



# ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

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## December Branch Meeting



The December 15th branch meeting will be at the home of Mary Womack. The meeting will feature a holiday party and silent auction to benefit AAUW Legal Advocacy (LAF). Local and national scholarship winners have been invited to join us. The Named Grant honorees will also be announced.

### December Branch Meeting Details:

**Date:** December 15th

**Time:** 3:00–5:00 pm

**Place:** The home of Mary Womack

*If you have not responded to the invite, please notify the Hospitality Committee at [hospitality@aauwatlanta.org](mailto:hospitality@aauwatlanta.org).*

## Will Congress Act on Immigration Reform?

By: Sharon Bevis-Hoover



Will we see immigration reform the coming months? The majority of Americans and both the Democratic and Republican parties agree that the current immigration system is broken, but there seems to be little momentum in the House for action. Earlier this year, the Senate passed the Border Security Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act (S. 744). If enacted, this legislation would begin to put in place a path to citizenship for many of the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants in the country. It would also go a long way to secure the human rights of those immigrants, to improve our national economy, and to increase economic opportunity for all citizens.

Unscrupulous employers exploit the underground workforce of undocumented immigrants, maintaining substandard wages and working conditions. In addition, the current environment fosters human trafficking, forced labor, and domestic violence, because victims cannot report their abuse without fear of incarceration and deportation. The current legislation addresses these human rights abuses by bringing the situation out of the shadows, and with specific measures to prevent human trafficking and assist immigrant survivors of violence.

In addition, the Act includes a broad-based STEM education initiative funded through fees collected from U.S. employers who recruit foreign STEM workers.

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## 54th AAUW Annual BookFair

By: Barbara Buchanan



The Atlanta Branch's hard work on our 54th Annual BookFair has paid off. A substantial portion of the proceeds will be allocated to our Branch. Atlanta members and friends contributed 62 % of the tallied hours (up 7% over our percentage in 2012!), Cobb members worked 21%, and North Fulton's people put in 17% of the hours worked. The final result of all of our hard work, throughout the year and at the sale, will be the distribution of \$33,504.18 to our Branch. This amount is \$5,136.63 more than the Atlanta Branch's allocation of BookFair revenues last year. Our internet sales continue to be strong, netting \$24,521.74 this year.

There are many people who worked very hard to insure a successful BookFair this year. Everyone who contributed their time throughout the year deserves thanks, because we could not have done so well without each and every one of you. Atlanta Branch members and "Friends of the Branch" worked a grand total of 4,159 volunteer hours on Bookfair this year. A whopping 2875 hours of that time was spent in the Bookroom by



only 24 Atlanta members. Eleven of us worked a total of 510 hours emptying bookdrops, sometimes in brutally hot or cold weather, and always in physically demanding conditions. The finale was the week of our BookFair, during which Atlanta members worked 773 hours.

We all owe a HUGE debt of gratitude to the three Atlanta Branch BookFair "super-workers" who continue to spend so much time on this project: Joyce Cohrs, Judy Lambert and Ellen Milholland. Super-workers are those who contribute time which far exceeds time worked by the rest of our volunteers. But it is not just their time that is so valuable, but also their expertise which helps us maximize the value of the books our donors give to us.



All of you who worked at the BookFair and in the Bookroom deserve a big THANK YOU! We couldn't have done it without you. Your help makes it possible to put AAUW's mission into action.

*Turn to page 4 for our 2013 BookFair Superstars*

# Welcome New Members!

By: Billie Collier

We would like to welcome three new members to our branch. Please add their names and information to your handbook. This brings our membership up to 68 members!

**Monique Allen**

**Alika Turner**

**Gloria Williams**

# Cool Scholars Happenings

By: Mary Lynn Merkle

AAUW Atlanta branch members in partnership with Cool Girls staff meet with Cool Scholars (young women in 8th through 12th grade) once a month. Cele Covatta has undertaken the leadership for our project and works closely with Ebony Gamble, Cool Girls staff member.

The September kick-off was a time to get acquainted with the girls, and AAUW provided college T-shirts for each of the 12 girls who attended. Cool Girls hosted a "Jeopardy" type game with AAUW supplying prizes.

In October, Cele planned activities to help the young women determine some career interests, and then she lead a very interactive discussion about career experiences and dreams. Branch member Barbara Buchanan helped the girls work through important resume components and the value of creating a resume while in middle school and keeping it updated.

In November, we viewed the DVD "Misrepresentation" followed by our member **Dr. Blondie Chitunya-Wilson** (congratulations, Blondie!) sharing portions of her research on "Self Image and the Media."

Members are always invited to participate in this partnership with Cool Scholars! If interested, contact Cele Covatta for more information.



Cool Scholars are very proud of their Vision Boards

## 2013 BookFair Superstars

### BookRoom Hours

The following volunteered more than 100 hours in the BookRoom!

Bevier, Coral	216.75 hours
Bennett, Barbara	146.25 hours
Bevis-Hoover, Sharon	208.25 hours
Buchanan, Barbara	110.5 hours
Cohrs, Joyce	291.5 hours
Collier, Billie	120.25 hours
Covatta, Cele	105.5 hours
Lambert, Judy	731.25 hours
Milholland, Ellen	435.5 hours
Womack, Mary	161.5 hours

### BookDrop Hours

The following volunteered more than 50 hours retrieving books from Bookdrops:

Mary Lynn Merkle	85.25 hours
Miller, Phyllis	100 hours
Su, Daphne	234.5 hours

## Immigration Reform Continued...

By: Sharon Bevis-Hoover

According to Lisa Maatz, Vice President of Public Policy, "AAUW believes funds from this initiative can be used to attract and retain more U.S. women in the STEM workforce in order to maximize innovation, creativity, and competitiveness; boost efforts to close the gender wage gap; and end reliance on foreign temporary workers."

AAUW supports these Senate-passed acts and urges the House to take up immigration reform. You can make your voice heard on this issue by investing just two minutes to urge Congress to [take action](#) on immigration reform.

## Encouraging Creativity in the Classroom

By: Amira Saleh

Can creativity be taught? I don't think so. At least not explicitly. Certain skills that allow creativity to flourish in the classroom environment can and should be prioritized however. The wonderful thing about creativity is it is often a reflection of personality and self. It is a spark, a curiosity, that should be nurtured and encouraged to grow.

In education, we can get caught up in test results based learning, overscheduling the day, and pushing students to learn faster rather than at a developmentally appropriate progression. I wonder if testing tunnel vision squelches creativity in our students. When I think of creativity, I think of one of my kindergarten students. He is one of the most imaginative kids I have ever met. Every story he writes has a detailed picture accompanied by strings of inventive spelling and symbols. He is always creating something in the classroom whether it be a robot from recycled materials, putting on a play about ninjas, or drawing a detailed map of how to find a secret treasure in our school. He is eager to share his ideas in class discussions and seems fueled by a desire to create and discover more. I want to nurture this type of learning environment in my classroom.

When I think of testing tunnel vision, I think of students memorizing information, spitting it back, and then forgetting it. When students are given the opportunity to pursue their own questions and interests, it gives them a sense of competence and desire to learn. Opportunities for students to discover their own learning, to be innovators, to think for themselves rather than repeat what they've been told all encourage creativity. When the value of creativity is held high in a classroom, it frees up the space for the learning to begin that will stay with students past test day.

## Travel Group Update

By: Betty Arden

On December 12th, the travel group will enjoy a 10:00 am guided tour of the Clough Commons at Georgia Tech. At the academic crossroads of the campus adjacent to the library, Clough Commons is an iconic example of environmental sustainability in the city of Atlanta. Car pools will leave from the Ansley Mall Kroger store at 9:15 am. Lunch will follow the tour at a nearby Atlantic Station restaurant.

Questions? Contact Betty Arden.

## Contemporary Lit Group

By: Kay Collins

The Contemporary Literature group will meet on Monday December 2, at about 6:00 pm, at the home of Gillian Horsley. We will have a pot luck supper before discussing *The Chaperone* by Laura Moriarty. We will also have a book exchange.

Refer to the Directory or contact Kay Collins for the full list of book selections.

Questions? Contact Kay Collins.

## Submit Newsletter Articles

By: Amira Saleh

The deadline to submit articles for the January newsletter is December 20th. Please email them to me. I welcome any ideas or feedback you would like to send my way. Thanks!

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## Calendar

Contemporary Literature Meeting: December 2

Travel Group Outing: December 12

Atlanta Branch Holiday Celebration: December 15

Deadline to Submit January News Articles: Dec 20th

AAUW National Convention, San Diego: Jun 18-21, 2015

## Bookroom Closed over the Holidays



The Bookroom will be closed December 21 through January 6. However, any volunteer who has a key to the Bookroom and a white security pass card to enter the building may work or deliver books during that time. Happy Holidays!