



## Atlanta Branch News

### Fall Kickoff Membership Celebration Tea September 10th, 2pm-4pm, Agnes Scott Science Center

Join us to celebrate our Fall Kickoff, which will include meeting our local scholarship winners and a short but important business meeting! We welcome new friends!

### Co-President's Message:

Mary Lynn Merkle

### MY TOP FIVE REASONS FOR "LOVING" ATLANTA BRANCH

I love being a part of AAUW. Why else would I have been a part of 3 branches in 3 different states, served on two state boards and served as president or co-president 3 times. So now I'd like to explain why!

#5- I'm proud to be a part of an organization that stands for equity and fairness not only for women and girls (as stated in our mission statement) but for all. A quick look at the Diversity and Inclusion tool kit makes it clear that we are an organization that values everyone.

#4- Have you seen all the research and programs AAUW has done?! We have been far ahead of the mainstream on important issues. "Hostile Hallways" was published long before bullying became a national concern. Then there are the STEM initiatives, Ending Campus Sexual Assault tool kit, and the Pay Equity tool kit. The research reports done by AAUW are accurate, scholarly, and timely even though some of the studies were done several years ago. Have you read "Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus" or its sequel, "Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School?" And there is more; just check the website.

#3-Our philanthropic efforts are amazing. In just the 13 years I've been involved with Atlanta Branch we have given almost a half-million dollars away.

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### 2017-2018 Leadership

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Continued on pg. 2

(Co-President's Message, continued)

...When I'm picking up books each week and people stop to ask me what I'm doing, I'm very proud to tell them that we're all volunteers and our profits go to scholarships and fellowships for women and girls and community action grants.

Yes! There are many of us who work long and hard to raise the "cold cash." I truly believe that most of the monies that we give away make a tremendous difference in the lives of the recipients and their families.

#2- Our small groups and branch meetings have informed me and challenged me. As a newcomer to Atlanta Betty Arden's Travels Group outings introduced me to many interesting places in my new city. Contemporary Literature provided me with a list of thought-provoking books, and then we'd meet together to "nosh" and to discuss them. How I appreciated the divergent thinking in these conversations. Branch meetings have always been stimulating. Sometimes it would be political, or philanthropic or informational. And sometimes they are just entertaining. Remember our Talbot's style show?

#1- Have you been wondering what my #1 reason is for loving being an Atlanta Branch member? IT'S THE LADIES!  
Two of our past members (now deceased) come to mind: Frances Smith and Lou Mitchell. Both were 90+. Both were informed, engaged, and lively participants in discussions. My wish is that I might continue to age like they did—always full of life and planning a future. Edith Miller, who recently celebrated her 97th birthday with a group of Atlanta Branch members, is mostly homebound. However, her interest in Branch activities continues. Then there's Bea Meyer. She was my first Atlanta Branch friend. She was Membership VP in 2004 and always called to see if I wanted to carpool to meetings. And then there's a long stream of fellow members who became friends as well.

It's very apparent to me that there are many members who are as eager to see our Branch thrive as I am. They are the ones who, even though busy with other activities, chime in with a positive response when help is needed—whether that is a board position, committee work, bookfair work, or even a "yes" to an invite.

What's not to love!

*Leadership, continued*

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## AAUW Bookfair 2017

By Phillis Miller

Our 58th Annual AAUW Bookfair 2017 will take place at Perimeter Mall during the last full week of September, 9/24 through 10/1, 2017. The sale opens Monday night, 9/25.

Parking will be the mall entrance at the loading dock which has been renovated. This is accessed from the lower parking lot which accesses Brook's Brothers and Dillard's on the lower level.

Please sign up early for **3 or more shifts**. We need lots of people to volunteer for more than 3 shifts, if possible. If a shift appears of be understaffed, please consider volunteering for that time slot. Please plan to arrive 15 minutes before shift starts to receive assignments and get acclimated.

We welcome help from friends, family, and other groups! If you bring others, just sign yourself up and name your additional volunteers in "Comments".

Please indicate in the "Comments" section if you volunteer to be a cashier, cashier assistant, merchandiser, or chair of that shift. If you have no preference, state any or leave blank.

When you sign up to volunteer, you will be given the opportunity to "create an account" with Sign-Up Genius (For electronic users, find sign up genius link on page 6). **Please do this!** With your own account, you can easily see the shifts you signed up for AND, most importantly, you can add or delete shifts for yourself. To create an account, simply enter your email address and remember your password.

Remember, **DO NOT BRING A PURSE** to the mall because we do not have a secure area in which to keep it. During the sale you can wear an apron which has pockets, but during set up and tear down shifts you will have to keep your money/car keys/etc. on your person.

Remember: Financial support of our local scholarships, national fellowships, national grants, and local community action grants would not be possible without a large fundraiser like our Bookfair.

We need **your help**. Thank you for volunteering your time – often!

*Curl up  
with a good book!*



## Little Libraries Have a Really BIG Impact

By Sharon Bevis-Hoover

Would you like to stock or even establish a little free library? Atlanta members Bea Meyer and Pat Bevis recently discovered a little free library at Dresden Elementary School that was sadly under-stocked. They arranged to fill the little library, and Bea is monitoring it and filling it on a regular basis. She makes sure that the library is well supplied with books for the school children, along with books for their younger and older siblings. Sadly, a surprising number of children grow up in homes without books, and the deficit correlates with delays in academic progress. Our AAUW Bookfair is proud to help fill this need. Bea also stocks a little free library for the Friends of Henderson Park. According to Rita Glaser, President of the Dresden Elementary School Education Foundation, the books are already making a difference! During Registration Day, children enjoyed selecting and reading books from the little library while their parents completed the registration process.

The Bookfair receives more book donations than we are able to sell in the week of the Bookfair. Sometimes the condition of a book is not up to our standards, or we receive too many copies of a formerly popular title. We work hard to find alternative homes for the books that we cannot sell. Little free libraries are just one of the ways we find those homes. Look online for more information, including at <https://littlefreelibrary.org>. There may be one around the corner from you! If you would like books to share, just call the bookroom at 404-261-7646, tell us about the target audience, and we will get you the books you need!



Pat Bevis and Bea Meyer at  
Dresden Elementary School's Little  
Free Library

## Contemporary Literature

By: Kay Collins

The Contemporary Literature Group will meet on Tuesday, August 29, 10:30 AM at the home of Mary Hanson. At this first meeting of the new year we will discuss "Small Great Things" by Jodi Picoult. In October, we will return to our usual schedule of meeting on the first Monday of the month. New members please join us!



Rita Glaser, Pat Bevis, and Bea Meyer  
at Dresden's Teacher Giveaway



Teachers Select Materials Donated by  
AAUW Bookfair

## AAUW Atlanta and Bookfair Support Dresden Elementary Teachers

By Sharon Bevis-Hoover

We were delighted to participate in the first ever Dresden Teacher Giveaway conceived and led by the Dresden Elementary School Education Foundation. It was a big success! Bookfair donated hundreds of books for children, youth and teachers in support of the event, and members Pat Bevis, Bea Meyer, and Sharon Bevis-Hoover helped to get the books organized on the event day. Teachers were able to choose from a wide variety of Accelerated Reader rated books in order to create or supplement their individual classroom reading libraries. They had so many extra books that they were able to send books home with students during registration.

Thanks to Cobb County Branch member and Bookfair Chair Debbie Karvey, we also had many teaching materials to offer to Dresden. Debbie picked up two carloads of teaching materials from a school system in the Cobb area. Many of those items are being offered for sale at Bookfair or online, but we received many more than we can sell. Therefore, we provided hundreds of workbooks, teaching guides, flashcards, and other teaching materials for use in Dresden's classroom.

According to Rita Glaser, President of the Foundation, 98% of Dresden Elementary's students come from non-English speaking households. The Foundation supports the children and their parents, along with the work of the faculty and staff of the school. We are pleased to be able to help!

The Bookfair receives more book donations than we are able to sell. Sometimes the condition of a book is not up to our standards, or we receive more copies that we can sell. If you are willing to lead an effort to get our extra books into worthy hands, just call the bookroom at 404-261-7646, and we will work with you to make it happen.

**Congratulations to Dr. Myra Carmon!**

The Georgia State University Emeriti Association elected its leadership team for 2017-2018 earlier this year and our very own Myra Carmon, past Branch President, is the incoming chair-elect of the association's Coordinating Board. She is an emerita from the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing at GSU. She is a tireless promoter of the AAUW Atlanta Branch and involved in many Branch activities. Our congratulations on this receiving this recognition.

**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 UP!**

**My Experience Attending the AAUW 2017 National Convention in Washington DC**

By Blondie Chitunya-Wilson, Co-President

The AAUW convention was held in Washington DC at the Renaissance Hotel June 14-17. Nearly 1,000 AAUW delegates from across our nation converged there united in our mission to advance equality for women and girls. Participants were hosted and led by our outgoing board chair Patricia Fae Ho.

The first day featured the pre-lobby day briefing, a pre-dinner reception and meeting current board members and candidates. Judy Woodruff, anchor and managing editor of the PBS News Hour, was the main speaker. She shared how she was initially turned away from a position as a journalist because "they already had a woman reporter."

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...The second day was lobby day. Participants from every state had the opportunity to visit their respective US senators and representatives to advocate for AAUW issues. The remaining two days featured breakout sessions, four keynote sessions, and networking breaks throughout the conference. All sessions were led by experts with ample time for questions at the conclusion of each.

Dr. Tererai Trent from Zimbabwe (my country of origin) was awarded the AAUW Alumnae Recognition Award. Dr. Trent is one of today's internationally recognized advocates for quality education and women's empowerment. Laura L. Dunn, J.D., executive director of SurvJustice was awarded the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award for her work in providing legal assistance to survivors in campus hearings across the U.S.



Delegates from the Georgia branches of AAUW at the National Convention

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor was the convention's keynote speaker. Her speech was very impressive and made a deep and lasting impression on my mind. For example, she stated: "If the system is broken, my inclination is to fix it rather than to fight it." I agree and think that AAUW members are agents of change who work toward fixing broken systems in need of repair.

This was my first AAUW national convention, one of six Georgia members, and I was very impressed with the level of energy and commitment on display. It was a great opportunity for me to interact with AAUW board members and other distinguished members ( including CEO Kim Churches and newly elected Board Chair Julia Brown ) who shared excellent information which helped me to be more knowledgeable about AAUW. Delegates, women of all ages, stormed the Capitol Hill on lobby day in the summer heat to make sure that their voices were heard and their presence was felt when meeting their legislators. We were reminded again and again that AAUW is nonpartisan and focuses on issues that affect women and girls. I hope that the information gained will be of benefit to our Branch.

### 2017 AAUW Convention

By Myra Carmon, GA State Co-President

This 2017 AAUW Convention enabled visiting and sharing ideas among members from the state of Georgia and other states. Yetta McMillan and I attended the Conference of State Presidents and Fund chairs. Items discussed included the Member Services database and the value in accessing records. Other things discussed included: IRS stressing completion of the 990-N in a timely manner and for co-presidents to encourage completion.  
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...Workshops were informative and interesting with sharing of ideas from members' including ideas for boosting membership and promoting retention. The Membership Payment Program was one area discussed that would allow members and finance officers to pay online making renewal easier. A sea of AAUW shirts were seen all over Capitol Hill on Thursday. The Georgia group visited our senators and representatives to discuss issues such as the gender pay gap. The very informative speakers were strong women surviving many obstacles. Celinda Lake spoke about her years of figuring out how to get women candidates and women's issues into the halls of power. Judy Woodruff related her journey to become the broadcast journalist and co-anchor and managing editor of PBS NewsHour, including the trials and tribulations encountered as a woman. Linda DiVall, the American Viewpoint's founder, and has provided effective strategies to both political and corporate clients for more than 30 years. And Tererai Trent, PhD, grew up in Zimbabwe and faced many obstacles in pursuit of her education.

**Lookout for Bookfair Publicity**

By Alta Birdsong

Watch the **September issue** of the following publications for an article relating to the AAUW Bookfair:

**Lifestyle Magazines** - Perimeter North covers Dunwoody & Sandy Springs

It may be in other issues around the metro area: **My Sandy Springs - My East Cobb - My Buckhead - My Alpharetta Atlanta Senior Life**

**WAGA Channel 5 on Tuesday, September 26th**

Paul Milliken has agreed to do segments that morning from Perimeter Mall if his schedule will permit AND we can arrange with Perimeter Mall. His response to me was that he is a book lover.

**Table of Contents**

Co-President's Message	Pg. 1-2
AAUW Bookfair	Pg. 3
Little Libraries - Big Impact	Pg. 4
Contemporary Literature	Pg. 4
Dresden Elementary Giveaway	Pg. 5
Travel Group	Pg. 6
Congratulations Dr. Carmon!	Pg. 6
Bookfair Sign-Up	Pg. 6
National Convention Experiences	Pg. 6-8

**Calendar**

Contemporary Literature	8/29
Fall Kickoff Tea	9/10
AAUW Bookfair 2017	9/24-10/1
Travel Group	10/12
Board Meeting	10/14

[www.aauwatlanta.org](http://www.aauwatlanta.org)

