



Atlanta Branch News

November Newsletter: Volume 69, Issue 4

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CO-PRESIDENT’S ARTICLE: NOVEMBER UPDATE

By: Diana Witt

Congratulations to all of us for another successful Bookfair! Although final accounts are not quite complete, our Bookfair was a success this year. Thank you to everyone who participated. I hope you are all rested and looking forward to our upcoming AAUW events.

The AAUW Board met this month and discussed a lot of important issues. Our finance committee is continuing their search for finance management assistance with AAUW branch finances. Our philanthropy committee has proposed branch involvement in two signature projects this year. We will continue to be involved with Dresden Elementary school, which has been a very satisfying partnership. We will also continue to support the Kopila Valley Project in Nepal. Information about these projects will be forthcoming in this newsletter and at the upcoming Branch meetings.

Our next meeting is at the Buckhead Library on Saturday, November 10 at 10am to noon. It will be a presentation by Atlanta Technical College, with breakfast sandwiches and coffee.

On Sunday, December 9, we will have our Holiday Celebration at Mary Womack’s home from 3 to 5. There will be a silent auction as in past years and we will have some of our National Scholarship winners there to discuss their work. Please start thinking now about items for the silent auction. This is always a wonderful occasion and I look forward to seeing you there.

Most importantly, it is time to VOTE! Although we are a non-partisan organization, AAUW members are involved in our community and want to have a voice shaping the issues that affect women and girls. In addition to many exciting state races this year, there are some important referendums in many of our districts that require our careful attention.

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Leadership continued

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Co-President's article continued

The best voter resource guide we have found is:

<https://lwv.thevoterguide.org> The League offers information on how and where to vote, who is running for the various offices, and explanations in plain language of the various referendums. Early voting has already begun. There is no excuse for not getting out to vote. It's never been more important.

We are looking forward to your fellowship for the rest of this year.

See you at the November and December meetings!

-Diana and Huiping

NOVEMBER BRANCH MEETING

By: Betty Slater

The November branch meeting will be held on November 10th from 10am-12pm at the Buckhead Library. The cost will be **\$6.00** for coffee, a chicken breakfast sandwich, and donuts. We will hear a presentation from the Atlanta Technical College about its Gap Scholarship Program. This program is similar to our local scholarship program that awards qualified students attending schools that are our college/university partners. The money from the Gap Scholarship program is given by Atlanta Technical College to students who are in good standings and taking 12 credit hours of college work.

The scholarship money helps students pay for rent, books, tires, childcare, or any other items that would inhibit them from attending Atlanta Technical College and receiving a degree. Many capable students drop out because they do not have the funds to continue their specific program. This scholarship aims to help these students. However, money is needed to help with this program. Women make up 70 percent of the student population at Atlanta Technical College. Let's all attend this program to see how the Atlanta Branch can support!

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE NOVEMBER MEETING

By: Kay Collins

We will meet Monday, November 5 at 10:30 AM in the home of Mary Hanson. The book we'll discuss is "The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane" by Lisa See. All are welcome. For specific additional information call Kay Collins, 404-266-2183.

TRAVEL GROUP'S FIRST OUTING!

By: Betty Arden

Postponed due to weather, the AAUW Travel Group will meet Thursday, November 8 at 10:30 a.m. for a guided tour of the Donaldson-Bannister Farm. The farm is located in Dunwoody at 4831 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road. The Farm was built circa 1870 and is listed on both the Georgia and National Register 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 drive a short distance to the farm. Lunch following. For further information and to confirm your participation, contact Betty Arden Travel@AAUWAtlanta.org

CHECKING YOUR "DQ" (DIVERSITY QUOTIENT)

By: Mary Lynn Merkle

AAUW has been a leader in seeking equity and justice for all and celebrating diversity. In 2000 our organization produced a diversity tool kit to assist branches in working toward understanding group and individual prejudices (perceived or actual). Virginia Mann, an AAUW diversity trainer at the time, produced a quiz for self-examination. Although nearly twenty years have passed, in today's world I thought many of us might be interested in our DQ.

WHAT'S YOUR DIVERSITY QUOTIENT?

(Mark each question "true" or "false," and the check your answers on page 4)

1. Prejudice affects only people in under-represented groups. True False
2. Valuing diversity means minimizing the differences between us. True False
3. Most of us have both negative and positive stereotypes about the groups (gender, age, race, etc.) to which we belong. True False
4. Most positive and negative stereotypes can be detrimental to a group. True False
5. Promoting diversity within AAUW needn't mean sharing decision-making power at all levels. True False
6. Inducing guilt and shame in a person making a prejudicial remark is the best way to make that person stop and think before making such a remark again. True False
7. An organization that is not sensitive to the needs of all its members can be guilty of subtle discrimination. True False

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Checking your DQ continued

8. If a child takes public note of a person's physical disability, you should distract the child and tactfully change the subject. True False
9. You should interrupt prejudicial remarks when you hear them. True False
10. Prejudicial thoughts we may have about a group of people often result from misinformation. True False

THE BOOMERANG OF SCHOLARSHIPS

By: Mary Lynn Merkle



(Boomerang—a thrown tool designed to return to the thrower)

A few weeks ago, we received a request for a book pick-up. Janet Rechtman and her husband Doug Aiken were moving to California and had 30 or 40 boxes of books they wanted to donate to AAUW. Because I seemed to be the closest pick-up person to their home, I had the pleasure of meeting Janet and Doug. Janet received a scholarship from Atlanta Branch in 1976 to pursue a doctorate at Emory University. “Life” happened, and Janet didn’t complete the degree. However, she returned to school and achieved her Ph.D. in 2008 (at age 60) from Antioch University with an emphasis on Leadership and Change. Her most recent work was a faculty position in Non-Profit Leadership at the University of Georgia (retiring in 2018). She is currently a Senior Fellow at the Fanning Institute of Leadership Development and is well respected for her assistance to non-profits in strategic planning, evaluation, and marketing and communications.

So—next time we’re picking up books, sorting, pricing, packing—oh, the many parts of our journey toward awarding scholarships, remember Janet with her 30 to 40 boxes of books for us. And the beat goes on!

ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON DQ

1. **False** One of the key lessons of diversity training workshops is that no one is immune to prejudices.
2. **False** Erasing our differences would deprive us of the richness of ideas we gain from people of varied background and abilities.
3. **True** Stereotypes are so pervasive that we all have absorbed positive and negative messages about groups to which we belong.
4. **True** Both views reflect overgeneralizations that do not allow group members to be regarded as individuals.
5. **False** We can’t diversify without sharing responsibility and power.

6. **False** Shaming the speaker may make the person defensive. It's more productive to seek clarification, offer information, and try to shift the person's attitude.
7. **True** No organization can afford to slight its members.
8. **False** Politeness often keeps prejudice in place. Give the child correct information.
9. **False** Pick your fights carefully. Sometimes it's better to collect your thoughts and wait until the timing is right.
10. **True** Life experiences sometimes challenge our long-held beliefs. We should constantly adjust and reexamine what we hold to be true.

Scoring: 0-1 wrong: Congratulations!
 2-10 wrong: Oops!

“It is not who is right, but what is right, that is of importance.” - Thomas Huxley

Handbook Update

Page 12: Contemporary Literature 2018-2019

June 3: Meet to decide on next year's titles.

Page 58: Atlanta Branch Member Directory

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Quote of the month

Someone is sitting in the shade today because
 someone planted a tree a long time ago

-Warren Buffet