



Atlanta Branch News

October newsletter: Volume 69, Issue 2

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CO-PRESIDENTS’S ARTICLE: OCTOBER REFLECTIONS

By: Diana Witt

Hello everyone! By the time you see this, you will be recovering from Bookfair. Thank you in advance for all the hard work and commitment you bring to this event.

On September 16, the Atlanta Branch had a wonderful kick-off event at Agnes Scott College. Several local scholarship winners and some world-class Agnes Scott STEM students were in attendance. These students set up several stations in the Mary Brown Bullock Science Center to demonstrate various aspects of science and technology. Stations included calculating Pi, DNA analysis, the chemistry of sparklers, and an overview of current student research projects. It was a truly inspiring event. These young women are confident, curious, and ready to embrace change. They are symbolic of everything AAUW stands for.

I also want to welcome our new communications intern, Keresa Richards. You are receiving this newsletter because of her efforts and she did a stellar job putting together our 2018 Handbook. Keresa is a Business Administration junior at Emory University studying strategy and management consulting. Be sure to get to know her at future events!

Because of Bookfair, there will be no Branch meeting in October. However, the events in November and December promise to be exciting and rewarding. Our November 10th meeting is Educating Atlanta and will be presented by Atlanta Technical College, a college partner. The meeting will be at the Buckhead Library from 10 am to noon. Our December holiday celebration will be hosted again by Mary and Darwin Womack.

See you at Bookfair and beyond!

Leadership continued

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CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE KICK OFF!

By: Kay Collins

On Monday, October 1 the Contemporary Lit. group will discuss "In the Midst of Winter" by Allende. We meet at the home of Mary Hanson. Please contact Kay Collins
contemporaryliterature@aauwatlanta.org for specific information. All are welcome.

WELCOME BACK, TRAVEL GROUP

By: Betty Arden

The AAUW Travel Group will meet at 10:30 am on October 11th for a guided tour of the Donaldson-Bannister Farm, located in Dunwoody at 4831 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road. The Farm was built circa 1870 and is listed on both the Georgia and National Registers of historic places. After four years of fundraising and active rehabilitation work, the property officially opened as a special use city park on May 1, 2018. It is managed by the Dunwoody Preservation Trust. At 10:15 a.m., carpools will meet in the parking lot of Fresh Market-Dunwoody (5511 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road) and then drive a short distance to the Farm. Lunch will follow. If you have questions, please contact Betty Arden travel@aauwatlanta.org

REFLECTIONS ON DIVERSITY

By: Mary Lynn Merkle

How Important IS Diversity?

In the Sunday, September 16th edition of the Atlanta Journal Constitution, an editorial written by Mona Charen raised a question about the statement, "Our diversity is our greatest strength." This statement is often used by Democratic politicians about the United States.

She quotes Tucker Carson who asks the question, "How, precisely, is diversity our strength? Since you've made this our new national motto, please be specific." The truth is, according to Charen, "there is no scientific, historic or empirical evidence that the greater the racial, ethnic, cultural and religious diversity of a nation, the stronger it becomes."

AAUW's website states that "Diversity is critical to AAUW's mission. Issues of equity—from fair pay to sexual assault to access to health care—affect all women, and women in marginalized groups often disproportionately experience the effect of these issues. To succeed in empowering women and girls, we must have diverse voices

contributing different perspectives.”

Charen notes the example of the USSR which was broken apart into smaller countries. Then those smaller countries broke apart into even smaller entities. Her interpretation of this example was people of diverse ethnicities wanted to be “with their own kind.”

Perhaps this appears to be true as we look at embroiled borders across the world. However, from the perspective of our organization, aside from the strength and the opportunities of a diverse membership, there is also an aspect of fairness, justice, and equity as we listen and communicate with ALL the voices being heard.

In spite of the lack of empirical evidence about diversity equals strength, I personally am very proud to be a part of an organization that doesn’t wait for the evidence before taking a stand. I hope you share that pride.

“True liberation is freeing people from the bonds that have prevented them from giving their gifts to others.”
(Henri Nouwen)

REMEMBRANCE OF DR. FRANCES FLOREINE HERRON HUDSON

Editor’s Note:

The month of August was particularly busy for Communications with issuing our September newsletter and preparing our 2018-2019 Handbook. But being busy is not a valid excuse for selecting the wrong remembrance of Dr. Hudson for our September newsletter. What follows is a note from Alta Birdsong about this error, for which I bear responsibility. I urge you to read this personal remembrance of Dr. Hudson written by Alta. It truly celebrates the life and accomplishments of Dr. Floreine Hudson.



-Ruth Yurchuck, Communications Chair

REMEMBRANCE OF DR. FLOREINE HERRON HUDSON

By: Alta Birdsong

Dr. Floreine Herron Hudson, president of the Atlanta Branch AAUW 1969-1971, has died at age 102. She also compiled the History of AAUW of Georgia (State) about 1976, a copy of which is in our archives. During these many years, Flo, as she was known to family and friends, has left many “footprints” behind.

She received her BS in Mathematics from Georgia State College for Women, her MS degree in Administration, and her ED. D. from Auburn University. She was the first woman to receive a doctorate in Education from Auburn. During her doctoral studies she met Dr. Jim Cherry, who offered her a position in the DeKalb School System. However, being a woman, she had to prove herself first as a principal for a year before moving to Administration. After six years in DeKalb, she moved to Georgia State University and retired seventeen years later, in 1977, and was named a Professor Emeritus. She has been listed in numerous “Who’s Who” publications for her outstanding career in the academic world. An annual scholarship is made at GSU in Dr. Hudson’s name for a woman student with the highest scholastic average in education. A scholarship in her name is also given at Auburn University for a graduate student in education.

During the next 30 years – until age 90 – her leadership skills were readily accepted by many local and national organizations. During her 80s she served as national president for Kappa Delta Epsilon. In retirement she became 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 became a favorite activity, and she prepared a 3-tiered cake when the Atlanta Branch celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1980.

She served her church, Oak Grove United Methodist, as Chairman of the Administrative Board and taught a women's class for almost 40 years. Dr. Floreine Hudson was a role model for women during this early period of women's rights. She had a husband for 55 years, who was most supportive of her in her professional and volunteer life. Yes, the "footprints" left by Flo Hudson during her 102 years reflect a "life well-lived.

Quote of the month

We cannot change what we are not aware of,
and once we are aware we cannot help but change
-Sheryl Sandberg

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