



Atlanta Branch News

Co-President's Message:

Mary Lynn Merkle

You may recall that in the last newsletter I listed the five top reasons I love belonging to AAUW Atlanta Branch: (5) mission of equity for women and girls, (4) research, (3) philanthropy, (2) informative meetings, and (1) friendships.

Now I'm wondering what there is about our Branch that encourages you to pay those dues each year, to accept elected and/or appointed positions, to sign up for Bookfair/Bookroom hours, or just fill in where needed when you are able. You may have some of the same reasons I have, you may have a different #1, or you may have a completely different one.

My request: Would you fill out the mini-survey below? I'd like to use names, but please tell me if you would prefer your name not be used. My plan is to use this information in the co-president's article for the November newsletter and, more importantly, for future planning.

.....

Name _____

Number of years of membership _____

My favorite things about Atlanta Branch:

- 1.
- 2.

Nobody's perfect, including Atlanta Branch. Please complete the following sentence.

I wish we would/could...

.....
Please send your completed survey by email to (president@aauwatlanta.org). I'm really looking forward to hearing from you.

2017-2018 Leadership

Co-Presidents

Blondie Chitunya-Wilson
Mary Lynn Merkle
president@aauwatlanta.org

Program Vice Presidents

Betty Arden and Amira Saleh
programs@aauwatlanta.org

Membership Vice President

Kay Collins
membership@aauwatlanta.org

Board Secretary

Suzanne Mutic
secretary-board@aauwatlanta.org

Branch Meeting Secretaries

Susan Diffenderfer and Marcy Nader
secretary-meeting@aauwatlanta.org

Finance Officers

Alta Birdsong and Phyllis Miller
treasurer@aauwatlanta.org

College/University Relations

Betty Slater and Carol Allain
universityrelations@aauwatlanta.org

Diversity

Susan Diffenderfer
diversity@aauwatlanta.org

Historian

Wendy Venet
historian@aauwatlanta.org

Hospitality

Betty Arden
hospitality@aauwatlanta.org

Public Policy

Diana Witt
publicpolicy@aauwatlanta.org

Continued on pg. 2

AAUW OF GEORGIA Fall Board Meeting Report:

Mary Lynn Merkle

Co-presidents Blondie Chitunya-Wilson and Mary Lynn Merkle along with Myra Carmon (currently serving as co-president of AAUW of GA) represented Atlanta Branch at the fall board meeting held in Columbus on Saturday, September 16th. Here are some highlights of the meeting:

*Rome and Milledgeville both relinquished their Branch charters. Many of us will remember warmly Gordon Leiter, who kept the Rome Branch going for the past several years. His wife, a longtime member, passed away recently, and Gordon has given up his leadership position. Milledgeville, reactivated in recent years, was unable to sustain membership and leadership.

*Columbus, struggling with membership, is not ready to surrender. Longtime Columbus leader, Erma Banks, said that like the Phoenix, they will "rise again." We wish them well.

*Spring Convention will be held either April 14th or 28th. Houston-Peach Branch has offered leadership in finding a location.

*In terms of ERA in Georgia the women present unanimously voiced their support.

*Debbie Karvey, AAUW of GA public policy chair, spoke about the Family Care Act for which AAUW, along with other organizations, has lobbied long and hard. Although successfully passed, it has limitations, and the struggle is not over.

*Debbie also reported that the Gender Pay gap is now at 80%--improved but this struggle also continues. National AAUW will publish an updated "The Simple Truth."

*The nominating committee will be recruiting new officers. Please consider serving if you are asked. Strong leadership results in a strong voice for change, and ERA looms ahead.

*Leadership, continued***Public Relations**

Sharon Bevis-Hoover
publicrelations@aauwatlanta.org

Scholarship

Wendy Venet
scholarship@aauwatlanta.org

Web Information

Terry Eshenour
webmaster@aauwatlanta.org

Contemporary Literature

Kay Collins
contemporaryliterature@aauw...atlanta.org

Travel Group

Betty Arden
travel@aauwatlanta.org

Advisory Board Chair

Kay Collins
advisory@aauwatlanta.org

Publications

Madison Hoover
publications@aauwatlanta.org

AAUW Funds

Dana Gordon
aauwfunds@aauwatlanta.org

Philanthropy Chair

Cele Covatta
philanthropy@aauwatlanta.org

Communications Chair

Ruth Yurchuck
communications@aauwatlanta.org

Bylaws Chair

Pat Bevis
bylaws@aauwatlanta.org



Phishing: A Cautionary Tale

Mary Lynn Merkle

Recently our Atlanta Branch was the object of a scam. As you know, we pride ourselves on being team players, on supporting fellow board members and leaders who are trying to achieve successes and goals for our Branch. And that being said, here is the "tale."

Not too long ago one of our co-treasurers received an urgent "email" from one of our co-presidents. She had a project in the wings that needed immediate financial support-- about \$8,000 worth; and if she had a chance to make it happen, the money had

to be forwarded to a bank account including a routing number. No! We didn't lose \$8,000. of our hard-earned funds—even though the "co-president" sent several more chiding emails. Our spending decisions are not made by one person. As previously mentioned, we are a team. We firmly believe that many conversations by and among individuals result in clearer more successful actions on behalf of our Branch. In reflecting on the message sent there were hints: grammar and spelling errors, questionable sentence structure, a California address. But on the plus side: a well-known bank, use of the word "project" which we often use.



So, if it should happen that any one of us receives an emailed financial request from any one of us, BEWARE--it's not us!

All members are college graduates—but we are also caring people who generally think the best of everyone. Here is the Bottom line—read carefully, question everything, and "click" or "reply" with extreme caution.

*Thanks to our webmanager, Terry Eshenour, for much of the cautionary information contained in this article.

Volunteer for Bookfair's Closing Weekend

Debbie Karvey and Sharon Bevis-Hoover

The 58th Annual AAUW Bookfair continues this weekend through Sunday, October 1. This weekend is our last chance to sell those books, and we need your help to merchandise and move them! We also have an urgent need for additional volunteers for the tear down shift on Sunday night beginning at 7:00 p.m.

If you have already volunteered to work the tear down shift, thank you! We are looking for at least ten additional volunteers. We are partnering with a different organization that will compensate us for the left-over books that they are able to sell, and we need additional AAUW volunteers to ensure the success of this new approach. If you have family, friends, or neighbors that can help out Sunday night, please bring them along. It will make a big difference!

Thank you to all our hardworking Bookfair volunteers. Because of you we are having a great sale and look forward to a busy weekend!

Revisiting Our September Meeting

Mary Lynn Merkle

Sunday, September 10 was a beautiful afternoon for our Fall Membership Celebration. We were welcomed once again by Agnes Scott College, one of our partner colleges.

Part of the program was the introduction of three of our five scholarship recipients: Leah Gray, Asmaa Malik, and Kimberly Stokes. Each gave a brief statement about their career goals and how the stipend will help in reaching them. Additionally, Sana Malik, one of last year's recipients, attended and announced that she graduated in May and is ready to begin medical school. All four of the young women indicated that they plan to help with Bookfair. Yetta McMillan, co-president of AAUW of GA, also attended. She and our Atlanta Branch members Myra Carmon and Blondie Chitunya-Wilson shared some of their amazing experiences at our AAUW National Convention in June.

During the business meeting our co-finance officer, Alta Birdsong, presented the proposal for our 2017-2018 General Fund budget at \$8,163. which passed unanimously. In our 112 th year we are still going strong.

All in all, it was an afternoon well-spent!

*Our Community Fund budget will be set after Bookfair monies have been distributed.



A few of the happy shoppers we hosted at the 2017 AAUW Bookfair!

Contemporary Literature

Kay Collins

Monday, October 2 the Contemporary Literature meeting will be at 10:30 AM, at Mary Hanson's.

The book, "The Shadow of the Wind" by Carlos Ruiz Zafon will be discussed.

Fall Legislative Meeting: Women in Politics

Saturday October 28th, 10:00 am -12 pm

Ansley Golf Club

196 Montgomery Ferry Dr NE

Atlanta, GA 30309

Featuring local candidates running for office and an overview of public policy issues.

Menu: Sun-Dried Tomato and Feta Quiche with Asparagus and Parmesan-Crusted Tomato

Per Person Price: \$17.94 including service charge and tax

Travel Group

The AAUW Travel Group will meet on October 12th at 10 AM at the Ansley Mall Kroger store to carpool to the Delta Flight Museum (1060 Delta Boulevard, B-914, Atlanta).

The self guided tour traces Delta's history and house's historic aircraft and a Boeing 737-200. Admission is \$15.00, or \$12.50 for seniors.



SIGN UP FOR BOOKFAIR

Please click the button below to sign up for the AAUW 2017 Bookfair! Sign-ups are still open!

SIGN UP!

Table of Contents

Co-President's Message	Pg. 1
AAUW of GA Fall Meeting Report	Pg. 2
Phishing: A Cautionary Tale	Pg. 3
Revisiting September Meeting	Pg. 4
Contemporary Literature	Pg. 4
Fall Legislative Meeting	Pg. 5
Travel Group	Pg. 5
Bookfair Sign-Up	Pg. 5

Calendar

AAUW Bookfair 2017	9/24-10/1
Contemporary Literature	10/2
Travel Group	10/12
Fall Legislative Meeting	10/28

www.aauwatlanta.org

