



ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

empowering women since 1881

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
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2015-2016 Leadership

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September Membership Tea



Our first Branch meeting of the 2015-2016 year will be held on **Sunday, September 13 at Agnes Scott College (141 E College Ave, Decatur, GA 30030) in Rebekah Scott Hall, Woltz Meeting Room, from 2pm to 4 pm.** Please plan to attend and bring a friend. You will enjoy meeting our new Communications Intern, Riana Smith. We will hear a report from students

who attended the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Scholarship winners have also been invited! Also, there will be a short business meeting after the presentation. Parking is available in the deck or in front of the building. Hope to see you there! Evites will be mailed soon!

Bookfair 2015 Dates and NEW Location!

By: Kay Collins

The 2015 Bookfair will move to North Point Mall. Renovations continue at Perimeter, but owner General Growth Properties is so enthusiastic about the AAUW Bookfair that they have arranged to accommodate us at North Point. North Point is a very well travelled mall, and we will be on the wing with Dillard's and the AMC Theatres. The schedule of activities includes the move in on Sunday, September 20, followed by opening night on Monday, September 21. Bookfair will close the evening of Sunday, September 27. While we understand that this is a long drive for some of you, consider working two shifts on one day (or two!) instead of only one shift per day on several days. Gather friends to carpool and make a day of volunteering at Bookfair, and have a meal in the mall or nearby. Work a shift, see a movie, grab a meal, and work a second shift. The Steering Committee will provide suggestions for alternate routes for those of you who don't want to drive 400.



President's Message for September

Myra Carmon, President Atlanta Branch

Hope everyone had a great summer. Many members took trips and are now ready to settle back in to fall routines of work and meetings.

It was my pleasure to attend the AAUW Convention in San Diego from Thursday evening, June 18 through Sunday morning, June 21. It was great to meet members from many states and spend time with Georgia members. The weather was nice and cool which was a drastic change from Atlanta.

Highlights of the convention included the announcement of officers elected, speakers, workshop on various issues, bylaw changes, and announcement of awards.

Patricia Ho, Board Chair (previous title President) presided over the convention with help from other elected officers. Thursday night I attended the opening night dinner, then a meet and greet to get acquainted with current Board members and candidates for the 2015-2017 Board of Directors. The new officers were announced and introduced on Friday Morning. Newly elected Board of Directors include Patricia Fae Ho, Board Chair; Alicia Hetman, Board Vice Chair; Janet Bunger, Board Finance Vice Chair; and Eileen S. Hartmann, Board Secretary. Note the changes in officer titles that were part of the bylaw changes. Pictures of all officers are on the AAUW web site. It was disappointing that only 12% of AAUW member voted for officers and bylaw changes.

On Friday night Catherine E. Lhamon, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education, spoke about the work being done to enforce Title IX and efforts to end sex discrimination in schools. She also stressed the lack of enforcement in many schools. Title IX is at the core of AAUW's mission to empower women and girls. Title IX covers everything from campus sexual violence to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education. Ms. Lhamon stated that many schools did not know the name of their Title IX coordinator. See the Cherokee Rose for additional ways that AAUW can help.

Other speakers included, Lily Ledbetter, Noorjahan Akbar, Don McPherson and Marianne Schnall, moderator. This group addressed issues related to women in leadership including gender pay discrepancies. Ledbetter stressed that the field is wide open for young women but

they have to speak up. Others related different ways women are breaking barriers but need to get past the image of an all male environment and move forward.

Speakers for the Saturday evening banquet included the 2015 Recognition Award winner Faith Ringgold, internationally renowned Artist, Educator, and Social Activist who has used her art to draw attention to racism and gender inequality. In the 1960s, she organized protests against major museums for excluding works by black and women artist. The second speaker was Maria Klawe, President of Harvey Mudd College, and 2015 Alumnae Recognition Award recipient. She has held this position at Harvey Mudd since 2006 and held previous positions in prestigious universities and companies. She spoke of her experiences of being a woman in male dominated environments.

The closing speaker on Sunday morning was Juanita Johnson-Bailey, Director, Institute for Women's Studies, University of Georgia. She was a very stimulating speaker, relating stories of challenges she had experienced as a woman of color even though she was educated and held positions of influence and power.

As related in the Cherokee Rose and online, the only bylaw change that did not pass was related to open membership. Education requirements for membership remain. See the AAUW web site for more details.

There were many workshops each day. Some that I attended included Programs, Passion, People: The Prescription for Recruitment Success. I also attended other sessions on membership. The presenters offered suggestions as to recruitment of members and involving present members in recruitment. Other workshops included topics on STEM, public policy, programs, Tech Trek, Title IX, Colleges and Universities 2015, and using technological communications which gave ideas for meetings and using resources available from the national office.

The Atlanta Branch received an award as one of the Top 50 Branches in the country. Georgia AAUW received an award as one of the Top 10 States in Per Capita giving.

In Memoriam:

Virginia Taber McCamey

We recently learned of the death of Virginia Taber McCamey, former Branch member, on April 8, 2015. Ginny, a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Connecticut College for Women and a member of Phi Beta Kappa, was active in our Branch for many years. She participated in the Contemporary Literature Group and attended many Branch meetings. She was a member of the Central Congregational United Church of Christ in Atlanta for many years and was active in many of their ministries and in those of the regional and national church. She and Frank, her husband of 65 years, moved to Pennsylvania several years ago to be closer to their family. Frank died several years ago. A memorial service was held for Ginny at Central Congregational UCC in early May, and was attended by several AAUW members.

Cool Scholars Kickoff

By: Mary Lynn & Cele Covatta

Our signature project is going into its 4th year and just keeps getting better. Atlanta branch put serious consideration into choosing a project in which the mission statements would be compatible. It was envisioned as a “hands on” partnership. Our first chair, Pam Antinori, put a warm personal touch on the first meetings. She and her committee worked hard to get things off to a solid start. One of Pam’s dreams was an essay contest, and this year we made it happen. Jalyn’s essay was printed in the May 2015 newsletter. She was in attendance at our May meeting, accompanied by her mother, Anita Clair, and her Cool Sister, Rhea Ward. All three women spoke with much enthusiasm and emotion of how much the partnership with AAUW Atlanta has meant to their participation in Cool Scholars.

So this year kicked off on August 22, 2015 at 10:00 am at the Arthur Blank YMCA. We met the girls and their parents, introducing the year's focus on college and career readiness. **WE NEED YOUR PRESENCE.** Please consider participating in our upcoming dates and topics:

9/19- social media and communications

10/12- local college tour: School tbd

10/24- healthy social relationships

11/14 - appearance, beauty, and etiquette

No December meeting

2016

1/23 -study habits and test prep (This is an opportunity for our many talented educators to contribute. AAUW has traditionally planned and managed this session, and we need a lot of help.)

2/27 - budget and personal finance

3/26 - life after college

4/16- volunteerism and its importance in our world. This topic was requested by the girls. How great is that?!

If you can only come to one meeting, **COME!** the more you are able to participate, the better acquainted you will become with the “cool scholars”, a remarkable group of young women.

Please call Cele Covatta, 404-275-4126 if you are willing to help. We promise that you will leave the meeting ex-

cited and energized, ready to come back for more! “Jalyn Cooper, 15, a rising 10th grader at South Gwinnett High School received a Kindle Fire, as first prize winner in AAUW’s first annual essay contest.



Pictured here with Mary Lynn Merkle, philanthropy chair, and Cele Covatta, signature project Cool Scholars chair at the May meeting.”

Special News of Note

By: Alta Birdsong

Flo Hudson

I want to thank all AAUW members in the Atlanta and North Fulton Branches for sending birthday cards to Dr. Floreine Hudson on her 99th birthday. Flo was president of the Atlanta Branch from 1969 to 1971 and compiled the history of AAUW of Georgia during the term of Pat Evans, who was state president and also a former Atlanta Branch president. Flo must be the oldest professor emeritus at Georgia State University!

She received 27 birthday cards on this occasion, 16 of which were from AAUW members. Ken and I had lunch with her at Arbor Terrace on July 5 followed by ice cream and cake.

Jean Thomas

I received news in July of the death of Dr. Jean Thomas, Branch President from 1975 to 1977 and first Dean of Students at Georgia State University. Her title was changed to Dean of Student Development, a position she held until her retirement in 1991. Jean was a mentor to me during my first term as President of the Atlanta Branch but has not been active in the Branch for many years. She was 92 years old.

Meet our new Intern

By: Riana Smith

My earliest childhood memories are of my mother and I studying multiplication charts. She would sit me at the kitchen table and repeatedly go over each math pattern amongst the rows and columns of the chart. When I struggled, we would study longer until I memorized how all the numbers correlated, and afterwards she would praise me for my perseverance. Her passion for my educational growth and belief in me are what always kept me driven and focused. From those former lessons, I learned that constantly working hard will result in success and a woman's presence can have a major impact on how others develop.

Greetings! My name is Riana Smith and I am the new Communications Intern for the of AAUW Atlanta branch. Similar to AAUW's mission, I have a keen passion for empowering others and advocating for women's rights. This desire originated from being raised solely by my amazing mother, and now it has allowed me to mentor younger women in my community and to be a voice for those who are hesitant to speak up. My freshman year of college I started a mentoring program to truly dedicate myself to the advancement of others. The participants and I engage in



Contemporary Lit Group

By: Kay Collins

Contemporary Literature will meet Monday, September 14 at 10:30 a.m. for discussion of *I Am Pilgrim* by Terry Hayes. Mary Hanson will host at her home. Mary will provide coffee and tea. Nibbles will also be available.

a variety of activities from professional development to service projects for underprivileged women and children. In addition to mentoring, I am studying International Business and Marketing at Clark Atlanta University. From my personal business endeavors I became more interested in learning how businesses were conducted and what skills were needed to be successful in a corporate setting.

Furthermore, I am extremely excited to be a part of AAUW this year. The women who lead this organization are awesome examples of what I strive to be. Having this opportunity to make a significant impact in my community is what motivates me, and I hope to be an asset to this organization and learn more about its members.

Calendar

Contemporary Literature Group – Sept. 14

Membership Tea— Sept. 13 2pm Agnes Scott College

AAAU Bookfair— Sept. 20–27

Bookfair Steering Committee Meeting— Nov. 3 1pm
The Habersham Estate

Bookfair Celebration – Nov. 7 11am

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