



ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

2016-2017 Leadership

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
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September 11th Membership Celebration

On September 11th our annual kick off meeting will be held again at Agnes Scott College in the Rebekah Scott Hall, Woltz Meeting Room from 2 to 4 pm. We encourage you to bring a friend to learn about AAUW Atlanta Branch! 2016-2017 Scholarship recipients will be in attendance. Jennifer Stetler, GSU Chapter President, and Mariam Shakeel have a powerpoint presentation about their experiences at the National Conference for College Women student Leaders (NCCWSL) this spring. A short business meeting will conclude the meeting; the agenda is attached. Refreshments will be served, and parking is available in the front of the building and nearby deck.



Please RSVP to the invite by Sept 8th or call Betty Arden, Hospitality chair.

Co-President's Message

Mary Lynn Merkle

Hello Atlanta Branch! As the new Branch year is around the corner, I am energized! Let me tell you why.

First of all you, the membership of Atlanta Branch, have entrusted my Co-President, Blondie Chitunya-Wilson, and me to be serve as your leaders for the next two years. AAUW is my number one organization—both because of its mission* and because I derive so much pleasure in being a part of Atlanta Branch.

This is what brings me to the second reason I'm energized. It's because of you, the Branch membership, who recognize and share the belief that what we do as a Branch with its many arms of outreach is vitally important. This became very apparent to me when I began asking many of you to take a leadership position—a committee chair, a committee member, an advisory board member—and your responses were so positive. You were willing and you were enthusiastic about participating and even opening your homes for meetings and gatherings. In fact, thirty-one (31) of us agreed to help Atlanta Branch keep growing—in numbers and accomplishments.

Blondie and I are energized, indeed; but we know that it's only with your help that we will reach the goals we set as a group. Right now, our goals are to increase membership participation in Branch activities and to increase Branch visibility. In response to AAUW's initiative, there is a third goal: working toward increasing our membership by reaching out to women of diverse cultures.

With all of us "reaching," the next two years will be phenomenal!

*AAUW's mission is "Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.



Membership Celebration

Agnes Scott College
Sunday September 11, 2016
2:00 – 4:00 pm

Refreshments and Minisale

Welcome

Atlanta Branch Co-Presidents,
Mary Lynn Merkle and Blondie Chitunya-Wilson

Atlanta Branch Chairs

Branch committee chairs will share their plans and hope for the coming year and how branch members can become involved.

2016-2017 Scholarship Recipients

NCCWSL Attendees and Presentation

Jennifer Stetler, GSU Chapter President, and Mariam Shakeel

Business Meeting and Closing

The proposed budget for this fiscal year will be presented by the finance officers and voted upon by the membership.

Spotlight on Women in the 2016 Olympics

By: Ruth Yurchuck

By the time you read this article, the 2016 Rio Summer Olympics are over and history was made in a number of categories. One of these is the number of women on Team USA: 292 of 555 total participants. This is the highest number of women from any competing country! These women have had to overcome cultural, economic, social and political barriers to play sports; and the barriers continue to exist.

The modern Olympics' founding organizer, Pierre de Coubertin, envisioned a festival celebrating men's sporting achievements. Popular culture promoted sports competitions as an outlet for men's aggression that also encouraged moral fortitude. Because women were supposed to be neither aggressive nor competitive, Coubertin and his fellow organizers intended that women's Olympic participation be limited to that of spectator. The first modern competition was held in 1896 but the 1908 games were the first to officially sanction women's participation.



Fast forward to 1972 and Title IX, mandating girls have equal opportunity as boys for sports participation. Before Title IX, fewer than 30,000 women were collegiate athletes. There has been a gradual increase in the number of women the United States send to Olympic Games. In 2012 the U.S sent more female than male athletes to compete.

In 2016, U.S. Olympians' Katy Ledecky and Simone Biles excelled in swimming and gymnastics and became household names recognized by all for athletic excellence. The women's track and field competitors also won 19 medals.

We have indeed come a long way in terms of sports competition in local, state, and national venues. We can rejoice that Title IX bears much of the responsibility for these achievements. And the Olympic ideal of Monsieur de Coubertin is indeed history.

For more information, check out the National Women's History Museum website: www.hwhm.org. Great pictures and details about women in sports!

Contemporary Literature

By: Kay Collins

The Contemporary Literature Group will meet on Monday, September 12, at the home of Mary Hanson at 10:30 a.m. We will discuss *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. Everyone is welcome.

Do You Know this Lovely Woman?

By: Alta Birdsong

Do you know this lovely woman? Probably not, as she has been unable to attend Branch functions for many years. But you need to know her! She is Dr. Floreine Hudson, the oldest member of AAUW Atlanta Branch, shown at her 100th Birthday celebration on July 5, 2016.

Dr. Floreine Hudson, AAUW Atlanta Branch's oldest member, has been a member of AAUW for over 50 years. Affectionately known as "Flo", she was President of our Branch from 1969-1971, and recipient of name grants in 1970, 1981, and 2003. In 1977 she compiled the 50 year history of AAUW of Georgia.



In her professional life, Flo was the first woman to receive a doctorate in education from Auburn University, the same educational institution from which she had received her M.Ed. While completing her doctorate, she met Dr. Jim Cherry, Superintendent of DeKalb County Schools, who recruited her for his school district. However, she had to prove herself as a principal before being elevated to the administrative staff a year later. In 1964 she left DeKalb County Schools for Georgia State University, where she was a Professor in the College of Education. When she retired in 1977, a scholarship was named for her and she was recognized as a professor emeritus. During her years as an educator, she was recognized in 12 publications of her exemplary career.

In Flo's retirement years, she served as chair/president of at least 12 organizations and was national president of Kappa Delta Epsilon during her 80's. She also served as Chairman of the Administrative Board of Oak Grove United Methodist Church. Her creative activities involved doll making, chine painting, and cake decorating. She created the cake for the 75th Anniversary celebration of the AAUW Atlanta Branch in 1980.

Dr. Floreine Hudson has been a mentor to educators and others in the nonprofit world.

Thank you, Alta, for sharing information about this remarkable woman to whom you and your family were so close.

Table of Contents

- Membership Celebration Pg. 1
- Co-President's Message Pg. 1
- Membership Celebration Agenda Pg. 2
- Women in Olympics Pg. 3
- Cont. Lit Pg. 3
- Do you know this lovely woman? Pg. 4

Calendar

- Membership Celebration – Sept 11 2pm at Agnes Scott College
- Board Meeting— Oct 8 10am at Buckhead Library
- AAUW Public Policy – Oct 15 10am at Hilton Atlanta
- Holiday Celebration— Dec 11 3pm at Womack Home
- Title IX Program— Feb 4 11am at Neiman Marcus Cafe