



ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

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2016-2017 Leadership

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Co-President's Message

Blondie Chitunya-Wilson

Women Pioneers who Lit Up the World of Leadership & Engineering

Celebrating National Women's History Month brings to mind our many accomplishments in continuing to encourage women and girls to break the barriers by working in male-dominated professions. National Women's History Month honors women who have successfully challenged the role of women in both business and the paid labor force. The 2017 honorees represent many diverse backgrounds, and each made her mark in a different field. Additionally, the honorees' work and influence span three centuries of America's history.

Facing stark inequalities in the workplace (lower wages, poor working conditions, and limited opportunities), they fought to make the workplace a less hostile environment for women. These women succeeded in expanding women's participation in commerce and their power in the paid labor force. As labor and business leaders and innovators they defied the social mores of their times by demonstrating women's ability to create organizations and establish their own businesses that paved the way for better working conditions and wages for themselves and other women. They proved that women could succeed in every field. While each honoree is extraordinary, each is also ordinary in her own way, proving that women business and labor leaders can and should be considered the norm. Most importantly, the 2017 honorees paved the way for generations of women labor and business leaders to follow.

- Rebecca "Becky" Anderson from North Carolina was a founding director of the HandMade in America organization, which established a craft-focused economy for 25 counties in the state. Anderson coordinated major projects in tourism, small town revitalization, and education programs for school systems.
- Barbara Hackman Franklin's career is trailblazing for both her extensive government and private sector work and for her efforts to open the doors to other women leaders. Serving five presidents, Franklin led efforts to increase the number of women in government, normalized commercial relations between the U.S. and China, and is an expert on corporate governance.
- Alexis Herman was appointed by President Jimmy Carter as the director of the Labor Department's Women's Bureau, the youngest in history. In 1992, she became the first African American woman to serve as Assistant to the president and as the Director of the White House Office of Public Liaison, and on May 1, 1997, Herman was sworn in as America's twenty-third Secretary of Labor and the first African American ever to lead the United States Department of Labor.
- Lilly Ledbetter is an Equal Pay Activist. In 2012 she released her memoir Grace and Grit: My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond.

We must also remember women in technology who are contributing to women in STEM. Technology is still a sector with a vast gender imbalance, but these women have proven how much technology could gain from women. (continued on next page)

Co-President's Message Cont.

Yes, the tech industry is doing a well-documented failing job in attracting women into engineering. According to Julie Bort, once they enter this male-dominated world, some women are subject to some appalling sexism and/or sexual harassment. Here is a look at some inspiring women in technology, either pioneers from the past who have shaped the current tech we often take for granted, or women currently working in STEM and making waves. There are also women who are leading important tech teams at well-respected companies. And there are women who are building latest technologies at startups. In other words, there are women having fabulous careers as engineers, building the technology that millions of people use on a daily basis. With that in mind, following are some women developers, designers, engineering directors, bio scientists, nuclear scientist, and rocket scientists.

I start with Kamilah Taylor, who is the daughter of my friend, Dr. Ashley Taylor.

- She is a senior software engineer at LinkedIn. However, she is probably best known for her work in advocating for women and people of color in the tech industry. She's the author of "Women in Tech: Take Your Career to the Next Level with Practical Advice and Inspiring Stories."
- Mitchell Baker is the executive chairwoman of the Mozilla Foundation.
- Sheryl Sandberg is the chief operating officer at Facebook,
- Casey Edgeton is the senior product designer at the up-and-coming health care startup Forward. She's also Uber's first designer who helped develop the interface for its app.
- Cheryl Porro is senior vice-president Technology and Products at Salesforce.org. More than 30,000 non-profits and higher education organizations use the products on Salesforce.org. and her team is constantly rolling out more.
- Alyssa Henry heads engineering for Square (although, technically, her title is Seller Lead).
- Anne Aaron is director of Video Algorithms at Netflix. She leads a team of software engineers and research scientists.
- Deb Liu is the vice president of Platform & Marketplace at Facebook. She also serves on the board of a nonprofit that encourages girls to enter STEM careers, Expanding Your Horizons Network; and last year co-created the networking organization Women in Product.

Quick and Easy Ways to Help Bookfair

By: Sharon Bevis-Hoover

If you would like to help Bookfair throughout the year but don't have much time to commit, here are some quick and easy ways that you can help:

- Liquor Boxes - Pick up and deliver liquor boxes to the Bookroom. We use them to pack priced books for Bookfair.
- Shipping Supplies - When you receive packages, save the small boxes, air pillows, and bubble wrap. We use them to ship books that we sell on Amazon.
- Decorators and Home Stagers - Hardcover books that are missing dust jackets don't sell well at Bookfair. We offer them to decorators and home stagers to fill bookshelves, but our best customer has retired. Please help us locate others.
- Worthy Ways to Use Unsold Books - We can't sell all of the books that are donated to us. Help us get those books to worthy destinations. Current and past examples include veterans groups, family crisis centers, mail-box libraries, West African colleges, prison ministries, and charity book sales outside of the metro area.



Contemporary Literature

By: Kay Collins

The book group will meet Monday, April 3, 10:30 AM at the home of Mary Hanson. We'll discuss "The Japanese Lover" by Isabel Allende. Contact Kay Collins with questions contemporaryliterature@aauwatlanta.org.

Equal Pay for Equal Work positions: Women's Day Opens up the conversation

By: **Blondie Chitunya-Wilson**

From its early inception in 1909, we will take a look at the long and surprising journey of International Women's Day (IWD), now celebrated March 8th every year. The day was first observed in the U.S. February 1909 with a large demonstration marking the one-year anniversary of the 1908 New York Garment Workers' Strike. Quickly thereafter, women's day became a rallying point for people around the world as they protested the war and fought for women's suffrage. In 1917 a Women's Day protest in St. Petersburg even triggered the revolution responsible for bringing down the Russian Empire. In 1975 the U.N. established March 8 as its official International Women's Day, and President Obama declared March as Women's History Month.

This year's theme was "#BeBoldForChange," a campaign that calls its supporters to a more gender inclusive world and to help forge a better working world. The gender pay gap, according to the World Economic Forum, is not predicted to close until 2086. The difference this year was that the organizers of Women's March and the planned International Women's Strike asked women to refrain from shopping, to wear red in solidarity, to support women-owned businesses, and to take a day off from paid and unpaid labor.

On IWD a number of schools were closed in the US after women in North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland requested a day off to take part in the strike. This strike saw women take time out of both paid and unpaid work to emphasize their value. In Australia, dozens of nurseries and children's centers were forced to close after more than 1,000 childcare workers walked off the job at 3:20, the time at which they begin working for free as a result of the gender pay gap, while thousands attended a rally in Melbourne. Often subject to abuse and poor conditions, Hong Kong's live-in migrant workers are only allowed one day off a week. Many gave up their day of statutory rest to make their voices heard. They marched demanding better pay and conditions.

Many countries in Africa and Asia also participated in the IWD activities.

As we continue to empower each other, we have to salute the work and examples of historical heroines that follows:

- Pilot Lotfia el Nadi took flying lessons in secret and became the first Egyptian and African female aviator. She was also the second woman in the world to learn to fly solo.
- Ida B Wells was a journalist, suffragist, and civil rights, campaigner. Her investigative journalism saw her researching and documenting lynching, which led to her anti-lynching campaign in the 1890s.
- Known for her self-portraits, Frida Kahlo's work is world renowned. Her paintings captured the often-painful female experience, drawing directly from her own life.

- Lina Bo Bardi was an architect behind many famous buildings, including the São Paulo Museum of Art, known landmark in Brazil.
- Miriam Makeba was a singer and civil rights activist from South Africa. One of the most outspoken opponents of the apartheid regime, she was exiled from her country for 30 years.
- Astronaut and physicist Sally Ride was the first American woman in space, taking her first trip in 1983 and a subsequent one a year later. She worked as an advocate for women.
- Halet Çambel was both an athlete and an archeologist. She worked on some of Turkey's most important archaeological sites and was also the first Muslim woman to compete in the Olympics. She represented Turkey in fencing in the 1936 Berlin games and famously refused to meet Hitler.
- Ada Lovelace is universally recognized as the first computer programmer. A mathematician, she created the first algorithm.
- Despite facing opposition, Cecilia Grierson became the first woman to receive a medical degree in Argentina. She also served as vice president of the International Council of Women.
- Lee Tai-Young was Korea's first female lawyer and became the country's first female judge. Her legal work helped improve the rights of Korean women. She also founded Korea's first legal aid center.

One would agree that the world has witnessed a significant change and attitudinal shift in both women's and society's thoughts about women's equality and emancipation. Many from a younger generation may feel that 'all the battles have been won for women.' while many feminists from the 1970's know only too well the longevity and ingrained complexity of patriarchy. With more women in the boardroom, greater equality in legislative rights, and an increased critical mass of women's visibility as impressive role models in every aspect of life, one could think women have real choices. The unfortunate fact is that women are still not paid equally to that of their male counterparts. In addition, women still are not present in equal numbers in business or politics; and globally women's education, health and the violence against them is worse than that of men. However, great improvements have been made. We do have female astronauts and prime ministers, school girls are welcomed into university, women can work and have a family, women have real choices. And so, each year the world inspires women and celebrates their achievements. One thing I know for sure, American Association of University Women (AAUW) has been around for well over a century - and continues to empower women and girls by breaking the barriers.

March Members' Interests Atlanta Branch Meeting

By: Amira Saleh

On March 25, 2017 at the Peachtree Presbyterian Church, the Atlanta Branch came together for a branch meeting focused on learning about each other. Ten branch members listed below prepared detailed and interactive displays of their interests ranging from AAUW groups to volunteer organizations to handmade crafts and businesses. Attendees enjoyed brunch and toured the beautiful displays:

- AAUW Bookfair & Bookroom, Sharon Bevis-Hoover
- AAUW Bookfair Photography, Huiping Du
- AAUW Travel Group, Betty Arden
- AAUW Contemporary Literature Group, Susan Diffenderfer and Kay Collins
- Senior University (SUGA), Kay Collins
- Growing a Hobby into a Business, Gillian Horsley
- Jewelry Making, Mary Hanson
- Human Rights, Mary Lynn Merkle
- Kopila Valley Project - BlinkNow, Alta Birdsong
- Making Travel Albums, Marcy Nader

A big thank you to all the branch members that participated and helped bring this wonderful meeting together. When we take the time to learn about and support each other's passions, we strengthen our community and our branch.



HAVE YOU REGISTERED??!!

By: Mary Lynn Merkle

Myra Carmon, our Branch's immediate past president, is also serving as co-president of AAUW of Georgia. And she assures us that the State Convention on April 21 and 22 will be well worth our time and effort to attend.

It will very conveniently be held at the Hilton Atlanta Perimeter Suites, 6120 Peachtree Dunwoody Road. Saturday's program begins at 9:00 a.m. and will adjourn by 3:00 p.m. We will have three excellent speakers: Traci Jensen, AAUW National Board Member; Amanda Hammett, a millennial translator; and Gail Buckner, chair of Ratify ERA, Georgia.

Our Atlanta Branch is responsible for the reception on Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. We will want a good group to welcome those branches who are coming from some distance.

The registration form can be found in the "Cherokee Rose" that was emailed to you on March 18th. If you are unable to locate it, please let me know and I will resend it. The cost, including reception, continental breakfast, and lunch, is only \$40.00 for a really phenomenal day of connecting with one another.

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 membership@aauwatlanta.org.

Travel Group

By: **Betty Arden**

The AAUW Travel Group will meet at 10:00 am on April 13th at the Ansley Mall Kroger Store to carpool to the Bantam and Biddy restaurant for 10:15 am brunch. The group will then drive to the Museum of Design Atlanta, 1315 Peachtree Street, NE Atlanta. We will have a guided tour of the new exhibit "Food by Design: Sustaining The Future." The exhibit features projects by designers, scientists, engineers, farmers, policy makers, and other industry innovators who are working to redesign and revolutionize our food system.

Brunch precedes the tour because MODA does not open until noon. Senior admission is \$8.00. Contact Betty Arden travel@aauwatlanta.org for further details and carpool information.

Annual May Atlanta Branch Meeting

By: **Amira Saleh**

Date: Saturday May 6th

Time: 11:00 am -1:00 pm

Location: Cross Creek Cafe, 1221 Cross Creek Parkway NW, Atlanta, GA, 30327

Please join us for our annual May meeting at Cross Creek Cafe. Attendees will be able to select off the menu and pay separately. There will be a presentation by Trees Atlanta.

Please remember that an accurate guest count based on the Evite RSVPs is important. The RSVP deadline is April 22nd.

If you do not have access to the evite, please contact Amira Saleh (programs@aauwatlanta.org) or Betty Arden to RSVP by April 22nd.



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Calendar

- AAUW of Georgia Convention Reception –April 21 at 6:00pm at Hilton Garden Inn
- AAUW of Georgia Convention—April 22 at 9:00am at Hilton Garden Inn
- Branch Board Meeting—April 22 at 3:30pm at Hilton Garden Inn
- Annual Branch Meeting—May 6 at 11am at Cross Creek Cafe