



ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
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2016-2017 Leadership

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Plan to Attend March Meeting

March is Women's History Month, and what a better way to celebrate than coming together to learn more about each other!

Do you have a hobby, interest, volunteer organization, etc. that you are passionate about and would like to share with others? Then our upcoming Atlanta Branch meeting is your chance! Members that would like to share will be set up at tables around the perimeter of the room with their topic on display, and other members/guests in attendance will tour the gallery we've created. It's ok if your topic isn't directly related to AAUW - it's about learning about each other :)

Date & Time: March 25th from 10am-noon

Location: Peachtree Presbyterian Church - 3434 Roswell Road NW, Atlanta, GA 30305, St. Andrew's Room, Room 2209

Agenda: Welcome & Brunch, Tour of Members' Interests Gallery, Business Meeting

Cost: \$20 cash or check

RSVP Deadline: March 11th

If you are interested in bringing something to share, please contact Amira Saleh (amirasaleh23@gmail.com) with the topic and materials you are bringing. Space is limited, we anticipate about 10-12 spots.

Co-President's Message

Mary Lynn Merkle

LOOKING FOR A BARGAIN?!

I love bargains! My handbag always has an array of coupons. I look forward to the 1 cent item. A \$5.00 gift card with purchase gets my attention. So you see, bargains are a big deal for me!

But the best bargain I know, better than anything mentioned, is AAUW Atlanta Branch membership. And here's why:

- The national dues are \$49., of which \$46.00 is tax deductible. That's because that \$46. supports the tremendously important activities of our national office as a non-profit organization. The quantity and quality of activity generated by a comparatively small number of staff is astounding. And how about those legislative updates which we receive via email on a regular basis! I couldn't be more proud to tell people what AAUW is about.
- AAUW of Georgia uses the \$10. collected from each of us very carefully. With just two meetings each year (a fall board meeting and a spring convention), emails, phone calls and postal service are used extensively to conduct needed business.

Co-President's Message Cont.

- The spring conventions have provided memorable programming. Who can forget Lisa Maatz, the AAUW public policy guru who “fired us up” with new resolve? Or the recently retired Executive Director Linda Hallman who, with her many talents and strengths could have headed up many organizations, told us why she chose to lead AAUW? Remember the woman who battled the male dominated “military aristocracy” and charged one of her superior officers with sexual assault? Were you as proud as I was that AAUW was lending its support to her through the Legal Advocacy Fund?

And then we come to the \$18. branch dues. Here are some “added value” components:

- **The Travel Group:** Where else could you join a well-planned excursion to an Atlanta area place of interest followed by lunch (with reservations) at a nearby restaurant—not just once, but eight times a year?
- **Contemporary Literature (commonly known as Book Group):** Once each month (summer excepted) we can participate in a sometimes rousing but always informative discussion of current literature with the added pleasure of kindling and rekindling friendships (and enjoying delicious refreshments). An added bonus is a list (and short synopsis) of all the books which are entered into the competition to be one of the nine that are chosen for the following year. If you are not a participant but would like a copy of this list to help with your reading choices, let me know.
- **Branch meetings:** Programs that will make a difference are our planning priority. Input from members is essential to make this happen. You may have noted that efforts are made to keep necessary business to a minimum.
- **Our philanthropy:** When I tell people who don't know about AAUW about our scholarships, fellowships, internships, legal advocacy, college and university women, etc., they are amazed (as am I). Of course, they want to know where we get the money. And then I have to inform them about bookdrops, bookroom, Bookfair and the dedicated women who make it happen.

Membership in Atlanta AAUW is, indeed, a bargain. And the more you participate, the bigger the bargain. Membership renewal will begin in April. Notices will be included in the Newsletter and at meetings.

If your life at this time doesn't allow you to be an active participant, we appreciate your on-going support. If you would like to be more active, check your bright green 2016-2017 handbook and call or email the appropriate board member. Consider yourself invited—always!

Title IX Meeting Follow-up

By: Amira Saleh

Thank you to those that attended the February 4th Atlanta Branch Title IX meeting. This meeting featured Atlanta Women for Equality (AWE) Executive Director, Lisa Anderson, and Legal Director, Elaine Woo. They discussed their current work to oppose House Bill 51, which would require public and private universities in Georgia to report all sexual assault allegations to law enforcement.

Members and guests in attendance, requested next steps they could take to support AWE in their opposition to HB 51. Even if you were unable to attend, check out the links below. Here are some great informational resources and actions you can take:

- Write concise letters to your representatives, expressing your opinion on HB 51. You can email your letters to Atlanta Women for Equality (elaine@atlantawomenforequality.org) for them to look over and/or to turn in on your behalf.
- Write op-ed pieces to garner press attention, either against HB 51 or mandatory referral more generally.
- Call your representatives as they keep a tally of support vs. opposition for a bill. Perhaps organize a "call day" with AWE or other supporting organizations you are involved in.
- Visit Facebook page for Students United against HB 51 and sign a petition against the bill: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/733880923414664>. They also have a list of local representatives post.



Travel Group

By: Betty Arden

On March 9, 2017, the AAUW Travel Group will meet at 10:30 am at the valet stand at The Shops of Buckhead Atlanta, 3035 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta.

After touring the most recently completed stores, the group will enjoy an elegant lunch at Le Bilboquet, a favorite Manhattan restaurant that has migrated to Atlanta.

Call Betty Arden for further details and carpool information.

Contemporary Literature

By: Kay Collins

The Contemporary Lit. group will discuss "Clementine: The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill by Sonia Purnell." We will meet about 10:30 AM at the home of Mary Hanson for refreshments and book discussion. If you have questions, please call Kay Collins.



Pictured is AAUW Atlanta Board Member, Betty Slater, delivering the Certificate of Appreciation to Whole Foods Market. The certificate reads:

"In recognition of your Team's generous help with the collection of book donations for the AAUW annual Book Fair"

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Branch Meeting—Mar 23 at 10am at Peachtree Presbyterian Church