



ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

SUMMER LEADERSHIP

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A PHILANTHROPIC CELEBRATION

In this first year without a designated Signature project, our philanthropic efforts have been varied and thought provoking. Atlanta Branch's generosity has reached wide from Nepal to Brookhaven, from right here in Atlanta to Morocco. We have supported Title IX, endorsed equal rights for women both here and abroad and been strong supporters of education. Where we have done a little, it has mattered a lot. We continue to carry out our mission of empowering women and girls.

The first contribution of \$1,000. went to Atlanta Women for Equality (AWE), introduced to us by Ingrid Reinhard, and we have partnered with this group to make our voices heard on legislative issues which concern us deeply.

Another \$2,000. went abroad to support BlinkNow, a program begun by an American woman with a strong faith and determination to make life better for young women in a patriarchal society. Alta Birdsong has kept us in touch with this amazing group. Yes, we want girls to be able to go to school alongside their brothers.

We have contributed \$1,000. to a project begun by an Atlanta Fulbright scholar, Samantha Grayman, who works with her colleagues to provide opportunities for growth and international understanding for young women of lower socio-economic circumstances through Women's Global Empowerment Initiative. Our monies have supported their first international exchange program.

Our contribution of \$2,000. to the Dresden Elementary School Educational Foundation, introduced to us by Pat Bevis, is hopefully a conduit to more opportunities to provide assistance where it can make a difference for an underserved community. Yes, we do want children to be able to learn and thrive and grow up to make it a better world.

We explored other groups working to eradicate uterine cancer, advocacy for women, and always for education. More is yet to come.

Please come forward with your ideas, passions, and commitment of time and energy for any of these projects or another in which you want to see us make a difference. We have been good stewards of our funds. Thanks so much to all of you for making this possible.

My very best to all,

Cele Covatta
Philanthropy Chair

IT'S THAT TIME!

If you have not already written that check, it's time to renew your AAUW membership. You may mail checks to Kay Collins. Make check out to AAUW Atlanta Branch. Dues are the same as last year for most members—\$77.00. There are exceptions for students, Honorary members, Life members and past presidents. Any questions? Contact Kay membership@aauwatlanta.org

****INTRODUCING OUR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS****

**SUZANNE MUTIC,
BOARD SECRETARY**

Suzanne, born and raised in Pittsburgh, has spent much of her professional life in education. It all began when she joined a religious order, Sisters of Saint Joseph, right after high school and attended Carlow College. It was there that she majored in Elementary Education with a minor in Social Studies. The next 12 years were spent teaching throughout Pennsylvania.

After 12 years in the convent, her life changed in many directions--but not in her love for education and educating. She earned a Master of Education from the University of Pittsburgh, and she met Steve on a blind date. They were soon married; and Joshua, Jayme and Nathan were added to their family.

The young family moved to Vermont, and stayed there for 15 years--until Suzanne thought she wanted to live closer to her aging parents. When they turned 95, Suzanne noted, "Had I known they would live so long, we might have stayed in Vermont for a few more years."

She spent 45 years in Education as a teacher, Principal, and as a Central Office Administrator. After retirement she served as a consultant for the PA Dept. of Education and several private adjudicated placements for adolescent violent offenders.

Suzanne, now widowed (Steve passed away in 2007 from cancer), received a call from her youngest son asking if she would consider moving to Atlanta to help care for her granddaughter while he taught and her daughter-in-law completed a PhD. in Nursing. Her response, "Yes, for one year till you get settled." One year turned into three and a permanent move! She had fallen deeply in love with Norah Pearl and her new sister Maggi Mae.

Although moving to a new city and leaving life-long friends behind caused some anxiety, Suzanne has no regrets. Suzanne's new church is a foundation for her spiritual as well as social life. Carol Allain introduced her to AAUW, and other local activities followed. Her job security as "Mimi" is secure, she volunteers by teaching reading at Emory Montessori and the International Community School. She "adopted" a refugee family of Mom and five children, and she serves as a Eucharistic Minister at Emory Hospital.

Suzanne loves to travel. She will be traveling to Scandinavia with fellow Atlanta Branch members Cecelia Cantrell, Carol Allain, and Phyllis Miller in September. And then there are those trips to New York City to visit her son, Dr. Joshua Mutic, and to Middletown, PA where daughter, Jayme Webb, lives.



**MARCY NADER
BRANCH MEETING CO-SECRETARY**



Marcy was born and raised in Detroit, MI. She went to the University of Michigan and to Monteith College, a small experimental college within Wayne State University in Detroit. She received her Library Science degree from Wayne State in 1968. She began her career at the public library in Baltimore County, MD.

She then spent time learning Hebrew and exploring in Israel. It was here that she met Sholom (Sy) Josephs, an accountant from Chicago. They were married in Chicago, where she worked as librarian and abstract writer for the National Easter Seal Society.

They relocated to Atlanta in 1974, and their children, Tammy and Dale were born here.

Shortly after arriving in Atlanta, she was introduced to AAUW by a new friend, Margie McDermott (who now lives in Birmingham). She became active in the Contemporary Literature Group and spent many hours working in the Bookroom.

Marcy worked part-time or as a volunteer in several synagogue, school and social agencies with the Atlanta Jewish community until Sy passed away unexpectedly in 1987. In 1990, she started working full-time for the Cobb County Public Library System, from which she retired in 2008 as Branch Manager for the Merchants Walk Library.

She married Robert Nader in 1997, and they have just celebrated their 20th anniversary. Both her children are married. Tammy and her husband Matt live in Madison, AL, just outside of Huntsville, with their children Aaron (almost 11) and Rebecca (7). Dale and his wife Lisa are in Salinas, CA.

Both Robert and Marcy are passionate about family, learning, theater, and travel. They have season tickets at several local theaters, and have taken over 30 cruises together. (Some of us saw the beautiful picture albums of their many travels at our March branch meeting.)

Since she enjoys writing and editing, she has been happy to serve terms as Board Secretary and Branch Meeting Co-Secretary, among other positions over the years.

**SUSAN DIFFENDERFER
BRANCH MEETING CO-SECRETARY**

Susan, born at Crawford Long Hospital, is one of the rare Atlanta natives in our Branch. The city was always home base; but, because her father was career military, the family moved often. In fact, Susan attended 9 schools in 12 years, culminating in graduation from Nuremberg American High School in Germany in 1961.

She came home ahead of the family and started college at Georgia State with a major in psychology. And that's where she met her husband, Don.

Following ROTC and marriage the young couple were stationed in northern Italy for two years before he was sent to Vietnam.

They had two children, Lauren (who now lives in Powder Springs) and Andy (who now lives in St. Mary's, GA with his wife Debra.

The family lived in Georgia, Mississippi and Florida before coming home to Atlanta in 1992.

(Susan's "story" continues on next page)

(Susan D's "story" continues)

Don passed away in 1994. Susan moved into a condo neighborhood near Emory university and has been employed by Tall Tales Book Shop in Toco Hills for the past 21 years, a job she absolutely loves with her whole heart.

And speaking of hearts, Susan has two grandchildren--Lily (age 14) and Ben (age 21) both of whom are in Powder Springs.

Susan has been a member of Atlanta Branch for decades having been brought into the group by longtime member, Alta Birdsong. Being an avid reader she is an integral member of Contemporary Literature and has held positions of leadership over the year--including in 2017 the position of Diversity Chair in addition to Branch Meeting Co-Secretary. Susan says that she continues to serve in leadership positions because she thinks it's important to support organizations in which she has membership with time and energies. (Lucky us!)

In her spare time she is an active member at North Decatur Presbyterian Church, has volunteered for more than 15 years at Hospice Atlanta and enjoys traveling when possible.

Two of her favorite things about AAUW are connected: she loves that we give scholarships to women returning to school; and she loves raising the money with our yearly used book sale.



Susan, at work, is displaying some of the titles that have been recommended for Contemporary Literature for 2017-2018.

AND WE HEAR FROM OUR PHILANTHROPIC RECIPIENTS!!

First:

Recently we financially supported the attendance of two students and an advisor from Atlanta Metropolitan State College to the 2017 AAUW of Georgia State Convention. Betty Slater, our College/University Relations Co-Chair, received this note from Latrice, Charliya, and Noella.

"We just wanted to take the time to thank you for all your support in getting our two AMSC students and mentor to the AAUW Georgia State Convention. We got a lot of good information, were warmly welcomed, and left feeling very much empowered!

We all already put the book sale on our calendars to give back to you all!! We look forward to continuing our partnership with you all."

Second:

From "Blink Now"--

Our support of the Cool Scholars program ended last year. Funds previously designated for this project became available for different projects. In March the Board voted to send \$2,000. to Blink Now, a foundation in Kopila Valley in Nepal that educates, trains, and supports women. A "thank you" letter came to us from Cindy Lou Cuesta, Director of Development which announced many accomplishments in their educational programs for school girls as well as women. Paraphrasing her note to us--"Such a beautiful gift! It is through the goodwill of friends ...that we are able to fulfill our mission, and we are so thankful."

Third:

From Dresden Elementary School Education Foundation

The Dresden Foundation activities include providing after-school tutoring and parent programs on various subjects such as consumer education. It also provides faculty support and other volunteer help to educate children at Dresden Elementary.

An excerpt from the thank-you letter—"With generous support of people like you, we will be able to provide the students at Dresden Elementary School with the tools they need to be successful and reach their potential. We look forward to a long term relationship with the American Association of University Women.

INTRODUCING OUR 2017-2018 COMMUNICATIONS INTERN: MADISON HOOVER

Madison, a rising sophomore at Georgia Tech, is majoring in mechanical engineering with a minor in Spanish language. According to Madison she and other female mechanical engineering students have already experienced the difficulties of being a small minority in a STEM program. In Madison's words— "Though women may have made strides in terms of equity, I recognize that the fight is not over until everyone understands that women are just as intelligent, capable, deserving, and talented as men. Feminist is a term that I proudly bear, though it is one that is often misunderstood. We do not represent radicalism or a desire for superiority; we believe in receiving the rights we deserve as equals. This internship will allow me to have my own role in fighting for equality for women and helping forge a stronger legacy for AAUW women. The organization has been kind, loving, and welcoming to my mother and grandmother (Editor's note: Sharon Bevis Hoover and Pat Bevis, both former Branch presidents) in immeasurable ways, and I am excited for the opportunity to be a part of such an impactful and historic organization."

As communications intern Madison will be able to use her many computer and graphic design skills. She accepted important leadership roles in both high school and as a freshman at GT. It is clear that Atlanta Branch and its new intern will mutually benefit as the gifts and talents of Madison intersect with the experiences of branch members who work toward equity and the empowerment of women and girls.



Stephani Townes, one of our 2016 scholarship recipients, graduated from Agnes Scott in May and actually had a chance to have a picture taken with Oprah Winfrey. This summer she will be taking a teacher preparation course, and hopes to begin her teaching career in the fall. She is pictured here with son Devan, age 7, and her very proud finance Medias.



Nykki Ogbomoh, one of our 2016 scholarship recipients, recently graduated from Georgia State University with a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry with a minor in Mathematics.

In Nykki's words, "I have been able to work for four long and hard years to accomplish what many would say is impossible. —I was able to manage three jobs, hold leadership in three different organizations, and still take 18 credit hours worth of STEM classes. I gained more knowledge and awareness about myself than ever before. Those moments taught me life is more than a finish line."

Nykki will begin a Master's in Chemistry at GSU beginning in January.

TRYING NEW AVENUES WITH OUR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

In past years Atlanta Branch has sent two or three college students from our partner schools to NCCWSL in Maryland. This year our College/University Relations chair, Betty Slater suggested that instead we underwrite the cost of attendance at the AAUW of Georgia Convention. There were several presentations which seemed particularly important for young women—the continued attempts to get at least three more states to pass the Equal Rights Amendment, reports about family centered legislation, and a "millennial" speaker.

Through several contacts made by Betty there were seven students and one staff member representing five colleges and universities who attended. Those attending were: from Atlanta Metropolitan State College were Charliya Jackson and Latrice Smith with staff member Noelia Sandoval; from Agnes Scott College was Nocolette Paglioni; from Emory University was Tatenda Manqurenje; from Georgia State University was Nicole Ogbomoh, and from Savannah College of Art and Design were Ce Erica Roland Ferguson and Bhabna Hague.

We appreciate these young women who were willing to spend a Saturday with us during a very busy time, and we appreciate Betty's persistence in making contacts with staff members at our partner colleges and universities.

JUNE 6, 2017

A GRAND FINALE FOR OUR FINAL 2016-2017 BRANCH MEETING MAY 6, CROSS CREEK CAFE



Betty Arden (right) receives congratulations from Kay Collins, membership vice-president, for 50 years membership in AAUW



Rosemary Cox, our speaker from Trees, Atlanta is flanked by Branch co-presidents Blondie Chitunya-Wilson and Mary Lynn Merkle. Rosemary was most informative and as a professor of literature wove poetry about trees into her presentation.



Debbie Karvey, (left) member of Cobb County Branch and Public Policy chair for AAUW of Georgia, installed our new officers. Pictured next to Debbie are Myra Carmon and Cele Covatta, nominating committee, and Marcy Nader, Branch co-secretary. Missing are: Co-branch secretary Susan Diffenderfer, Board secretary Suzanne Mutic, and additional nominating committee members Mary Hanson, Wendy Venet, and Huiping Du.

On the right—Ruth Yurchuck, our Communications Chair, recognizes the services of our 2016-2017 communications intern, Riana Smith, for her extraordinary work on behalf of Atlanta Branch. Riana is a 2017 graduate of Clark Atlanta University.



AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS

The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders is a well respected program supported by the U.S. Department of State. The fellowship recipients are between the ages of 25 and 35, are from Sub-Saharan Africa, and have established outstanding accomplishment in their organizations, their communities, and their countries. Each of the Fellows takes part in a six-week Academic and Leadership Institute at a U.S. University or college on one of three tracks: Business and Entrepreneurship, Civic Leadership, or Public Management.

Clark Atlanta University is one of 39 colleges and universities participating in the fellowship program. There will be 25 Fellows from 19 countries arriving June 16th and 17th. In order to enhance the experience for these young leaders, Clark Atlanta is asking community members to “host” one or more of the participants for a meal—either in their homes or at a restaurant. The possible dates are from June 23rd through July 27th. Weekends are preferred, but week days are possibilities.

Our member, Pat Bevis, has been in contact with Dr. Mesfin Bezuneh who is the director of the program; and she is excited about this opportunity for participation in the “family dinner” program by our members. There are several options: one member may host one or more individuals in her home with her family; two or three members may host two or three individuals in one member’s home, perhaps making it “potluck;” or two or three members may want to host two or three individuals in a restaurant setting.

If you are interested in participating in any way, contact Pat. Pat will do the rest. *Just a few of the countries these young leaders represent are: Uganda, Nigeria, Zambia, Malawi, Ethiopia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, and more. What an opportunity for a learning experience for all of us!

HAVE YOU BEEN THINKING ABOUT JOINING CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE?!



Suzy Thomas, our newest member, is holding our September selection.

Now is the perfect time to “sign up.” The group has just met to select their books for 2017-2018. Our first gathering will take place on Monday, August 28th, 10:30 a.m. at the home of member Mary Hanson. There will be some refreshments, and then a lively discussion about **Small Great Things** by Jodi Picoult led by member Gillian Horsley. New participants are always welcome.

Contact Kay Collins

contemporaryliterature@aauwatlanta.org to let her know, and then you will be contacted. Gathering at Mary’s to select next year’s books. And a good time was had by all!



COMMITTEES WILL BE MEETING THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER TO PLAN FOR 2017-2018

Committee chairs are always looking for new members. If you are willing to sign on to a committee, please contact one of the co-presidents, Mary Lynn Merkle president@aauwatlanta.org or Blondie Chitunya-Wilson president@aauwatlanta.org —or if you are interested in a particular committee, you may contact the chairperson directly.

The program committee will be meeting on Sunday, June 11th to plan programs and places. If you have any ideas for programs, please contact one of the program vice presidents: Amira Saleh (programs@aauwatlanta.org) or Betty Arden.

Our first board meeting will be held on August 12th, 10:15 a.m. at the Buckhead Library. This will be an important one as we hear the reports of the committees and finalize our plans for programs and consider our philanthropic objectives for our 2017-2018 year.