



ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

2014-2015 Leadership

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
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Embracing the Changes: Autumn Reflections

By: Ayesha Kirk



As fall finally arrives in Atlanta, it is helpful to remember the changes we see in the world around us often mirror the changes learned from our personal and professional interactions which can guide us toward new seasons of change. Upheaval can be seen within the political and social dimensions of society both domestically and abroad, but upheaval is only negative if we assign that value to it. The upcoming November elections will bring changes locally and nationally, changes that are a necessary component to our growth and development as a democratic republic. There are several simple, but important things we can do to ensure election of people who promote improving the status of women in the workplace, such as support for pay equity. Use your time and talents to educate friends and colleagues about the issues affecting women and candidates support AAUW mission and goals. Please visit the AAUW national website to learn some helpful tips that you can use to motivate women to vote in the November midterm elections. We must empower women to use our Nineteenth amendment rights this election cycle; every ballot cast helps to advance the fight for equality.

Atlanta Branch October Meeting:

By: Dr. Ruth Yurchuck

Calling all branch members to put October 18, 2014 on your calendars! Our monthly AAUW meeting is right around the corner. This month our meeting will center around a panel discussion on the importance of women in politics. The October Branch meeting will be held at Paul's Restaurant in Atlanta. We look forward to seeing you in a few weeks!

OCTOBER BRANCH MEETING DETAILS:

Date: October 18, 2014

Time: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Location: Paul's Restaurant

10 King's Circle, NE Atlanta, GA 30305

RSVP: Evites will go out to member email addresses soon. If you need to update your email address, please email our communications intern at:

publications@aauwatlanta.org

On The Move: The Atlanta Branch Archives Update

By: Sarah Rondeau



It's official! After many years of placing the permanent records of the Branch at the Georgia Archives, the decision has been made to begin depositing our archive in the library of Georgia State University. At the September Branch meeting, with the approval of the Board, a motion was made by this out-going Historian to change the location of our records. The move is especially appealing because it is closer to our membership and holds the prospect of making the records much more accessible to those most likely to use them -- students. The motion was seconded, and the vote was unanimous. Thus, we will be working with Women & Gender Collections Archivist Morna Gerrard

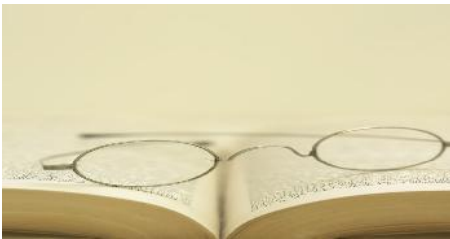
at the GSU Library to move the collection currently at the Georgia Archives in Morrow (in Clayton County), to the University library in downtown Atlanta. Once the collection is on board, we can begin depositing additional items there. The process should happen within the next few weeks.

The idea to move our archive had been circulating for some time, and things finally came together this summer to move things forward. In discussions with the Georgia Archives staff earlier in the year, I found out that the transfer of our deposited records to GSU could be made easily since both institutions are now in the University System of Georgia. I then discussed the possibility with Communications Chair Ruth Yurchuck, who got the ball rolling. President Myra Carmon and Program V.P. Wendy Venet enthusiastically supported the idea since both teach at GSU and are familiar with the University's Women Studies Program. Wendy contacted the GSU archivist and things happened quickly after that. The consensus seems to be that this will be a very positive move for the Branch and GSU.

The Branch is now looking for a new Historian. If you are interested, please let Myra know. With almost 115 years of Branch history, there is a lot to work with and build on. The Branch owes a debt of gratitude to my predecessor, Jean Brockschmidt, who worked for many years to build the foundation of our archive. I have endeavored to safe guard the records until they could be processed and deposited. Alta Birdsong has done a tremendous amount of work in organizing materials and funneling them to me. Recently two volunteers, Kay Collins and Sharon Bevis-Hoover, have put in many hours labeling photos and sorting through Bookfair records. My sincere thanks to all those named above who have helped to preserve our Atlanta Branch history.

Contemporary Literature Group: October Gathering

By: Kay Collins



The Contemporary Literature group will meet Monday, October 6, 2014 at 12 noon at the home of Elaine North. Attendees will enjoy a light lunch and a riveting discussion of this month's book selection: *My Beloved World* by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Atlanta Branch Contemporary Literature Chair, Kay Collins by email at contemporaryliterature@aauwatlanta.org

AAUW Atlanta Branch: President's Message

By: Dr. Myra Carmon



"I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word."

-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Atlanta Branch of AAUW Board voted to contribute to two events sponsored by YWCA of Greater Atlanta and "Women for Change" this year. Over the years, the Branch has participated in "Women for Change", although now the two organizations have joined forces to empower women. As a non-profit sponsor, we were entitled to two seats at the table for nine. An invitation was sent to all members of the Atlanta Branch and unfortunately we did not receive any responses from our branch members. Autumn is a difficult time for the Branches of AAUW to participate in any other activities other than Book Fair. Thus, the low participation rate was regrettable yet understandable. The AAUW Cobb Branch participated in the event, and the second seat was given to the 9-5 Coalition member. I had the opportunity to attend the first meeting on September 23, 2014. The title of the event was, "It's Time to Talk: Eliminating Racism, Empowering Women through Forums on Race." The event took place at the Delta Museum, with over 600 people in attendance.

Emily Ellison, Chief Executive Officer of the YWCA, opened the meeting with introductions including a brief rundown of the officials of Delta Airlines. Next, a 30 minute play was presented to those in attendance. The scene took place in an elevator, and the players were: An African-American male who was looking for employment, a Hispanic female lawyer, a Caucasian businessman, a Caucasian female, and a Muslim gentleman with a package who crouched in the corner and never spoke.

As the scene began, the audience witnessed the individuals standing in the elevator. The elevator appeared to be stuck, and the doors would not open because there was a bomb scare in the building. Thus, all persons had been evacuated from the scene, save for those trapped in the elevator. There began exchanges of words amongst the characters, and the Caucasian businessman called the Hispanic female lawyer a derogatory name, and the African-American reacted to this verbal exchange. Angrily, the businessman began to exchange words with the African American gentleman, stating, "What do you want to be called today, is it black, African-American or what?" As a result, the African-American gentleman then threatened to bring a lawsuit against the angry businessman, and the Hispanic lawyer said she would gladly represent him if he wished to pursue the matter. Another barrage of dialogue ensued and the Caucasian female reacted to a statement made during the verbal altercation referencing women. The businessman claimed he was not racist, and the African American male retorted, "Do you have your African-American friends and colleagues over to dinner and drinks?" which continued the verbal altercation.

During the heated exchanges, the Muslim gentleman never said a word. However, once one of the characters received a telephone message that there was a bomb scare, all occupants of the elevator automatically assumed that the package the Muslim gentleman held was the bomb. The entire group then tackled the messenger, whose only action was being at the wrong address to deliver a package. Once the group forced the Muslim gentleman to the ground, they found the package contained nothing more than a music box. The psychological undertones of the racial and religious biases portrayed by the characters in the play left much room for thought and reflection.

Continued>

AAUW Atlanta Branch: President's Message (Continued)

By: Dr. Myra Carmon

The play was a dramatic lead in for the table participants (who were led by a facilitator) to react to the play implications and to actions of the characters in the scene. One thing became evident; the term racism has different meanings to different people. The tables were composed of a variety of different people. At my table there sat a male attorney, several Delta employees including the facilitator, women from The Center for Black Women's Wellness, Inc. and a female participant who had recently retired from the workforce. Every participant was instructed to respond to five questions posed by the facilitator. Included in the responses were many reported instances of perceived racism, including an example of a lack of inclusion amongst the members of various cultures. The participants all agreed that sensitivity to racial issues was an important and necessary component within our society. The next steps for all of the participants will include open and honest dialogue amongst our children, family and others about racism.

The Women for Change Forum was the first of such events aimed at educating individuals as to the impact of remarks and actions within different cultures. Moving forward, I would ask each of you to reflect on your experiences with racism and thoughts as to further advance the conversation on this important subject matter. During the forum, the participants acknowledged that there have been advances in racism. However, we also agreed that much more can be through open and honest conversations on the topic of racism. I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in important conversations such as this, and I believe a dialogue along these lines can empower women who are marginalized as a result of prejudice and bias throughout the country.

Myra Carmon

President, Atlanta Branch AAUW

Fall Outing: Atlanta Branch Travel Group Update

By: Betty Arden



The AAUW Atlanta Branch Travel Group will meet at 9:30 am on Thursday, October 9, 2014 at the Ansley Mall Kroger store to carpool to the October travel destination. This month's trip is a visit to the new National Center for Civil and Human Rights museum in Downtown Atlanta.

The trip will be an excellent opportunity to explore the new facility and start a dialogue on the subject of civil and human rights with your fellow Atlanta Branch members.

The museum is located at 100 Ivan Allen Boulevard, beside the World of Coca Cola. Senior admission is \$13.00. Lunch will follow the tour. Please call Betty Arden if you have questions.

We hope to see you there!

Highlights of the Atlanta Branch September Meeting

By: Ayesha Kirk



On September 14, 2014 Atlanta branch members gathered for a productive and enjoyable start to the 2014-2015 membership year. The members enjoyed light refreshments, and a business meeting addressed several pertinent issues. Among the topics discussed:

- **Handbook Updates:** There are several updates for the 2014-2015 membership section which have been updated online in the membership and directory sections. They are as follows:

- On the Title page, change the Membership Information number change it to the number of our current Membership Vice President, Kay Collins

- On the Table of Contents page, please change these entries:

- *2013-14 programs to 2014-15 programs
- *Contemporary Literature from 2013-14 to 2015-15
- *AAUW Public Policy from 2013-14 to 2014-15
- *Atlanta Branch local scholarship winners from 2013-14 to 2014-15

- Also note that the entire Handbook for 2014-15 is available on the Members Only section of our website, aauwatlanta.org.

- Please refer to the online membership directory for updated addresses for Jean Melvin and Elnora Smith.

- **The upcoming Contemporary Literature gatherings:** The group will gather on the first Monday of each month. Atlanta Branch members can find the updated book list inside of the yearbook.

- **Public Relations:** Discussion centered around the reprinting of the Atlanta Branch's membership recruitment brochure. This endeavor will require the collection of new photographs of the Atlanta Branch meetings, this year's upcoming Cool Girls events and the Annual AAUW Bookfair.

- **Atlanta Branch Archives:** The members approved the relocation of our Branch archival material to Georgia State University. Please review Sarah Rondeau's article for more information.



The 2014 NCCWSL Scholarship Recipients ; Alike Turner & Ayesha Kirk

- **The upcoming Travel Group outing:** The group will gather on the second Thursday of each month to embark on a trip of relevance to the AAUW mission.

During the September meeting, the Atlanta Branch members had an opportunity to meet and greet the 2014-2015 Atlanta Branch scholarship

recipients and their family members. The students chosen to attend the 2014 NCCWSL conference in Washington, D.C. presented an informative Power-Point of the highlights of their trip.

Branch members invited friends and family members to become new members of the Atlanta Branch, as the meeting also served as a platform to recruit new members for the 2014-2015 membership year.

The next Atlanta Branch meeting will take place on October 18, 2014.



The Atlanta Branch 2014-2015 Scholarship Winners and their family members at the September Atlanta Branch meeting

Cool Girls: Upcoming Events

By: Ayesha Kirk

The Cool Girls programing is going strong as we enter Fall! Here are just a few of the upcoming Cool Girls events:

October 11, 2014: Day of the Girl

Our Cool Scholars will celebrate the International Day of the Girl.

October 13, 2014: Agnes Scott Field Trip

The Cool Girl scholars will take an informational tour of the beautiful Agnes Scott College campus. The tour is designed as a time for the girls to gather information about college admissions and to have their questions about furthering their academic goals answered.

October 25, 2014: Fashion & Fitness (Part 2)

The Cool Girl scholars will discuss body image & the role of media in the shaping of body norms.



Cool Girls scholars participating in the Fitness & Fashion-
Part 1 event on September 27, 2014

Submit Newsletter Articles

By: Ayesha Kirk

The deadline to submit articles for the November newsletter is October 20, 2014. Please email your articles to me at publications@aauwatlanta.org. I always welcome any ideas or feedback for the newsletter you would like to send my way. Thank you for your assistance.

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Calendar

October 4, 2014 - Atlanta Branch Board Meeting at Northside Library

October 6, 2014 - Contemporary Literature Group

October 9, 2014 - Travel Group Outing: National Center for Civil and Human Rights

October 11, 2014 - Cool Girls: "Day of the Girl"

October 13, 2014 - Cool Girls: Agnes Scott College Field Trip

October 18, 2014 - Atlanta Branch Meeting

October 25, 2014 - Cool Girls: Fashion and Fitness (Part 2)

November 9, 2014 - Bookfair Steering Committee Meeting

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