

## Atlanta Branch News

### Co-President's Message:

Mary Lynn Merkle

Did you spend hours sorting, pricing, and/or packing in the Bookroom? Did you collect books in the too hot, too cold, or somewhere in-between weather from our bookdrops? Did you spend some hours in late September/early October out at Perimeter Mall working the Bookfair? If you answered "yes" to one, two or all of the above, please take a long moment to pat yourself on the back. We were amazingly successful!

Our Branch members and friends accumulated a total of 7,717 ½ adjusted hours. (You'll remember that adjustments are such things as working particular days at the Bookfair and double credit for book pick-ups.)

Although we are not in competition with our sister Bookfair Branches, Atlanta Branch had 71% of the total of 10,842.13 hours worked. It's that kind of support for this huge project that allows us the freedom to work toward our mission of advancing equity for women and girls through so many different avenues.

We do not have the actual proceeds available yet. Those will be announced at our Celebration Gathering at Marlow's Tavern in Dunwoody Village on Sunday, November 12. Be sure, though, we will make a difference through our philanthropic activities with the monies we have earned.

I would be remiss if I didn't call out our Atlanta "Super Workers." Out of the nine named, six are Atlanta Branch members, and one is a special "friend" of our Branch. Listed below are the names and their volunteer hours:

Judy Lambert (957 ¼)  
 Sharon Bevis-Hoover (888 1/2)  
 Ellen Milholland (559 ¾)

(Continued on next page)

### 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

**(Co-President's Message, continued)**

Joyce Cohrs (310 ½)  
 Mary Womack (229 ½)  
 Barbara Bennett (220 ¼)  
 Barbara Buchanan (193 ¾)

Doing the math, these 7 women put in almost one-third of the hours accrued by Atlanta Branch. What a gift they have given us!

I'm feeling very proud right now for the fantastic job we did to raise funds for our philanthropies. I hope you are, too!

**Bookfair Celebration**

by Sharon Bevis-Hoover

Save the date and join us to celebrate the success of our 2017 Bookfair! All members and friends who volunteered for the Bookfair during the year are invited on Sunday, November 12, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Marlow's Tavern in Dunwoody Village.

We will enjoy a bite to eat and each other's company on their enclosed patio. Bookfair Chair Debbie Karvey will present the proceeds to each of the Branches and she will recognize our Super Workers for their outstanding commitment to the Bookfair. It's your support for Bookfair that funds our philanthropic efforts! Look for an invitation coming to your inbox soon.

**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  
 aaufunds@aauwatlanta.org

**Philanthropy Chair**

Cele Covatta  
 philanthropy@aauwatlanta.org

**Communications Chair**

Ruth Yurchuck  
 communications@aauwatlanta.org

**Bylaws Chair**

Pat Bevis  
 bylaws@aauwatlanta.org



**Agnes Scott College Hopeful Meeting!**

Betty Slater

It was a rainy Monday morning in Georgia on October 23, when I walked across their campus to talk with the Agnes Scott Assistant Dean for Student Development, Karissa Merkel, and Daisy Bourassa, an AAUW Fund Fellowship winner and Assistant Director of Residential Education Office of Residence Life for Agnes Scott College!

These women want to start an Agnes Scott College Chapter on their campus. I shared the information that is needed to begin a chapter in which they will follow up to find students to serve as an executive committee and 10 student members! They were given information on the programs offered to college students:

Training on how to run for office

Salary negotiation workshops

Grant Funding to take action on campus

The annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

Resources to help a student take action on women's issues

It was such a pleasure as the College/University Relations Chair to meet with these women. I learned that Daisy Bourassa is working with Graduate students from Georgia Tech and Emory to mentor students from Agnes Scott College and Spelman College in STEM work. It was wonderful to be a part of what is taking place in the future at Agnes Scott College.

Thanks to the Atlanta Branch members who have continued to offer support to the College and University Partners to help start college chapters such as Georgia State University under the guidance of Dr. Myra Carmon. As your representative, the future looks bright for continued partnership with the Atlanta Branch and AAUW!

**Contemporary Literature**

Kay Collins

Monday, November 6 the Contemporary Literature meeting will be at 10:30 AM.

The book discussion will be about "News of the World" by Paulette Jiles. Come even if you haven't read the book. Discussion can help you decide if you want to!

**Bylaws and Standing Rules**

Pat Bevis

Now is the time to look at the new Yearbook and determine if there is something we should consider updating. Part of the bylaws are mandated, but anything specific to Atlanta Branch are up for consideration.

**Atlanta Branch Handbook 2017-2018 - page 19:**

"1976 - "Researched, wrote and published Georgia Women: A Celebration.  
This book was distributed to schools and libraries statewide."

Would you like a copy of this piece of Atlanta Branch AAUW history? In 1976 during Georgia's Sesquicentennial, the Atlanta Branch wrote a proposal requesting funding for the initiative. Barbara Reitt was editor and many Atlanta Branch members contributed to the research and writing of this book. A few copies remain and will be brought to the next branch meetings. A \$5 donation per book will be given to the Community Fund for allocation to projects.

Alta Birdsong

**October 21st Board Meeting Report**

Listed below are some items of general interest from the board meeting. In order to keep our members better informed (particularly those without email) about activities and invitations, we feel that a telephone committee might help. So now we need just a few women who are willing to do the telephoning.

Our members Daisy Bourassa (faculty member) and Betty Slater (College/University Chair) are working toward establishing a student chapter at Agnes Scott College.

We will once again have a Silent Auction at our December 3rd Holiday Celebration with the proceeds directed toward AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund—an opportunity to recycle/re-gift and have fun doing it.

The due date for scholarship applications will be earlier next spring—March 1. If any of our members know of eligible applicants (junior or senior level at one of our partner colleges or universities, please direct them to our website after January 1.

**Planning Ahead for AAUW Holiday Celebration**

Dana Gordon

Mary and Darwin Womack are again generously opening their lovely home for our Annual Holiday Celebration on December 3rd from 3 to 5 pm. Everyone mark your calendars. We hope to have a huge turnout. This year we are also going to have the silent auction. We are looking forward to all kinds of interesting items charitably donated by our members. Funds raised from the auction will be donated to the AAUW Legal Advocacy. This is a great way to starting your holiday shopping early! Look for more details in further announcements.

Happy Holidays!

**An Afternoon to Remember**

Pat Bevis

Eclipse di Luna was the location of Atlanta Branch's July 23, 2017 hosting of 25 Fellows of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, the flagship program of the Young African Leaders Initiative of President Obama. The Atlanta Branch fulfilled a need identified by the State Department – giving the Fellows an opportunity to meet Americans on a local level. The 25 Fellows consisted of 13 women and 12 men from 19 different African countries. These 25 young adults between 25 and 35 are already successful in their home countries and it was exciting to talk to with them and learn of their plans. The young women seemed very interested to learn that there is an international component of AAUW and wanted information on groups in their countries.

Kay Collins talked with Freddy, a banker in Zimbabwe. She also talked with an advertising agency owner, Floyd from Johannesburg. He was excited to hear about Kay's "classic advertising" experiences from her career in the 1970's and 90's. Pat talked to a young woman who has started a cosmetics business and is beginning to start the 3rd phase, manufacturing the products. Gereld Katabazi, from Uganda, has a coffee business and some us were fortunate enough to be given a pound of his coffee.

Other Branch members and guests in attendance were Blondie Wilson, Ingrid Reinhard, Ruth and Alan Yurchuck, Sharon and John Hoover, Amira Saleh, and Betty Arden. John Hoover commented that he was impressed with the people he met. They were very intelligent and engaging and it gave him hope for the future. Ruth felt it was very worthwhile, as did Betty Arden. Blondie hopes it will happen again and plans to invite some of her coworkers to attend and network with the Fellows. Ingrid enjoyed meeting the participants and learning about the Fellows Program. Amira said it very well: "I wasn't aware of the tremendous work being done in the Mandela Washington Fellowship Program at Clark Atlanta University. I had the opportunity to sit down with a few of them to learn about their aspirations and passions in the best way, an engaging conversation one-on-one. I would like to see this program continue for its final scheduled year and into the future and AAUW Atlanta has the opportunity to be a part of it." Huiping Du, our resident professional photographer, and her assistant took 169 great pictures. We received very positive evaluations and hope we will have the opportunity to host for the 5th and last year of the program.

**Travel Group Goes "Delta"**

Mary Lynn Merkle

The October excursion for the Travel Group was to the Delta Flight Museum near Hartsfield Jackson Airport. The very large building (with several airplanes including jet and prop planes) also allowed a walk back in time to the day when three course meals with china and silverware were just part of the trip.

Pictured in front of the engine exhaust (from left to right) are: Betty and Bob Slater, Billie Collier, Mary Lynn Merkle, Kay Collins, Travel Group chair (and planner-in-chief) Betty Arden, Connie Eshenour, Naomi Alvis, and Terry Eshenour.

After the museum we enjoyed lunch together at Atmosphere, a French restaurant located near Ansley Mall.



Kay Collins and Connie Eshenour are admiring a Delta-inspired runabout.



**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.

**Travel Group**

The Atlanta Branch Travel Group will meet at 10:00 A.M. on November 9th at the Plaza Fiesta Arcade, 4166 Buford Highway, NE, Atlanta.

Since the year 2000 Plaza Fiesta has become the Hispanic hub for shopping, eating, and special monthly events. It houses 280 retail stores. The Buford Highway area has the highest concentration of Hispanic people in Georgia.

After a tour of the arcade, the group will have lunch at an on-site restaurant.

Sam Massell will be making a "greet and sign" appearance on November 9 at the Marcus Community Center and a date soon to be announced at the Atlanta History for his book, *Play it Again, Sam*.

**Table of Contents**

Co-President's Message	Pg. 1-2
Bookfair Celebration	Pg. 2
Agnes Scott College Meeting	Pg. 3
Contemporary Literature	Pg. 3
Bylaws/Handbook/Board Meeting	Pg. 4
Holiday Celebration	Pg. 5
An Afternoon to Remember	Pg. 5
Travel Group Goes to Delta	Pg. 6
Fall Legislative Meeting	Pg. 7
Travel Group	Pg. 7

**Calendar**

Fall Legislative Meeting	10/28
Contemporary Literature	11/6
Travel Group	11/9
Sam Massell Greet and Sign	11/9
Holiday Celebration	12/3

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