



Atlanta Branch News

September newsletter: Volume 69, Issue 1.

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2018-2019 Leadership

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CO-PRESIDENTS'S ARTICLE: AN EXCITING YEAR AHEAD!

By: Diana Witt

Hello everyone and welcome to the 2018-2019 year of activities with the Atlanta Branch of AAUW. Our first meeting is our annual Kick-Off meeting at Agnes Scott on September 16. We look forward to seeing everyone there. Our Handbooks will be ready and can be picked up at the meeting. Betty Slater and Billie Collier have planned a wonderful year of programming for our branch and you will see and hear all about our upcoming events on September 16.

Of course, our major event is Bookfair, which begins this year with preview night, September 24, 2018. Phyllis Miller will be sending out notices about how to sign up for shifts, using Sign-Up Genius. Please volunteer for as many shifts as you can. While Bookfair is exciting, but it is also lot of work. We need all branch members to be involved. If you need help with the signup process, please either email Phyllis membership@aauwatlanta.org

The first Atlanta Branch Board meeting of the 2018-19 was held on August 21. The Board approved the General Fund Budget and welcomed our new Communications Intern Keresa Richards. Our grateful thanks go to Mary Lynn Merkle and Ruth Yurchuck, who conducted the intern search and selected Keresa from a pool of candidates. She has been at work on the handbook and organizing the September newsletter.

The Finance Committee also met, on August 18th. In addition to setting the General Fund budget, the Committee discussed the need for professional assistance in preparing our various financial reports, tax filings, and the conduct of all financial activities of the branch. If anyone knows of a CPA or Bookkeeper who would be willing to work with our Branch, please contact our Finance Officer, Susan Diffenderfer treasurer@aauwatlanta.org

Huiping Du and I look forward to serving as your Atlanta Branch Co-Presidents for 2018 -2020. See you at the September 16 meeting at Agnes Scott College!

Leadership continued

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COME TO FALL MEMBERSHIP TEA

By: Betty Slater

We would love to see your faces on **September 16 at 2:30pm to 5:00pm** in Agnes Scott's **Mary Brown Bullock Science Center** for STEM and YOU! Each member and their guests are invited to learn more about STEM from the students at Agnes Scott College. Please wear comfortable clothes and shoes so that you can participate in various science, technology, engineering, and math learning centers.

We will enjoy some wonderful food and fellowship, while meeting the local scholarship winners and signing up for the **BOOK FAIR!**

Please RSVP by September 8th to Billie Collier or Betty Slater. Looking forward to seeing you with your guest at this Membership Meeting.

MEET OUR NEW INTERN

By: Keresa Richards

Hello AAUW members! I am Keresa Richards, your new communications intern for this year. I am a third-year business administration student at Emory University working towards a career in consulting or marketing. I enjoy business as an academic area, but I am also passionate about making a positive social impact in my community. Therefore, I have involved myself in organizations on campus focused on recruitment and retention of minority students while also volunteering at my home church.

It's inspiring that we as women can come together and drive change on a local and national scale. I hope to make great contributions to AAUW while learning from all its intelligent and compassionate members. Thank you for this opportunity and I look forward to meeting each of you.

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET

By: Susan Diffenderfer

Please review the 2018-2019 Proposed General Fund Budget in preparation for our September meeting, where we will be discussing and voting on the topic. The proposed General Fund Budget is on page 3 for your viewing.

Atlanta Branch			
American Association of University Women			
Proposed General Fund Budget			
July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019			
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
Revenues	2017-2018	2017-2018	2018-19 Budget
Dues 2017 - 2018	\$3,600	\$1,437.50	
To Association 2017-2018	(2,300)	(874.50)	
To State 2017-2018	(545)	(220.00)	
Dues 2017-2018	755	343.00	
Dues 2018-2019		3,121.00	\$3,437
To National 2018-2019		(2,419.00)	(2,537)
To State 2018-2019		(430.00)	(500)
Net Dues 2018-2019	0	272.00	400
Transfer from Community Fund	2,000	1,000.00	2,000
Interest- General Fund		4.64	
Total Net Revenues	\$2,755	\$1,619.64	\$2,400
Expenses			
Conventions for AAUW	2,500	1,977.35	1,000
Marketing/Totes/Brochures	500		300
College/University Workshop	300		200
Diversity	50		100
Hospitality	1,000	781.72	1,000
Membership Committee	75	197.22	200
Miscellaneous	50	50.00	100
Newsletter	30		25
Office Supplies	30		25
President's Expense	250	58.82	200
Gifts for Presidents	100	50.00	0
Bank Fees	20		50
Board Expense	50		50
Program Development	250		300
Public Policy	100	23.50	100
Student Membership Gifts	100		50
Treasurer's Expense	130	75.80	125
Website Maintenance	100	20.17	50
Handbook	225		225
Total Expenses	5,860.00	3,234.58	4,100
Excess (Deficit) Revenues/Expenses	(3,105)	(1,614.94)	(1,700)
Beginning of Year Carry Forward			
Net Cash	9,782	10,268.07	8,381.10
Contingency	1,000	1,000.00	1,000.00
Deferred Dues	486	(272.00)	
Loss		(1,614.94)	0
Unallocated Funds / Total Carry Forward	\$8,163	\$9,381.13	\$7,681.10
2017-2018 Note: \$2000 transferred from MM to Checking for Convention Expense			
\$410 from MM needed to subsidize dues to AAUW national			

AAUW-ATLANTA SURVEY RESULTS

By Kay Collins and Cele Covatta

This survey was sent out to the membership of AAUW-Atlanta (63 members) on February 2, 2018 with a reminder in mid-March. Twenty-three members responded with full and partial answers to the questions posed. Responses represent roughly one-third of the current membership.

There follows a response summary in the following categories:

BOOK FAIR

100% of respondents believe that Book Fair IS our signature project.

85% are satisfied with this

89.47% contribute time and money to Book Fair

HOSPITALITY

89.47% wish to continue meeting on Saturdays

94.74% wish to have a meal included. Varied ideas for type of meals

MEMBERSHIP

Average years of branch membership: **21.4 years**

Desire to be involved in activities beyond Branch meetings: **90.48%**

PHILANTHROPIC OUTREACH

57.89% of respondents believe that philanthropic awards should be local

55% believe that efforts should be hands on vs. monetary donations

26.32% would participate

38.10% prefer one "quick win" project per year

77.78% would contribute time to this

44.44% would prefer for such projects to be on the weekend

52.63% of respondents stated that they would NOT be willing to co-lead or chair a project

77.27% of respondents support continuing financial support of Dresden Elementary School

72.73% support redirection/repurposing of our excess books to Heartbound, battered women's shelters, Little Free Libraries, Veterans' facilities, and under-developed countries.

63.64% support Atlanta Women for Equality AWE

63.64% continuing support of Kopila Valley Nepal Women's Center through BlinkNow

54.55% Participate in Heartbound Ministries

50% Support Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders

45.45% Support Wellspring Living

22.73% Support Georgia Justice Project

13.64% Work with Atlanta Center for Self Sufficiency

13.64% Work with Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Stone Mountain

Survey results continued on pg. 5

PROGRAM

Overall suggestions

Maintain six branch meetings per year
Partner with like-minded groups especially Cobb and North Fulton: 95%

Political candidacy
Meet presidents of local colleges and universities
Forum with college students
Study groups

Suggestions for specific programs:

Literacy
National and other branch activities
Medical issues
Diversity
MERA
Immigration
Environmental issues

Additional Programs: Dining out, bridge, attending community events, volunteer group to meet every other month in coordination with Philanthropy to do “hands on” projects such as preparing baskets of necessities for Dresden parents; hosting a Shoe Box, or Undie Sunday donation.

14.9% of membership participate in Travel group
33.33% participate in Contemporary Literature
38.10 participate in neither

Additional survey comments:

- Book Fair is getting harder every year
- Ideas are needed for reaching younger members making them aware that AAUW is an organization that has paved the way for them
- Possible night groups on weekday evenings
- Support grants for Dresden
- Add a volunteer project to occasional branch meetings

REFLECTIONS ON DIVERSITY

By: Mary Lynn Merkle

AAUW’S Diversity Statement

“In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.” (Last adopted June 2018)

And, at this time most diverse populations are legally protected from unequal opportunity and or treatment. As a group of educated, socially adept, caring women, compliance should be easy. However, research tells us that all of us harbor unrealized prejudices.

Let me share with you a few of my experiences as a high school special education teacher. It was definitely apparent that the students in my classroom had difficulty learning at the same rate and depth as those students of average and above intellectual abilities. If one put them in the auditorium or in the lunchroom with other high school students, their differences would be indistinguishable.

Teachers are compassionate. When integration by law was put into effect, most stood ready to welcome these students with different ability levels. But I found that sometimes they had difficulty in readjusting their standards for success while still maintaining the assurance of a quality education.

It was Science Fair time, and I decided that my students would benefit from participating. I went to the chair of the science department (he taught physics) to discuss how I should go about it. This fine teacher said he would ask for the approval of the other science faculty members at the next department meeting. Really?! To the surprise of everyone but me, two of my students who worked together on a project won a second-place ribbon in their category and received their ribbons at the Honors Assembly.

Then there was the time when one of my students wanted to play drums in the marching band (not just in the band classroom). Admittedly, he was not a drum prodigy, and he wasn't always in perfect step. It took a little pressure on the band instructor from the administration; but my student was wearing a very big smile as he marched on the football field in his band uniform.

These same students with learning disabilities became the “managers” of the annual candy bar sale—an all school fundraiser to underwrite the costs of assembly programs. Imagine the amazement when a visitor would arrive on one of the “report days” and see the special education students counting and recording hundreds of dollars. (And there were also big smiles when they saw their picture and an article about them in the Readers Digest fundraising magazine.)

You see, these students had great capabilities. And, in these ways, they were able to share their gifts. The teachers, who had unknowingly put obstacles in their paths, were among the first to celebrate their successes. I share these experiences because of the highest regard and respect I had for many of my fellow teachers. And yet, sometimes they were unable to see beyond the disabilities. I believe that we will all gain as individuals and as a group of educated, concerned and caring women if we ascertain our own prejudices and then vigorously attack them. This is my hope for our work as the AAUW Atlanta Branch.

“I note the obvious differences between each and every type; but we are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike.” Maya Angelou

TRIBUTE TO DR. BETH FAROKHI – Saturday, July 7, 2018

By: Alta Birdsong



I am deeply honored this afternoon to pay tribute to Dr. Beth Farokhi, a longtime friend of mine through our membership in the American Association of University Women or AAUW, founded in 1881 to open the doors of higher education for women. We both have been passionate about its mission: To advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. As I was reflecting on how Beth's life had impacted mine and also the community around her, I found a statement that to me depicts her life: “As some people journey through life, they leave footprints wherever they go. Even when they're gone, we can still look back and clearly see the trail they left behind...” In the next few minutes I wish to address the footprints which Beth has left behind in her advancement to the top of our national organization and in her quest to advance women and girls at all levels.

Over 30 years ago – in 1987 – while serving as president of AAUW of Georgia, I was privileged to meet and work with the president of the Cobb County Branch AAUW, Beth Farokhi. To say I was most impressed with the questions she was asking about our organization would be an understatement! She wanted to learn more about the organization for which she was charged to direct during her term, and I was trying to respond with my knowledge of the organization, which I had “gleaned” during 15 years as a member as well as serving on our national Membership Committee. She was encouraging my learning more about AAUW.

Thus, began a friendship that has spanned these three decades. I have watched her footprints in AAUW as she became involved at the state level, where she was elected president of AAUW of Georgia. She brought new innovative projects at the state level. I knew she was destined for greater things and that proved true when she was elected as South Atlantic Region Director in 1997-1999 with the responsibility for promoting AAUW in the Southern States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. She brought the state organizations together to implement AAUW’s vision to improve the lives of women – to be their advocate. And her expertise at this level propelled her forward, and she became Vice President of AAUW at the national level. At that pinnacle, the Vision and Mission of AAUW – as mentioned above – became a responsibility for Beth and other board members to set and promote throughout the country. She was working with the national board to develop AAUW’s new research initiatives relating to issues impacting women and girls. Yes, she had left her footprints on our organization to the top!

I, too, saw her expertise at the university level through her leadership in bringing an important workshop to Atlanta in 1994: Shortchanging Girls, Shortchanging America: A Call to Action in Georgia. She was bringing a workshop with well-known national educators to Georgia State University (GSU) for a discussion of a timely issue that needed to be addressed in our state. GSU was providing the facility and other costs for the event, but additional funding was needed. Being a member of the Atlanta Branch AAUW – and not the branch where Beth held membership – I asked my branch to assist in the funding of such an important workshop in which Beth was the leader. Again, I saw Beth’s footprints in furthering the mission of AAUW outside of our organization.

Her leadership skills, exhibited in her involvement with AAUW, have continued to be utilized in our community and state. In my opening remarks regarding a journey through life, a further statement was made: “wherever they go – footprints of kindness, love, courage, and compassion...” follow. Those attributes also apply to Beth and her advocacy in the community and state around her.

I, too, have witnessed her dedication to her husband, her sons, and her daughter. She has certainly stressed the importance of family during these years, and we are seeing results of her life in her children. They, too, have followed in their mother’s footprints of becoming activists to make their community better.

As I close my tribute to Beth this afternoon, I want to share a quote from a favorite poem of mine, A PSALM OF LIFE by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. However, I must take the liberty to add three words to a line of his poem. When one considers that Longfellow died in 1882 – one year after the founding of AAUW in 1881 – he quite possibly had never heard of AAUW and its mission. Thus, I can forgive his oversight. My amended quote will be:

Lives of great men AND GREAT WOMEN all remind us

We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.

Dr. Beth Farokhi has left large FOOTPRINTS on the sands of time!



TRIBUTE TO DR. FRANCES FLOREINE HERRON HUDSON (1916-2018)

By: Alta Birdsong



Dr. Frances Floreine Herron Hudson, at age 102, transitioned to her heavenly home on August 12, 2018. She was born in Columbus, Georgia July 5, 1916 to the late William Francis and Laura Isabel Battley Herron. She was preceded in death by her husband of 55 years, James Hood Hudson, her parents, her brother and sister-in-law, Frank and Virginia Herron, and her sister, Minnie Myrtle Herron.

Dr. Hudson received her BS in Mathematics from Georgia State College for Women and her MS in Administration and Ed. D. from Auburn University, where she was the first woman to receive a doctorate in Education. She accepted a position in the DeKalb County School System after meeting Dr. Jim Cherry. Six years later she became a professor in education at Georgia State University, from where she retired in 1977 as a Professor Emeritus.

Dr. Hudson has been listed in numerous "Who's Who" publications for her outstanding career in the academic world. An annual award is made at GSU in her name as well as one at Auburn University. During her tenure as a professor, she was the author of numerous publications and served on an evaluation team in the DeKalb County Public Schools.

At Oak Grove United Methodist Church, where she was a member for 60 years, she served as Chairman of the Administrative Board and taught a women's class for 40 years. In retirement Dr. Hudson began china painting and is known for the dolls she made and dressed as well as her porcelain pieces - all poured from slip and fired in her kiln. Cake decorating was also a favorite activity. Her involvement in organizations is quite lengthy, as organizations have readily accepted her leadership skills. While in her 80s she served four years as national president of Kappa Delta Epsilon.

Her most ardent supporter during her professional and volunteer career was her husband, Jim, whom she married in 1947. Jim was truly in the forefront of those men willing to relocate in support of their wives in their professional life. They traveled extensively.

She is survived by her nieces, Laura Herron Lamb, Amanda and Emily of Carrollton. Dr. Hudson and her husband became "adopted grandparents" to Suzanne Birdsong Huff and Layne Birdsong in 1979. They survive along with their parents, Alta and Ken Birdsong, their spouses, Dan Huff and Claire Birdsong, and their children Meagan and Erin Huff and Helen, Tom, and Donna Birdsong. Regina and Harry Haynes, her husband's niece and nephew, also survive as well as several cousins.

Funeral services were held at A. S. Turner & Sons in Decatur on Saturday, August 18, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. Burial followed at Parkhill Cemetery in Columbus, Georgia. Memorials may be made to the Dr. Floreine Hudson Endowment at Auburn or the GSU Foundation in memory of Dr. Hudson.



Quote of the month

If you get, give.
If you learn, teach
-Maya Angelou

Calendar

Membership Tea

Sunday, September 16
2:30pm–5pm
Mary Bullock Science Center
Agnes Scott College

AAUW Book Fair

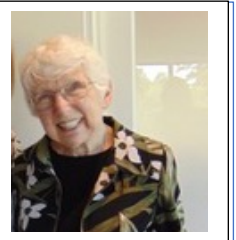
September 23 - September 30, 2018
Perimeter Mall
Preparation and Sale
Dunwoody, GA

YWCA's 5th Annual Conversations Forum on Race and Gender

September 27
11:00 am- 1:30 pm
Atlanta Marriot Marquis

Birthday News

Pat Bevis turned 80 in June!! We
wish her many more wonderful years.



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