



Atlanta Branch News

March 24th Meeting

Amira Saleh

Join us for our March 24th branch meeting featuring Alison Spitz RN, MPH, and the Health and Wellness Manager at the International Rescue Committee.

Alison has over 32 years of experience with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a respected public health scientist and proven leader, specializing in sexual and reproductive health. At the International Rescue Committee Atlanta office, she leads the development and implementation of programmatic efforts to provide all refugee and immigrant clients access to quality health education and health services.

Please note, the last day to RSVP is Monday March 19th. In order to provide accurate guest counts to the restaurant, RSVPs will be closed after Monday March 19th.

Date: Saturday March 24th

Time: 11am-1pm

Location:

The 57th Fighter Group Restaurant

3829 Clairmont Rd

Atlanta, GA 30341

Cost: \$20 cash or check (paid at the meeting)

RSVP Deadline: Monday March 19th

2017-2018 Leadership

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Co President's Message**WOMEN'S HEALTH: FIRST AND FOREMOST**

Blondie Chitunya-Wilson

Our February Branch meeting featured Staci Fox, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Southeast (PPSE), which serves Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi and is headquartered in Atlanta. The mission of Planned Parenthood is to ensure that every child is a wanted child, and to protect reproductive health by providing comprehensive, medically accurate sex education and quality health care, while advocating for the right of women, men, and families.

Planned Parenthood is the largest provider of reproductive health services in the country. Staci stated that PPESE provides testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, cancer screening, women's health services, and family planning. Performing abortions constitutes only 3% of services provided. The organization works tirelessly in our communities to build and strengthen relationships among social and political organizations and to protect access to healthcare and reproductive services.

Planned Parenthood is rooted in the work of Margaret Sanger, her sister Ethel Byrne, and political activist Fania Mindell who together opened our country's first birth control clinic in Brooklyn, NY in 1916. They were arrested, found guilty of distributing obscene materials and fined. But that was the beginning of a national conversation about women's rights and

just the beginning of many important milestones for providing reproductive rights, cited here:

1932 - opening of the British Control Clinical Research Bureau

1936 - court ruling that birth control devices and information would no longer be classified as obscene and could be legally distributed in New York

1948 - Development of birth control pill

1956 - First large-scale human trial of the birth control pill carried out in Puerto Rico without informed consent

1965 - 10 states legalized birth control (Griswold v Connecticut)

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*Leadership, continued***Public Relations**

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(Co-President's Message, continued)

1970 - Planned Parenthood was able to provide birth control and sex education (Title X funding)

1973 - Supreme Court ruled in favor of abortion rights (Roe vs. Wade)

1976 - The Hyde Amendment made it illegal for the federal public to pay for abortion services except in incest, life-endangering pregnancy and rape cases

1980-1990 - Extremists staged campaigns of patient intimidation and committed acts of violence

1992 - States abortion regulations

1996 - Planned Parenthood launched plannedparenthood.org

Planned Parenthood and AAUW share a vision that all women deserve equality in care and freedom in health choices. Our mission is to break down the barriers that limit them.

MEETING OUR MEMBERS: AMIRA SALEH

Mary Lynn Merkle

Amira was the second Communications intern who served our Branch six years ago, and set the standard for recruiting undergraduate students for this position in subsequent years. She quickly learned about our Branch and fulfilled her responsibilities thoroughly, was a great asset to our newsletter development, and participated in Branch activities as her schedule permitted. Fortunately she found the experience to be rewarding as well, and helped us out from time to time when asked. And she has been an integral part of our Atlanta Branch ever since.

Amira is currently serving as co-vice president for programs. If you have attended some of this year's excellent programs, you know that she is well-prepared and professional in providing a good setting in which guests and members can mingle.

Amira was born in Atlanta and her parents, three sisters and one brother, all live in the East Cobb/Woodstock area. Although she spent some early years in Libya, most of her life has been in the Atlanta area. She is a graduate of Georgia Tech with a major in Communications and a minor in International Affairs. Directly after graduation she headed to Washington, D.C. where she taught kindergarten for one year as part of a program based there. On her return she worked for Coca-Cola as an account coordinator for about a year when she was hired by MNI Targeted Media as a sales coordinator. This advertising sales company sells digital and print (magazine) advertising aimed particularly at the regional local level. She pulls...



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...research to better understand the target audience of an advertising campaign - mainly how this audience consumes media (print, digital, radio, TV, etc.) and other characteristics/behaviors (ex. shopping preferences or lifestyle habits). She also develops presentations that highlight audience research insights and recommendation on how to target this audience using our digital and/or print solutions. The marketing materials are then used by the company's sales representative to sell our solutions to their clients.

Amira loves participating in all styles of dance—even hip-hop. Growing up she was in ballet and still takes classes. Her plans for future free-time include volunteering in educational settings and working with students.

What are her dreams for Atlanta Branch? She thinks a closer relationship between AAUW student chapters and our Branch would be beneficial for all. She thinks about joint meetings and events. Besides these being positive experiences, these young women are potential branch members and the future of a strong active Branch working toward equity for women and girls.

Amira is very proud of our financial and hands-on support of so many like-minded community organizations. In addition to providing so many avenues for working toward our mission, Atlanta Branch provides opportunities for honing leadership skills and for building friendships.

Although Amira's tenure as program co-vice president will soon be over, she plans to maintain her active participation in Atlanta Branch. In fact, she has already volunteered to chair this summer's Mandela Washington Fellows event.

Amira is a young woman of many talents. We are indeed fortunate that she has chosen to share those talents with the Atlanta Branch!

Picture from February
Travel Group



Join us for Bridge!

Betty Slater

Betty Arden, Phyllis Miller and Betty Slater are looking for some other AAUW members to join us for bridge. This is a game, if you are learning, where you can talk across the table. We are getting together to learn and visit with each other.

Meet at Betty Slater's on Monday, February 26 th at 10:30 a.m. for some fellowship with a light lunch. Please let Betty know if you can join the group by Thursday, February 22.

Dresden Elementary Thank You Note

Here is a copy of the Thank You note sent, addressed to Cele, from the president of the Dresden Elementary School Foundation, Rita M. Glaser:

Dear Ms. Covatta,

Words cannot express the deep gratitude for your donation of 52,000.00. On behalf of the entire family of Dresden Elementary School, I'd like to thank you for your generous donation to the Dresden Elementary School Education Foundation, Inc. (DESEF). Ms. Pat Bevis, Sharon Bevis-Hoover, and Bea Meyer have been incredible support for our program. This donation is fully tax deductible as no goods or services were received for this gift.

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The DESEF is a non-profit organization funded 100% through donations. Our mission is "To energize community partners and business resources for the pursuit of educational excellence. We support teachers, staff and students by funding activities and programs that provide a positive learning environment, enriching activities and academic support."

As you know, 98% of our students come from non-English speaking households. 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. Once again, thank you for your support.

*Sincerely,
Rita M. Glaser*

Bylaws Amendment Message from AAUW National Board of Directors

The AAUW National Board of Directors has voted to put three proposals for bylaws amendments before the membership for a vote this spring. The board strongly supports the proposed amendments that we believe will help keep AAUW vital as an organization and enable us to increase our impact in advancing equity for women and girls.

The proposed amendments address creating three-year staggered board terms, opening board service to those outside of the AAUW membership, and eliminating the degree requirement for membership. While rationale and details for each proposed amendment can be found on the AAUW website, the overarching motivation for these changes at this time is to uphold and advance AAUW's mission and ensure optimal execution at the national board level.

The first two proposals would bring AAUW's board governance structure more in line with nationally accepted nonprofit best practices and the needs of the organization. The third proposal — to eliminate the degree requirement for membership — has come before the membership for vote a number of times. The board feels strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement is now perceived by many as counter to our mission and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.

The board recognizes that we have not traditionally put proposals up for vote outside our AAUW National Election, but these proposed changes have been under consideration for several years by both the Governance Committee and the board, and we believe it is important to move forward without delay to position the organization for greater growth. Members can comment on the proposed amendments and submit their own proposals from February 22, 2018, through March 22, 2018, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Voting will open on April 25, 2018, and close June 9, 2018, at 9 p.m. ET.

We encourage you all to engage in respectful debate that has always been a hallmark of the AAUW community, exercise your vote, and encourage fellow members to do the same. You can direct any questions or concerns to connect@aauw.org.

Membership

Kay Collins

Half-price membership available only through March 15. It is for the balance of this fiscal year, June 30, 2018. The new year begins July 1. Questions?

Travel Group

Betty Arden

The AAUW Travel Group will meet at 10 am on March 8 at the Ansley Mall Kroger to carpool to the recently opened Atlanta Habitat for Humanity ReStore (271 Chester Avenue SE, Atlanta). The group will enjoy a guided tour of the store and will hear a discussion about the community involvement. Lunch will follow at a nearby restaurant.

Contemporary Literature

Kay Collins

We will meet Monday, March 5 at 10:30 AM at the home of Mary Hanson to discuss "Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End" by Atul Gawande. Questions?

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Calendar

Contemporary Literature	3/5
Travel Group	3/8
March Board Meeting (Buckhead Library - 10:15 AM)	3/10
March Branch Meeting	3/24
Spring Convention	4/13-14

www.aauwatlanta.org

