



# ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN  
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## 2016-2017 Leadership

### Co-Presidents

Blondie Chitunya-Wilson  
Mary Lynn Merkle  
president@aauwatlanta.org

### Program Vice Presidents

Betty Arden and Amira Saleh  
programs@aauwatlanta.org

### Membership Vice President

Kay Collins  
membership@aauwatlanta.org

### Board Secretary

Marcy Nader  
secretary-board@aauwatlanta.org

### Branch Meeting Secretaries

Susan Diffenderfer and Sarah Rondeau  
secretary-meeting@aauwatlanta.org

### Finance Officers

Alta Birdsong and Phyllis Miller  
treasurer@aauwatlanta.org

### College/University Relations

Betty Slater and Carol Allain  
universityrelations@aauwatlanta.org

### Diversity

Susan Diffenderfer  
diversity@aauwatlanta.org

### Historian

Wendy Venet historian@aauwatlanta.org

### Hospitality

Betty Arden hospitality@aauwatlanta.org

### Public Policy

Diana Witt publicpolicy@aauwatlanta.org

### Public Relations

Sharon Bevis-Hoover  
publicrelations@aauwatlanta.org

### Scholarship

Wendy Venet scholarship@aauwatlanta.org

### Web Information

Terry Eshenour  
webmaster@aauwatlanta.org

### Contemporary Literature

Kay Collins advisory@aauwatlanta.org

### Travel Group

Betty Arden travel@aauwatlanta.org

### Advisory Board Chair

Kay Collins advisory@aauwatlanta.org

### Publications

Riana Smith publications@aauwatlanta.org

### AAUW Funds

Dana Gordon aauwfunds@aauwatlanta.org

### Philanthropy Chair

Cele Covatta  
philanthropy@aauwatlanta.org

### Communications Chair

Ruth Yurchuck  
communications@aauwatlanta.org

## Co-President's Message

Mary Lynn Merkle

### WE ARE NOT OF ONE MIND

It's an election season. We are inundated with political truths and untruths, with issue choices that may or may not have a direct effect on us or our families or friends. As individuals, we each have but one vote.

AAUW members, as a rule, are active informed interested participants in this process. We are each guided in our choices by our histories, our careers, our faith communities. As individuals we share our thoughts with others and have lively discussions.

There are so many issues in which we are of one mind. For instance, we believe in the power of a strong broad education in safe space for all children. We believe that education and career preparation are important steps to success. So the Constitutional Amendment #1 should be an easy choice. It states: Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended to allow the state to intervene in chronically failing public schools in order to improve student performance?

At our Public policy meeting on October 15th Kelli Persons, who presented on behalf of the League of Women Voters, addressed this Constitutional issue and seemed to indicate that a "No" vote would be indicated. But, wait a minute! Our governor and some very knowledgeable people tell us that in order to rescue children from poorly performing schools, we should try something new. So is it "Yes," or is it "No." We are not of one mind.

Some of us will have an opportunity to vote on being incorporated into another city. Will it improve the community? Will it enrich or ease or lives? And what about the lives of others?" Again, we are not of one mind.

As AAUW members we listen, we read, we think, we discuss, and we go to the polls as informed voters.

At the recent AAUW of Georgia Fall Board meeting we were each given a pin that said: "IT'S MY VOTE, I WILL BE HEARD." Indeed!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE AAUW HOLIDAY PARTY

By: Dana Gordon

Mary and Darwin Womack have again kindly offered their home for us to meet and celebrate the holidays. As in previous years, we will have a Silent Auction of items that members have donated. We hope that everyone is going to participate by finding great bits and pieces for us to choose from. Remember it is all for a good cause—AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund! We will offer refreshments and variety of finger food. AN EVITE WILL BE SENT AT A LATER DATE.

If you would like to help, please contact Dana Gordon.

## A Retrospective on our October General Meeting

By: Mary Lynn Merkle

AAUW members from the Cartersville, Cobb County, Atlanta Branches and their guests gathered for a BIG breakfast and timely program at the Hilton Atlanta/Marietta Hotel and Conference Center.

The hard work and careful planning of our co-vice presidents for program, Betty Arden and Amira Saleh, brought together a panel of informed women articulate about political and policy issues.

Debbie Karvey (Cobb branch member and recent Bookfair chair) who serves as AAUW of GA Public Policy chair, discussed our legislative goals for the next session, and gave a brief synopsis of where we presently stand.

Kelli Person, the program and advocacy director for the Georgia League of Women Voters, carefully explained the process of registering and of voting. Additionally, she discussed the four Constitutional Amendments that will be on our ballots: 1) establishing Opportunity School Districts; 2) creating a trust fund (from fines from perpetrators and taxes from entertainment clubs) to provide assistance and treatment for exploited children; 3) abolishing the current the Judicial Qualification Commission and creating a new Commission; and 4) redirecting the current tax on fireworks to underwrite costs for trauma victims, for firefighting training, and for local 911 units.

Erica Clemmons spoke on behalf of 9 to 5. This year her organization will again be working hard to get the Family Care Act passed, a bill which AAUW of Georgia has strongly supported in previous sessions. Erica suggested that when we talk to our legislators we should share any personal experiences which will help inform legislators about the importance and value of this Act.

Melissa Johnson, the senior policy analyst for the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, shared that GBPI Does, indeed, have an agenda. And that agenda is to provide economic opportunity for Georgia women by working toward: 1) closing the Georgia coverage gap by expanding Medicaid eligibility, 2) making childcare affordable and accessible, 3) enacting the Georgia Work Credit, a state Earned Income tax credit, 4) raising the state minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour.

In listening to these four women describe the goals of their respective organizations; it was most apparent that AAUW and the other organizations are very much in line in the establishment of their goals. Progress will proceed if we all stand together.

## National Black MBA Association Case Competition

By: Riana Smith

From October 13th through 15th, I had the opportunity to participate in the National Black MBA Association Case Competition in New Orleans, Louisiana. The NBMBAA is one of the country's largest professional, minority organizations with: 9,000+ members, 45 professional chapters, 35 Leaders of Tomorrow® (LOT®) programs, and over 300 corporate partners. According to the organization, "The organization is dedicated to developing partnerships that create intellectual and economic wealth in the Black community through its five channels of engagement: career, education, entrepreneurship, leadership and lifestyle." This was a huge opportunity because it was the second year they offered an undergraduate case competition and my university (Clark Atlanta University) competed in it. This year we made it to the final round and placed in fourth out of the 15 teams that competed overall. I was extremely proud of my team and appreciated meeting so many successful African-Americans. Attending this conference and participating in the case competition was a life changing experience and I am sure has helped better prepare for my future.



## Travel Group

**By: Betty Arden**

The AAUW Travel Group will meet at 11:15 am on November 10th to have a docent guided tour of the recently moved and expanded exhibit, "Anne Frank in the World: 1929:1945." The exhibit is located on the second level of the Parkside Shopping Center at 5920 Roswell Road, Suite A-209, Sandy Springs (770.206.1558).

Lunch will follow across the parking lot at the exciting new Italian restaurant, ilGiallo Osteria and Bar (404.709.2148). Contact Betty Arden for reservations [travel@aauwatlanta.org](mailto:travel@aauwatlanta.org).

## Bookfair Celebration

Please join us to celebrate the success of our 57th Annual AAUW Bookfair on Sunday, November 6, from 2:00 - 4:00. We will meet at Eclipse di Luna to enjoy a selection of their famous tapas. A cash bar will be available if you would like to try their popular Sangria and other libations. Bookfair Chair Debbie Karvey will announce our results, present proceeds to the Branch Presidents, and announce our Super Worker awards.

Eclipse di Luna is located in the back of Park Place at 4505 Ashford Dunwoody Road, across the street from Perimeter Mall. Look for an invitation in your Inbox!

## Contemporary Literature

**By: Kay Collins**

The Contemporary Literature group will meet at 10:30 am on Monday, November 7. As usual, we meet at the home of Mary Hanson. We will discuss *Lila* by Marilyn Robinson. Everyone is welcome! Contact Kay Collins [literature@aauwatlanta.org](mailto:literature@aauwatlanta.org) if you have questions.

## Handbook Updates

Phyllis Miller's corrected home address.

2015-2016 Name Grant Honorees

1. Cele Covatta
2. Doris McLeod (In Memoriam)
3. Betty Slater
4. Mary Hanson
5. Elaine North

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## Calendar

Bookfair Celebration— Nov 6

Bookfair Steering Committee—Nov 15 12:30pm at Buckhead Library

Board Meeting— Dec 11 at 2pm

Holiday Celebration— Dec 11 3pm at Womack Home

Title IX Program— Feb 4 11am at Neiman Marcus Cafe