



ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

2016-2017 Leadership

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
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Co-President's Message

Blondie Chitunya-Wilson

Election Day in the United States, November 6th, 2016, brought an end to an unprecedented presidential campaign as voters chose the person who would be our 45th president. We may have been disappointed in the result. Or perhaps not. The great frustration, however, was the lack of any serious discussions of issues critical to women throughout the campaign.

In the past other women have sought to become presidential candidates of major political parties; Secretary Clinton is the first who succeeded in this respect. While she was did not achieve the goal of becoming president-elect, Secretary Clinton can hold her head high for a race that addressed many issues of great importance to our democratic ideals. For that she will be well-remembered for years to come.

The mission of AAUW states that we advance equity for women and girls through education, research, advocacy, and philanthropy. So it would be well to note that in the 2016 elections many women were successful. To name just a few:

Catherine Cortez Masto became the nation's first Latina Senator after beating Representative Joe Heck. A granddaughter of a Mexican immigrant and a former Nevada attorney general, Catherine will replace Democratic minority leader Senator Harry Reid. Kellyanne Conway made history by becoming the first woman to run a successful presidential campaign

California Attorney General. Kamala Harris was elected as the state's first freshman Senator in 24 years. Harris is the first black politician to represent California, the second black woman ever to join the Senate, and the first woman ever elected as California attorney general. The Democratic daughter of Indian and Jamaican immigrants will be replacing the retiring Democrat Barbara Boxer.

Tammy Duckworth, a congresswoman from Illinois and the first disabled woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, won the race for US Senate. An Iraq War veteran, Duckworth served as a U.S. Army helicopter pilot and suffered severe combat wounds, losing both of her legs. She defeated incumbent Republican Senator Mark Kirk.

Ilhan Omar became the nation's first Somali-American legislator after she won a House seat in Minnesota. The 34-year-old succeeded with 80% of the vote, making her an important representative of the largest Somali immigrant population in America.

Kate Brown was elected as the nation's first openly LGBT governor in Oregon. Former New Jersey Gov. Jim McGreevey came out as gay in 2004, but he had already been elected - Brown, however, has made history as an out bi-sexual woman.

Additionally, in a major step toward achieving fair employment practices and closing the pay gap and equity for women and people of color, New York City mayor Bill deBlasio recently signed an Executive Order banning salary history as part of hiring for municipal jobs.

These events are astonishing victories for women and girls. Although this work has sometimes seemed like a "mission impossible," the future is bright. However, it is imperative that we continue the AAUW mission goal. We need to renew our commitment, strengthen our action and increase our resources so that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls can succeed.

Our December Branch Meeting: A Holiday Celebration

By: Dana Gordon

“It’s a time to be jolly with the mistletoe and holly” We gather at the home of Mary and Darwin Womack from 3 pm to 5 pm to talk and enjoy delicious refreshments. AAUW fellowship winners are invited and it is inspiring to hear of their accomplishments. Another highlight is the annual silent auction, so please consider donating items for others to bid on, and also a great way to start your holiday shopping! Funds raised from the auction will be donated to AAUW Legal Advocacy. The Branch’s Named Grant Honorees will also be announced.

You won’t want to miss this very special meeting, so mark your calendars now!

And reminder to Branch Board members: Plan to attend the Board meeting at 2 pm, preceding the celebration

57th Annual AAUW Bookfair

By: Sharon Bevis-Hoover

Many thanks to everyone who contributed their time throughout the year and at the sale to make our 57th Annual AAUW Bookfair a community and fundraising success! Many of our loyal customers were pleased to have us back at Perimeter Mall.

In addition, our online sales continue to grow. And, for the first time in several years, we participated in the Georgia Book and Paper Fair, held by the Georgia Antiquarian Booksellers’ Association, where we were able to sell a number of high priced specialty books that are difficult to sell at the Mall or online.

The Atlanta Branch’s percentage of the work hours and philanthropy income was up again this year, contributing 73% of the tallied hours! The final result of all of our hard work, throughout the year and at the sale, is the distribution of over \$38,200 to our Branch’s Community Fund.

Thanks, again, to all of our members and friends who work year round and at the sale to raise the funds that make it possible to put AAUW’s mission into action!

Discovering a Jewel in Sandy Springs

By: Mary Lynn Merkle

For those of us who have “traveled” under Betty Arden’s leadership, we are used to visiting little-known or well-known spots in and around Atlanta on the second Thursday from October to May each year. Betty never fails to find a new place to visit. But November 10th as we headed toward the Sandy Springs City Hall, we could not imagine what an indelible memory visiting the Anne Frank Museum located there would create. It’s a small display of Anne’s all-too-short life, her family, and especially her ties. Having a knowledgeable docent direct us through was a great asset. However, the history of the rise of Hitler and Nazism in the Germany of the 30’s was presented through newspapers, Anne’s diary, and other primary sources, making for thought-provoking conversations.

The museum is free. It’s located in a mall, so there’s plenty of easy parking. It’s a perfect outing for young teenagers for whom those times are only found as a question or two on a history quiz. It will help them (and each of us) remember how important our voices are when we see prejudices and discrimination take place.

For the eleven of us who “traveled” that day, we thank Betty who always stretches us to have meaningful experiences in this metropolitan area that so many of us have adopted.

And, by the way, new “travelers” are always welcome to participate—whether that’s once or twice a year or every single second Thursday. Just let Betty know of your interest travel@aauwatlanta.org And we carpool!

America's Global Leadership: What's at Stake for Georgia

By: Sharon Bevis-Hoover

This November, Blondie Chitunya-Wilson, Kay Collins, and Sharon Bevis-Hoover represented AAUW at a meeting of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition. AAUW is a National member of the Coalition, which held a meeting titled "America's Global Leadership: What's at Stake for Georgia" here in Atlanta.

Representative Tom Price, who represents Georgia's 6th Congressional District and is Chairman of the House Budget Committee, presented remarks where he commented "America's leadership role in the world has never been questioned inside the country - until now." He stressed the need for political, business, and community leaders to articulate to the general public the benefits of global integration, and the value returned from the 1 percent of the federal budget that goes to other countries to fight disease, feed the hungry, and encourage entrepreneurship. He emphasized the Georgia impact, stating "Atlanta is a major global business and trade hub—so what happens overseas has a direct impact right here in our state and on our economy. By strengthening U.S. development and diplomacy, alongside defense, we expand the global marketplace for Georgia businesses, create opportunity, and keep our citizens safe here at home."

Mr. Price was joined for a panel discussion by Michelle Nunn, CEO of Atlanta-based CARE, and Mike Echols, Senior Vice President for North American Public Affairs and Communications at The Coca-Cola Company. USGLC President Liz Schrayner moderated the discussion.



Ms. Nunn noted that the focus of aid programs has changed from "a handout to a hand up." One example is the movement from providing food aid to investing in building local capacity, capability, and communities. She also described the increasing need to help the world's 60 million-plus displaced people, the most in history.

Mr. Echols emphasized the importance of partnerships with both government and nonprofits as the company invests in programs that help it build healthy communities that will then create thriving markets for Coke, stating "We recognize that while we have this reach and scope, we don't always have the expertise on the issue of the day in the area."

For more information, you can review the USGLC's Georgia fact sheet at <http://www.usglc.org/downloads/states/Georgia.pdf>

Travel Group

By: Betty Arden

The AAUW Travel Group will meet at 10 am on December 8 at the Ansley Mall Kroger Store to carpool to the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University for a docent guided tour of the exciting new exhibit, "First Folio! The Book That Gave Us Shakespeare." The Folio was the first collected edition of Shakespeare's plays. Timed with the 400th Anniversary of Shakespeare's death in 1616, the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., has sent 18 of its precious Folios on a nationwide tour this year. Lunch will follow.

Call Betty Arden for more information.



Contemporary Literature

By: Kay Collins

The Contemporary Literature group will meet for our holiday pot luck lunch Monday, December 5, 11:00 AM, at the home of Mary Hanson. Please bring a hearty hors d'oeuvre or dessert to share. We will discuss "Bettyville", exchange gift wrapped books and eat! Questions? Call Kay Collins.

Handbook Updates

By: Kay Collins

Allain, Carol corrected address.

Horsley, G. complete address update

Cox, V. corrected misspelling in street name.

Miller, Edith corrected address.

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Calendar

Board Meeting— Dec 11 at 2pm at the Womack Home

Holiday Celebration— Dec 11 3pm at the Womack Home

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