



# ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

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## 2015: No Explanation Needed

By: Ayesha Kirk



I recently read several articles in various media outlets which focused on women defending their right to choose whether or not to start a family. They cited social pressures from family members and random strangers to start their families as soon as possible. There were also suggestions about approaches to explaining their choice not to have children. These articles disturbed me because I don't think others have a right to know about my personal life choices, particularly about childbearing. We often unknowingly reinforce social pressures on women even in the context of conversations with our own families, friends, co-workers. And I think the pressure to fulfill the roles given to us limits our ability to embrace choices outside of those we've been given by our peers and family members. Are men forced to answer the same types of personal questions as a result of social pressures? Probably not.

Let's start 2015 by looking at the preconceived roles women are expected to fill and choose those which are personally fulfilling and personally defined.

## Save the Date: February's Legislative Update

By: Sharon Bevis-Hoover



On February 7, 2015 we will hold our annual Legislative Update with a panel of experts who will share with us proposed legislation, particularly at the Georgia Assembly. We will plan how we will take action to ensure our voices are heard.

The Cobb County and North Fulton Branches will join us, and we can count on a lively interchange. Please stay tuned for future updates regarding this event.

## AAUW Atlanta Branch: President's Message

By: Dr. Myra Carmon



I hope you and your family enjoyed a happy holiday season! Our Branch started the season with our annual holiday party on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the home of Mary and Darwin Womack who graciously offer their home each year. Everyone brought wonderful snacks, and Mary made the punch. We had time to mingle and greet each other while browsing around the silent auction table. As a token of our appreciation for their hospitality and allowing us to meet in their home, the branch presented Mary and Darwin with a gift certificate for Honey Baked Ham.

At the business meeting, it was announced that Sharon Bevis-Hoover had consented to take over as Chair of the AAUW Funds Committee since Jo Dogali resigned due to illness. Sharon presented the allocation of the 2013 AAUW Funds Budget of \$11,000 for membership approval, which was unanimous.

Sharon also shared the proceeds from Bookfair 2014. The Atlanta Branch allocation was \$30,513.85. This check was presented to the Atlanta Branch at the Bookfair 2014 celebration.

Sharon reviewed options for members to participate in the bookroom including picking up books at book drops. She stressed that preparation for the 2015 Bookfair is already underway through bookroom efforts. New members were encouraged to get involved.

Sharon presented the names of the metro Atlanta area recipients of 2014 Community Action Grants and Career Development Grants from AAUW Funds, and she gave a brief bio on each one.

Myra Carmon presented the 2014 Named Gift Honorees were presented with certificates and pins. They are Betty Arden, Sharon Bevis-Hoover, Joyce Cohrs, Billie Collier, Kay Collins, Huiping Du, Judy Lambert, and Sarah Rondeau.

This year's Silent Auction included a variety of items, and everyone was encouraged to browse and bid on those of interest. Total proceeds of \$174.50 were donated to the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. Everyone had a great time and left with items from the silent auction and filled with holiday goodies.

I want to thank all members for giving of your time and talents for the AAUW Atlanta Branch.

Looking forward to a great 2015!

Myra Carmon

President, Atlanta Branch AAUW

## AAUW Travel Group Update: February Outing

By: Betty Arden



The AAUW Travel Group postponed their January trip one month. They will meet at 9:45 am on February 12th at the Ansley Mall Kroger Store to carpool to the new six story Restoration Hardware Store at 3030 Peachtree Street. Restoration Hardware Atlanta is the company's largest retail space in the United States. The location and grounds have been designed in the spirit of a modern Southern estate, hence the name RH Atlanta, The Estate in Buckhead. Following the visit to Restoration Hardware Atlanta, the group will enjoy lunch in the area.

Please call Betty Arden at for further information.

## 2014 AAUW Funds Grant Recipients

By: Sharon Bevis-Hoover

AAUW National awarded three grants from AAUW Funds in the metro Atlanta area in 2014. The Global Village Project, under the direction of Amy Pelissero, received a Community Action Grant for their Intensive Literacy Program for Teenage Young Women. Located in Decatur, the Global Village Project is an innovative school for young refugee women in the Atlanta area. Their intensive literacy program ensures that these students acquire the necessary skills to become successful speakers, readers, and writers. The program is designed to meet the needs of young women with limited literacy and education, and it allows them to share the knowledge they gain with others.

Tiffany Willis, an M.B.A. from Emory University, received a Career Development Grant. Tiffany Willis' work on empowering at-risk youth, specifically girls, has continued to evolve since her reign as Ms.

Black Georgia USA. She has become a familiar face in various community outlets for young women. Her recent efforts have secured financial assistance to fund a summer youth hot food program for a local church. Her endless passion for helping others has inspired her to serve as a mentor in the professional arena.

Antonia Burroughs, who holds a Certificate in Computer Sciences from the University of California, Los Angeles, also received a Career Development Grant. Ms. Burroughs is an award-winning user interface, user experience, and front-end web designer and developer. She has worked with AT&T, Cornerstone Media Group, United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta and Elsevier/MCStrategies. Her work includes turning creative projects into real products.

## Contemporary Literature Group: January Gathering

By: Kay Collins



Terri Roland leads the group's discussion of *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich in early December

The Contemporary Literature group will meet about 12 Noon, Monday, January 5th for lunch and to discuss *Longbourn* by Jo Baker.

The group's next book selection is a long one, titled *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt. Please plan to discuss the book on Monday, February 2, 2015.

Please contact Kay Collins for location and directions if you will be attending for the first time.



Wrapped books for the December holiday exchange

We look forward to seeing you at the first Contemporary Group meeting of the new year!

## 2014 Named Gift Honorees

By: Dr. Myra Carmon



At the December 2014 holiday party, President Myra Carmon announced the Atlanta Branch's 2014 Named Gift Honorees. Our annual contribution to the AAUW Funds is given in honor of people who give extraordinary gifts of time without whom our Branch work would not be possible.

**Betty Arden** was recognized for her many years leading the Travel Group to amazing destinations in the metro Atlanta area. She has also served for several years as Hospitality Chair, ensuring the quality of the locations and refreshments for our Branch meetings.

**Sharon Bevis-Hoover** is our most recent past Branch President. She has also served as Secretary for the Bookfair Steering Committee for three years, and she took on the role of Bookroom Chair early in 2014.

**Joyce Cohrs** is the Tuesday Day Chair at the Bookroom. Not only does she invest a tremendous number of hours pricing books, she is also the lead for training new Bookroom volunteers, and she serves as an expert on all matters related to the Bookfair.

**Kay Collins** is our Membership Chair, and she was previously co-Chair in this role. For many years, she has led the Contemporary Literature Group, which is not only a popular group with our membership, but also a very effective way to recruit new members. She also serves as Chair of the Advisory Committee and is assisting with bringing our Bookfair archives up to date.

**Billie Collier** most recently served as co-Membership Chair. She is very active in the Bookroom, where she prices several categories, and at the Bookfair. Billie continues to actively recruits new members.

**Huiping Du** served as Finance Officer for the Branch and for Bookfair. She consistently recruits student volunteers for Bookfair setup and teardown, and she is part of the team that moves books from our Book drops to the Bookroom.

**Judy Lambert** is another dedicated Bookroom volunteer. Judy spends countless hours sorting books, and she prices more categories than any other volunteer, including many of the specialty categories that are very valuable but require a great deal of expertise and research to price correctly. She is a ready source of expertise to the team.

**Sarah Rondeau** served as Historian for many years. She led the effort to review and organize our stored documents, and to submit them to the Georgia Archives. With that, we reduced storage expense and ensured that our history would be captured in an appropriate location. She is currently managing their move to the Women's History library at Georgia State University.

## Here's Looking At You?

By: Sharon Bevis-Hoover



Are you missing a pair of eyeglasses? A pair was found following our Bookfair 2014 Celebration at Alta Birdsong's home.

Please stop by the Bookroom to pick them up, or call us at [404-261-7646](tel:404-261-7646), and we will arrange to get them back to you!

# Atlanta Branch Reflections: The 2014 Annual Holiday Gathering



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# Calendar

- January 5, 2015 - Contemporary Literature Group
- January 24, 2015 - Cool Scholars: Resumes, Interviewing, Jobs...Oh My!
- February 2, 2015 - Contemporary Literature Group
- February 7, 2015 - Branch Joint Legislative/ Political Meeting
- February 12, 2015- AAUW Travel Group Outing
- February 16, 2015 - Cool Scholars: Field Trip/Job Shadowing
- February 21, 2015 - Cool Scholars: SAT Prep Tentative
- Jun 18-21, 2015 - AAUW National Convention, San Diego

## January Reminder: Submit Newsletter Articles

By: Ayesha Kirk



The deadline to submit articles for the February newsletter is January 20, 2015. Please email your articles to me at [publications@aauwatlanta.org](mailto: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.