



# ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN  
APRIL 2015, Vol. 65 No. 9

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## The Intern Corner

By: Amira Saleh



Hello. I hope this newsletter finds you well. Mark your calendars for our May 16th meeting at Cross Creek Café. New Branch officers will be elected and installed, and the program will feature a fashion show sponsored by Talbot's with our very own members as models. Attendees will order from the menu and will have separate checks for the May meeting.

### May Branch Meeting Details:

**Topic:** Philanthropic Update

**Date:** Saturday May 16th

**Time:** 10:00 am – 1:00 p.m.

**Place:** Cross Creek Café, 1221 Cross Creek Parkway NW, Atlanta

*Please reply to the invite by **May 10th** or notify the hospitality committee at [hospitality@aauwatlanta.org](mailto:hospitality@aauwatlanta.org).*

## Education and Pay Obstacles for Women in the Past and Present

By: Myra Carmon

One of the founders of AAUW, Ellen Richards experienced many obstacles pursuing her education. She was born in Massachusetts in 1843, and her parents valued education for both boys and girls. She worked at housecleaning and tutoring jobs to save \$300 for tuition. She enrolled in Vassar College and obtained her bachelor's degree in just two years. She was the first U.S. woman to be awarded a degree in Chemistry.

Ellen Richards desired to further her education and enrolled in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) where she was admitted as a "special student," making it known that her admission would not serve as a precedent for other women to attend. Her entrance to MIT was not easy, and many other institutions had turned her down. Richards completed the requirements for the master's degree, but MIT refused to grant it to her, so Vassar awarded the degree. She also completed the requirements for a doctorate, but she never received the degree.

Despite the obstacles from MIT, Richards stayed connected to MIT, establishing a Women's Laboratory there, where she encouraged women to study science and provided an entry point for their training. ....Continued on pg 2

## Education and Pay Obstacles for Women Continued...

**By: Myra Carmon**

Richards is also credited with creating the field of Home Economics. Working at the Massachusetts Department of Health, she studied water and water pollution, and she established the first modern sewage treatment plant.

Marion Talbot was one of her students at the Women's Laboratory. Richards was nearly 40 years old when she and Talbot founded AAUW. Richards and Talbot were born one generation apart, and both experienced barriers in the pursuit of obtaining an education.

While women today have freedom to choose educational opportunities and degrees of their choice, there are other barriers to their professional success, including pay equity for women. Equal pay for women is a relatively new concept. Previously, women were routinely paid less than men. In fact, in the 1930's the federal government required that female workers be paid 25 percent less than men,

In the 1950's bills were introduced for equal pay for women, and in 1963 President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act. This legislation set the stage for working toward equal pay for women, and in the 1980's and 1990's, women's wages rose at a steady pace. One of the driving forces during this time was the number of female college graduates identifying the pay gap and pushing for equity.

The pay gap is still present, but we have made strides and continue to do so. Research on pay equity predicts that the pay gap is not going to close for another 124 years. According to the State Wage Gap calculated by the National Women's Law Center, based on the 2013 American Community Survey Data, the average of what a woman makes for every dollar a man makes in the U.S. is 78.3 cents and in Georgia, it is 82.7 cents.

There are ways to speed up the process for pay equity. Companies can adopt policies to support flexible work schedules as well as conduct job audits to ensure fairness. In addition, colleges and universities can encourage women to consider higher paying fields such as engineering and computing.

In order to raise awareness, AAUW Branches have taken action such as getting a Proclamation signed by the governor or mayor declaring Equal Pay day, presenting a "cake drop" to their legislator with 27 percent cut out to show pay gap, and organizing rallies in downtown parks to draw attention to the issue.

Looking back at the obstacles that Talbot and Richards faced pursuing their education, we see that we have come a long way, but there is still a long way to go for pay equity to become a reality.

## Domestic Violence: It's Happening Everywhere

**By: Ruth Yurchuck**

At our March 21 meeting, Jenny Aszman, Fatality Review Coordinator for the Georgia Coalition against Domestic Violence (GCADV), gave a comprehensive overview of domestic violence. Defining domestic violence as a pattern of behavior used to gain power and control over another intimate partner, she pointed out that domestic violence (which can be, physical, sexual, economic, environmental) occurs in all economic, racial, religious, professional groups and can include reproductive coercion, isolation, and stalking.

Nationally one in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. In 2014 in Georgia over 61,000 crisis calls were made, over 7,700 victims and children sought refuge in domestic violence shelter,

and almost 5,900 victims requested shelter but there was no space available. Georgia ranks 9th in the nation for the rate of men killing women, and firearms are the cause of most deaths.

The 2014 Annual Report of the Georgia Commission on Family Violence (GCFV) and the Georgia Coalition against Domestic Violence provides detailed information about the prevalence of domestic violence under topics such as children's exposure; family; friends, and faith communities; role of the criminal legal system; and risks of leaving an abusive situation. Copies of this report and a pamphlet highlighting what to do if friends and family members are being abused are available from GCADV ([www.gcadv.org](http://www.gcadv.org); 404.209.0280).

## Remembering Doris McLeod

By: Ruth Yurchuck

In early March I received an email from Lillian Govus, a granddaughter of former AAUW Atlanta Branch member, Doris McLeod, informing the Branch that Doris died on February 27, 2015. Doris was a graduate of Boston University with a Bachelor's degree in education. Following her graduation in 1941 she taught elementary school with a passion she carried long after leaving the classroom.

Doris and her husband Peter McLeod moved to Atlanta in 1968, where she joined the Atlanta Branch and was an active member for many years. Her husband died in 1992. She relocated to North Carolina in 2005 to be closer to her remaining family.

As an active member of the Atlanta Branch, Doris fulfilled multiple Bookfair leadership roles over many years including several turns as Bookfair Chair. She was a beloved volunteer in the Bookroom, and she took Lillian with her from time to time. She was recognized for her contributions to Bookfair's success as an Atlanta Branch Named Gift Honoree seven times over three decades. Doris was also an active volunteer at Northside Hospital for 35 years, putting in more than 6,600 hours of service until she "retired" from this endeavor.



Lillian provided this picture of Doris with her great-granddaughter, Etta Bea. The Branch has sent a donation to AAUW Funds in honor of Doris, who also identified our Branch as a potential recipient of funds in lieu of flowers at her memorial service in Columbus, SC.

We need more members like Doris McLeod!

## Nominated Branch Officers

By: Betty Slater

The Atlanta Branch nominating committee of Betty Slater (chair), Betty Arden, Susan Diffenderfer, Billie Collier and Sharon Bevis-Hoover present the following members to serve as officers for the next two years:

President Elect : open

Board Secretary: Marcy Nader

Branch Co Secretaries : Susan Diffenderfer  
Sarah Rondeau

Nominating Committee: Karen Ludwig  
Mary Lynn Merkle  
Bea Meyer  
Diana Witt  
Mary Womack

Please consider filling the position of President-elect or recommend a member for this important position.

## Welcome New Member

By: Kay Collins

Please welcome our new member, Mary Mallory. She is a retired teacher and lives in Ellenwood. Update your handbook.

**Mary W. Mallory**  
Morris Brown College  
Georgia State University  
Clark Atlanta University

## Students to Attend NCCWSL

By: Betty Slater

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) will be held this year on May 28-30 at the University of Maryland. Jennifer Stetler, President of The Georgia State University AAUW Chapter who is seeking a PhD in Biology will be attending the conference. Nicole-Lisa Williams, Vice President of Atlanta Metropolitan State College's AAUW Chapter, who is seeking a degree in Biology will also be in attendance.

## Travel Group Update

By: Betty Arden



The AAUW Travel Group will meet on April 30th to serve as staffers for the Atlanta Symphony Associates 2015 Decorators' Showhouse and Gardens. "Chateau Soleil", a French style estate at 4701 Northside Drive, was designed by architect William T. Baker. The 14,000 square foot estate is one of the finest examples of European-style craftsmanship in Atlanta. Validated parking and the shuttle to the showhouse are located at the Medici Building, 3290 Northside Parkway. Staffers should meet the shuttle by 11:30am on April 30 in order to begin the 12:15pm shift.

Staffing is open to all members of the Atlanta Branch. Those wishing to staff on a different date than April 30th should call Showhouse staffing Chair Nancy Eichler at 678/402-6922. The house remains open until 7:30pm on Thursday evenings.

Contact Betty Arden for further information.

## Reminder: AAUW National Election Is Coming!

The national election of the next AAUW President, Vice President, and Board of Directors will begin on **April 15, 2015**. Right now, you can review the candidates for these offices by logging into the AAUW website and clicking on the Resources tab. Remember every member is entitled to vote!

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## Calendar

Contemporary Literature Group – April 6

Cool Girls Meeting – April 18

AAUW National Election – April 15

Submit Articles for May Newsletter – April 20th

Travel Group Outing— April 30

Atlanta Branch Meeting – May 16

AAUW National Convention, San Diego – June 18-21, 2015

## Contemporary Lit Group

By: Kay Collins

The Contemporary Literature group will meet Monday, April 6, about 12 Noon, at the home of Mary Hanson. We will discuss *The Girls of Atomic City* by Denise Kiernan. Please bring your own lunch. Mary will provide wine and water.

The date of the **June meeting** has been **changed to June 8th**. This is the meeting when we select the books for next year. Send suggestions to Kay Collins.