is the password?

**A.** The Members Only area is under construction. There is currently no content in the section. It is planned to have a digital version of the Membership Handbook and sections for discussing privately policies, plans and issues. When there is content the password will be communicated individually to Branch members.

Have a question for our webmaster? Contact him at: [webmaster@aauwatlanta.org](mailto:webmaster@aauwatlanta.org)

# Travel Group Update

By: Betty Arden

The AAUW Travel Group will meet at 10:00 a.m. on October 11th at the Atlanta Decorative Arts Center (351 Peachtree Hills Avenue, Atlanta, Ga.) for a self-guided tour of the building. Lunch will follow after the tour.

Starting October 1st, the Atlanta Decorative Arts Center's 550,000 square foot facility with over 60 showrooms will be open to the public for a limited time. The Atlanta Decorative Arts Center can be reached at 404/231-1720.

The next travel group outing will be November 8th. Please save the date and join us for an informative Atlanta area tour and lunch!

Contact Betty Arden for more details.

# Contemporary Lit Group

By: Kay Collins

The next meeting of the book group is Monday, November 5 when *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova will be discussed. We will meet at 4:00 PM at the home of Frances Smith, 1128 Club Trace, Atlanta (Brookhaven), 404-231-0482.

Our traditional holiday pot luck supper will be on Monday, December 3 at the home of Gillian Horsley, 75 Maddox Dr., Atlanta, 678-469-8187 (Midtown). We will begin gathering at 6:00 PM; bring a dish to share. We will discuss *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson. Bring a book to exchange: one that hasn't been on our reading list and that is wrapped but not identified! Remember, clever, unusual or fancy wrapping always causes your book to be chosen first! Please let Gillian know what you will be bringing: entree, salad, wine!, dessert or ?

Questions? Contact Kay Collins.

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# Calendar

- AAUW Georgia Leadership Meeting- October 13th
- October Branch Meeting- October 20th
- Deadline submit articles for Nov Newsletter- Oct 25
- 22nd Annual Georgia Women's Assembly- Oct 26
- Cool Scholars Activity- October 27th
- Board Meeting- November 3rd, 11:00 a.m.
- Contemporary Literature Group Meeting- Nov 5th
- Travel Group Outing - November 8th
- Cool Scholars Activity- November 10th
- Bookfair Celebration - November 17, 10am-12pm
- Bookfair Steering Committee Meeting- Nov 17, 12pm

# Newsletter Article Deadline Reminder

By: Amira Saleh

Thank you so much to everyone that contributes these wonderful articles to the newsletter. To ensure that the newsletter reaches everyone by the beginning of each month, we are going to make the 25th of the month the deadline to submit articles in the future. I will email out a reminder in advance. The next deadline will be October 25th. Thanks!