



Atlanta Branch News

Co-President's Message: CELEBRATIONS AND SITUATIONS

Mary Lynn Merkle

Celebrations:

Branch activities continue with vibrancy, and there are some that I would especially like to name.

1. The "Women in Politics" October 28th branch meeting was greatly successful. (See article on page 5). Thirty-four branch members and their guests were there to enjoy an informative program and delicious brunch.
2. The Contemporary Literature group (still going strong after more than 35 years) has added new attendees. And, of course, there is always room for more. Thanks to Mary Hanson (large living room and easy street parking) who is willing to open her home month after month and year after year and to Kay Collins, who keeps us organized.
3. The Bookfair Celebration for all workers on Sunday, November 12th at the Marlow's Tavern in Dunwoody was well attended. It was especially nice to celebrate our Super Workers who were present. We received a check for \$25,216 to boost our philanthropy activities.
4. We continue to add new members who want to be part of our mission and our gatherings. AAUW and Atlanta Branch are all about equity, continuous learning, and women supporting women. (See page 4 for new member information.)
5. Coming up soon is one of our favorite annual Branch meetings—the Holiday Celebration (this year on Dec. 3rd from 3:00-5:00). How many years has it been that our hosts Mary and Darwin Womack have opened up their home for our...

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2017-2018 Leadership

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(Co-President's Message, continued)

...gathering. The silent auction (for LAF) is fun, and the savory/sweet/and in-between refreshments are part of why we love this meeting.

And WHO do you think will be our 2017 Named Grant Honorees!

Now for the Situations:

1. We want to stay a vibrant moving-forward Branch! So— We always welcome new ideas for programs and meeting places. Share your thoughts.
2. Our philanthropy funds represent many hours of hard work, so it's important to spend that money wisely and effectively. Share your thoughts.
3. The Nominating Committee will be searching for members who are willing to take leadership positions. Although elections will not take place until the May meeting, preparation and planning are necessary. Open offices are: president (our bylaws do not allow presidents to succeed themselves), treasurer (current treasurers will have served two terms and are ineligible to continue), membership vice-president (also finishing up second two-year term), and program vice-president(s) (finishing first two-year term).

Could **you** be the one that the Nominating Committee is looking for? Let one of them know if you are interested or need more information.

Atlanta Branch is in its second century—112 years old—and still making a difference in the lives of its members and in the community beyond.

May it continue to be so!

Leadership, continued

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Meeting Our Members: Alta Birdsong

Mary Lynn Merkle

Alta Birdsong will complete her 13th (not consecutive) year as treasurer of Atlanta Branch on July 1, 2018. But wait, there's more! She has also served the currently serving Branch treasurer in preparing taxes, filing reports, and auditing financial records for many additional years. That's a lot of service to Atlanta Branch. Further, she served two terms as president, was Bookfair co-chair twice, served nine years on AAUW of GA board (3 of those as president or president elect, and six years on AAUW's national committees.

Alta came to Atlanta from Texas. She was a 1955 magna cum laude graduate of the University of North Texas. She was a proud member of Delta Gamma Fraternity and was named to Mortar Board, a leader even then. Her first employer was Texas Instruments where she was the first female hired as a cost engineer.

Her arrival here with her husband Ken and her two young children, daughter Suzanne and son Layne, marked the beginning of a long career in community services in our area. Those community services have gone far beyond Atlanta Branch—including leadership positions in Camp Fire USA, Metro Atlanta United Way, DeKalb County committees, and DeKalb Board of Education. As one can imagine, her awards and recognitions for service have been many.

Since joining the Atlanta Branch in the early 70's she has made things happen—initiating many community programs through the years to serve our mission of equity for women and girls. It's undoubtedly through her efforts and those of other women who share her creativity, her enthusiasm and her energy that positive attitudes and opportunities for women in leadership roles in Atlanta and beyond continue to increase.

Alta looks back at her 45 years of membership in AAUW with gratitude for her many friendships, her opportunities to be a catalyst in providing scholarships, and for her many opportunities to build her own leadership skills. She is still enthusiastic about our future possibilities. She would love to see us reach out to our community with some type of women's program such as a Woman-to-Woman Summit. Her concern is that our member rolls must encompass more younger women. They, after all, are our insurance for another century of AAUW Atlanta Branch making a difference in the lives of women and girls.

How fortunate we have been and are to have Alta Birdsong in our midst! On behalf of a grateful Branch, we celebrate your accomplishments and await your next efforts to move us forward.



Travel Group

Betty Arden

The AAUW Travel Group will meet at 10 am on December 14th in the parking lot of Dillard's at Perimeter Mall. We will carpool to the Spruill Gallery at 4681 Ashford-Dunwoody Road to attend the 24th Annual Artists Market.

During the year the Spruill Center serves as an art gallery but from November 14 to December 23rd it becomes a holiday gift market.

Lunch will follow at a nearby Perimeter Mall restaurant. Call Betty Arden for more information.

2017-2018 Handbook Updates

Add these new members:

Carol Brantley
Haydee Bundschuh
M. Louise Walters

Delete-moved out of state:

Carol Allain

Contemporary Literature

Kay Collins

The Contemporary Lit. group will celebrate the holidays with a pot luck starting at 11:00 AM, Monday, December 4. .

In addition to discussing "Eventide" by Kent Haruf we will exchange books. Please bring a book--used or new, in good condition--wrapped but without any identifying info. For questions, please call Kay Collins.

Retrospective on our October 28th Branch Meeting: Women in Politics

The "Women in Politics" meeting was a great success. We always enjoy our meetings at the Ansley Golf Club, and our experience (both service and food) was definitely up to expectations. Thanks to our Branch member Betty Slater for facilitating this.

Our speakers, arranged by program co-vice president, Amira Saleh, were all willing to give us their precious time during a busy pre-election schedule and were prepared to share information and experiences with us. Georgia Budget and Policy Institute speaker Melissa Johnson described goals of the Institute and how we might participate in reaching these goals. She distributed several very informative handouts. Georgia Representative Beth Beskin, representing Atlanta mayoral candidate Mary Norwood, spoke of her own experiences from political activist to her successful campaign to the Georgia legislature—including a portion of Buckhead in which several of our Branch members reside. We were thrilled when Cathy Woolard (Atlanta mayoral candidate) took time to truly squeeze us in between other engagements. Thanks to all who contributed to the Atlanta Branch gathering.



More Pictures from October Meeting: Women in Politics



Bookfair Treasures in Your Attic?

Sharon Bevis-Hoover

You may be surprised to learn how valuable the books that you enjoy and finish may be for our Bookfair. For example, we recently sold a member's used Great Decisions 2017 guide for \$16.89 online. DVD's and CD's from The Learning Company (formerly The Teaching Company) also sell well and often at premium prices. Recent best sellers – fiction and non-fiction - are also very popular for online sales. We hope that you will support our philanthropic efforts by donating your treasures to the Bookfair.



Mark Your Calendars for the 2017 AAUW Holiday Party

Dana Gordon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3rd FROM 3 to 5 PM

The holiday season is upon us. We hope to see you there!

As in previous years, we will have a Silent Auction. I hope you have already found great bits and pieces for us to choose from. I have mine. Remember it is all for a good cause!

We will have a light fare of appetizers, desserts and "a happy punch".

LOOK FOR AN EVITE TO BE SENT AT A LATER DATE!

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Calendar

Contemporary Literature	12/4
Holiday Celebration	12/3
Travel Group	12/14

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