



ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

2015-2016 Leadership

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
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President's Message

Myra Carmon

I recently attended a meeting presented by the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (GCADV) to benefit victims of domestic violence. Domestic violence is a pressing public health issue. It is the leading cause of injury in women between the ages of 15 and 44, and over 100 women in Georgia lose their lives to domestic violence each year. GCADV reports that Georgia ranks 10th in the country for men killing women. Violence against women occurs in all populations.

One presenter at the meeting was April Ross, Fulton County Assistant District Attorney. She related that while she had experienced verbal and other abuse from her husband, she thought things would change. They did not. The domestic violence increased, and her husband shot her three times, leaving her a paraplegic and in a wheelchair. She now speaks out to help women make decisions that she hopes will save lives.

Because domestic violence can happen to anyone, including friends and family, we should be aware of signs of domestic violence such as turning down social invitations or missing work often, becoming withdrawn or isolated or seeming to lose confidence, becoming anxious or quiet when their partner is around, having unexpected injuries, being sensitive about home life, or having a partner that degrades them in public.

Research shows that certain behaviors may signal increased risk of deadly abuse, including the abuser purchasing a weapon or threatening to kill the victim. In addition, the risk of abuse often increases if the victim tries to end the relationship.

Preventing domestic violence is an AAUW issue. GCADV identifies ways that individuals and organizations can help through volunteering, including joining a domestic violence task force to help create changes in the community. GCADV has a blog (gcadv.org) where you can share your thoughts about domestic violence.

When women like April hide their abuse, the abuse can escalate and result in permanent life limiting injuries or death. Each of us needs to keep our eyes and ears open to identify and help women at risk, and to speak out against domestic violence in our community and around the world.

Cool Scholars: Healthy Relationships

By: Cele Covatta

This month found us back at SunTrust, where despite some power issues, we had a lively discussion of healthy relations across the spectrum. Mary Lynn Merkle assisted as a group leader. There was a focus on self care, balance and boundary setting in dating and exploring the elements of healthy relationships as a teen. We are planning to sponsor the girls on an excursion to see "He named me Malala" in early November. Details will be announced. Please show your support for and interest in our Signature Project! Please call Cele Covatta.

Contemporary Lit Group

By: Kay Collins

Contemporary Literature

Contemporary Literature will meet Monday, November 2 at 10:30 am for discussion of "The Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James Brown. Mary Hanson will host at her home. Mary will provide coffee and tea. Anyone is welcome whether you've read the book or not.

Please contact Kay Collins

contemporaryliterature@aauwatlanta.org

Handbooks

Reminder: please check your listing in the new bright yellow 2015-2016 Handbook to be sure all information: name, address, phone, number, etc. is correct. If you need to update or correct your listing, please contact Kay Collins, Membership VP, membership@aauwatlanta.org

Travel Group

By: Betty Arden



On November 12, 2015, the AAUW Travel Group will visit the Museum of Design Atlanta, 1315 Peachtree Street N.E. ([404-979-6455](tel:404-979-6455)) to tour the new exhibit, "Designers, Makers, Users: 3D Printing the Future." It is a cutting edge exhibition exploring 3D printing and how it can and will alter the ways we design and create our world.

Because the museum opens at noon, the group will meet at the Ansley Mall Kroger store at 10:30 am to carpool to the Bantam and Bidly restaurant at Ansley Mall. The group will enjoy brunch and then proceed to the museum.

Please call Betty Arden for more information.

The Darkside of Campus Dating

By: Riana Smith



With October being Domestic Violence Awareness month, the conversation about unhealthy relationships has been held all over the nation. However, on my campus the topic is often looked over or not discussed when, according to the US Department of Justice, "Women aged 16-24 experience the highest per capita rate of intimate partner violence."

As a current student and Resident Assistant for an all women, freshman residence hall, the statics of domestic violence are more apparent in my life. I have had to deal with numerous relationship conflicts not only in my own life, but with those of my residents as well. There have been students who were abused, raped, or taken advantage of and never spoke of it until their problems escalated. Studies show that

college students face difficulties facing domestic violence for many reasons. For example, with so many students being away from home, they can feel isolated from their personal support networks and fear no one understands. Additionally, due to a somewhat isolated atmosphere of a college campus, it is easier for an assailant to stalk his or her partner in person or on social networks.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, "21% of college students report having experienced dating violence by a current partner. 32% experienced dating violence by a previous partner," and "Among college students who were sexually assaulted, 35% of attempted rapes occurred on dates, 22% of threatened rapes occurred on dates, and 12% of completed rapes occurred on dates." Therefore, it is important that students and administrators realize that there is a "darkside" to dating on campus and educate themselves on how not only to prevent it, but on how to assist victims with the aftermath of violent or abusive relationships.

December Holiday Celebration



Our next Branch meeting of the 2015-2016 year will be held on **Sunday, December 6th at the home of Mary and Darwin Womack** Please plan to attend and celebrate the holiday season with us all! Hope to see you there! Evites will be mailed soon!

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Bookfair Celebration

November 7, 2015

Everyone who participated in Bookfair 2015 in any way is invited to join the celebration at Maggiano's Little Italy at Perimeter Mall on Saturday, November 7, at 11:00 a.m. In addition to each other's company, we will enjoy a buffet luncheon. At the celebration we will share the results of this year's Bookfair. We hope to see you there!

New Member Alert: Welcome Suzanne Mutic to the Atlanta Branch of AAUW!!

Calendar

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

Bookfair Celebration - Nov. 7 11am

Holiday Celebration— Dec. 6

Program: Legislative Meeting — Feb. 6 11am