



ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

2016-2017 Leadership

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
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Plan to attend the February Branch meeting

Our February Branch meeting will be held at the Neiman Marcus Cafe on Saturday, February 4, beginning at 11 am. The program features Atlanta Women for Equality (AWE) and their work with Title IX. Atlanta Women for Equality (AWE) is a nonprofit organization that provides free legal advocacy for low-income women and girls facing sex discrimination in the workplace or at school. AWE works to expand economic and education opportunities for women and girls and to shape workplaces and schools to meet standards of equal treatment. To learn more about AWE, please visit their website: <http://www.atlantawomenforequality.org>

Date: Saturday February 4th, 11am-1pm

Location: Neiman Marcus Cafe at Lenox Square: Lower Level, 3393 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30326

Menu: Mandarin Orange Souffle - chicken salad, sliced almonds, seasonal fruit, sweet bread. House brewed tea, coffee, and sodas.

Cost: \$20 (cash or check made out to AAUW Atlanta Branch)

RSVP by January 28th to the Evite.

Co-President's Message

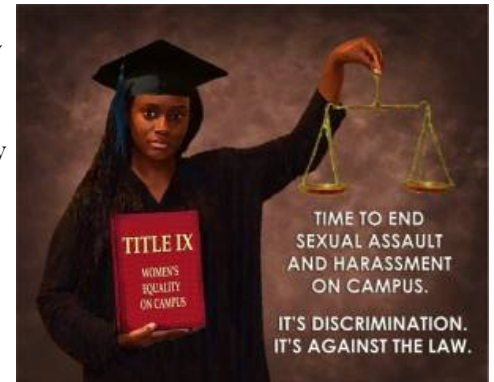
Blondie Chitunya-Wilson

What' Are You (WE) Doing For Others?

As 2017 begins, it seems a great time to reflect on what we accomplished last year and to continue with our journey. I am reminded of a quote from one of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s speeches, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'" And this is the question that I pose to all of us. We, as AAUW members, are trusted nonpartisan voices in our communities. We have been on the forefront for empowering women and girls through education, research, philanthropy and advocacy since our founding in 1881.

January is the month we celebrate a new year and new beginnings and we often revisit our goals and intents. For example, January is Cervical Cancer Awareness month. Cervical cancer is one that is preventable and treatable. (See related article, page 2) There are other January awareness alerts, such as thyroid disease awareness, national glaucoma awareness, and recognizing increased need for blood donation.

January is also the month we celebrate the life and gifts of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. While his birthday is January 15, the official holiday is always celebrated on the third Monday in January. (Continued on next page)



Co-President's Message Cont.

Many groups and individuals honor Dr. King by participating in the MLK Day of Service, a day which can empower individuals, strengthen communities, bridge barriers, create solutions to social problems, and move us closer to Dr. King's vision of the "beloved community" where poverty hunger, and homelessness will not be tolerated and racism and other forms of discrimination will be replaced by an inclusive spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood.

This year, on January 21, the Women's March on Washington, a nonpartisan rally by women delivered the message that women's rights are human rights. Turnout for this March far exceeded organizers' expectations. In collaboration with this national event in Washington, D.C., there were many "Sister Marches" in cities and towns around the country and abroad. Some AAUW Atlanta members joined the Atlanta March for Social Justice and Women's Rights, which held a peaceful demonstration of solidarity, bringing together members of under-represented communities, women, and their allies in Georgia and the nations. (see pictures on page 4). By joining forces with other organizations, we provided a forum for our voices to be heard. There was enthusiasm as we marched to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

It is my hope that we will continue to recruit a diverse membership and spread the word about AAUW. Recruiting new members will help ensure our branch's longevity and also allows us to extend our reach. There are no barriers to full participating in our organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. Together we can break down the barriers against women in government, workplace, college campuses, and other places where women are still excluded.

Our branch meeting on February 4th at the Neiman Marcus Café is a great opportunity to invite others to see what we're all about. See you there!

Being Attentive: Health Awareness

By: Blondie Chitunya-Wilson

My Co-President's article referenced awareness of cervical cancer and other health problems. The American Cancer Society (ACS) publishes a Cancer Awareness Calendar. For instance, January is Cervical Cancer Awareness month, one of particular importance to women. Cervical cancer can often be found early and sometimes even prevented entirely, by having regular Pap tests.

Cervical cancer can kill. The Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention estimated 11,955 women in the United States were diagnosed with cervical cancer and 4,217 women in the United States died from cervical cancer in 2013. The American Cancer Society (ACS) reported an estimated 12,820 women in the U.S will be diagnosed with cervical cancer and 4,210 will die from the disease in 2017. And the death rate from cervical cancer in the United States is considerably higher than previously estimated and the disparity in death rates between black women and white women is significantly wider, according to a study published recently in the journal *Cancer*.

However, if detected early, cervical cancer is one of the most successfully treatable cancers. It is important for each of us to speak with our physicians about our personal risk of developing cervical cancer and preventive measures to take.

Remember also that February is American Heart Month. Take time to learn more about heart disease in women. And February 4 is World Cancer Awareness Day.



Tax Preparation: Reminder

By: Kay Collins

That time again to gather our tax records. Remember that if you itemize charitable contributions and pay the full national dues of \$49.00, \$46.00 is a charitable contribution. If you paid \$77.00 for your annual dues last Spring, you paid the \$49.00. If you have questions contact Membership VP, Kay Collins.

Travel Group

By: Betty Arden

The AAUW Travel Group will meet at 10:15 am on February 9th in the parking lot of the Oglethorpe University Museum (4484 Peachtree Road, Atlanta). Their phone number is 404.364.8555.

The group will enjoy a docent guided tour of two exciting new February exhibits, "Hattie Saussy, Rediscovery of an Artist", and "Moulthrop Vessel-Selections from the Firestone Collection." The Moulthrops are three generations of Georgia craftsmen.

Lunch will follow. Contact Betty Arden for questions.

Judson Women's Leadership Conference

By: Betty Slater

All AAUW members can register to attend this outstanding Leadership Conference by registering before March 31. Check out www.jcifoundation.org for early registration so that you can attend this conference to be held in Cobb County.

Stacey Y Abrams will kick off this year's Judson Women's Leadership conference this year. She is the House Minority Leader for the Georgia General Assembly and State Representative for the 89th House District. Encourage a friend to come with you to the conference being held at Cobb Galleria Centre.



Conference Details:

June 20, 2017

Cobb Galleria Centre

Special Early Bird Price of \$20.00

Through March

Contemporary Literature

By: Kay Collins

To discuss "Circling the Sun" by Paula McLain we will meet at Mary Hanson's, 10:30 AM, on Monday, February 6. If you would like to join the group please contact Kay Collins.

Atlanta March for Social Justice and Women

Many AAUW members participated in the Atlanta March for Women and Social Justice, including Blondie Chitunya-Wilson, Sharon Bevis-Hoover, Dana Gordon, Judy Lambert, Gillian Horsley, Susan Diffenderfer (and her daughter), Debbie Karvey, Diana Witt (and husband).

Lisa Maatz, AAUW Vice President of Government Relations and Advocacy, sent this message on January 23:

Our march forward does not end when the signs are packed away and the crowds head home. It's more critical now than ever that we come together to make our message heard, starting today. Take action with AAUW now:

Did you march? Click here to be counted! In just 30 seconds, you can help AAUW show our impact by participating in our official headcount. (<http://bit.ly/AAUWheadcount>)

Join AAUW in the 10 actions/100 days campaign by adding your name to our electronic postcard to demand that women's priorities be America's priorities. Over the next 100 days, you'll have the opportunity to carry on the march's momentum by taking action on 10 items important to AAUW.

Share this email with your friends, neighbors, colleagues, cousins - anyone and everyone you know. This weekend proved there's strength in numbers and we need your help spreading the word. Encourage everyone you know to become a Two Minute Activist today and reach out to individuals in your community to invite them to join AAUW.

NOTE: The hyperlinks are available on the AAUW website.



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Calendar

Board Meeting – Jan 28 at 10am at Buckhead Library

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