



Atlanta Branch News

January Newsletter: Volume 69, Issue 7

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2018-2019 Leadership

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CO-PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE: AAUW UPDATE

By: Diana Witt and Huiping Du

We hope everyone had a happy and restful holiday and are ready for a busy 2019!

Many of us gathered at Mary Womack's home on December 9th for a lovely holiday party. We were privileged to hear from several national fellowship winners who are located here in Georgia. As always, it was inspiring and exciting to hear about the work these women are doing. It really makes all the hard work we do at Bookfair more worthwhile. Proceeds from our silent auction at the party will go to the Legal Advocacy Fund.

A very productive meeting of the Atlanta Branch Board preceded the party. The Finance Committee recommended the hiring of Jennifer Roberts as our bookkeeper starting in January at \$15/hour; the Board approved this action. Under the supervision of our Finance Officer, Susan Diffenderfer, Jennifer will prepare monthly reports and keep the financial records.

Mary Lynn Merkle, chair of the Bookfair Steering Committee, asked if our new Branch bookkeeper could also work on the Bookfair records. A motion to approve the Atlanta Branch bookkeeper set up and maintain the financial records for the 2019 60th Anniversary Bookfair was carried unanimously. Mary Lynn will take this offer to the next Steering Committee meeting. The specifics of time and where the payment will come from will be determined after the Steering Committee meeting, which will probably be in the Spring.

Grateful thanks are extended to Sharon Bevis-Hoover, whose term as Bookfair liaison expires December 31st. Myra Carmon will be our new branch Bookfair representative to the Board. There was extensive discussion of the need for new setup and teardown procedures for the Bookfair. These jobs involve physical strength that exceeds that of our current volunteers. The Board welcomes suggestions about possible community groups or volunteers that could help us with these tasks.

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Leadership continued

Diversity

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Funds Chair Dana Gordon reported AAUW National has significantly restructured its funds. We will need to review these new options in 2019 to guide our decisions about future donations. Members should visit the AAUW National website to look at the new funding priorities. See page 3 for Bea Meyer's report on details of our Branch's funding decisions for this year.

The Membership Committee reported that we have five new members who we hope to see at our February 9th meeting.

Public Policy Chair Cecilia Cantrell reminded us the new Georgia Legislature starts in January. We hope many members will be available to advocate for issues affecting women and girls. We also need to focus on advocating for free and fair elections that allow maximum access to the polls for all voters, and other issues related to our mission.

Happy New Year to all, and we look forward to seeing you all at the Cross Creek cafe for our next meeting on February 9th.

DIVERSITY: RECOGNIZING THE SPICE

By: Mary Lynn Merkle

Do you enjoy reading the food critics discovery of a new great chef or the exquisite menu items of a restaurant? The glowing recipe descriptions often include the introduction of an ingredient that gives the food that delicious and unforgettable flavor. Without that ingredient (or a grouping of several seasonings) the recipe would be quite ordinary.

It's quite the same with a group of people. Different cultures, faiths, educational backgrounds, family structures, countries of origin—are all differences that gives a group it's flavor, a place for new ideas, a circle that becomes more interesting and meaningful as it grows larger.

But as individuals, we are all more alike than we are different. We share many interests and experiences once we take the time to get to know each other. When we meet someone who is from the same city or state or who has or had a similar career, we immediately feel an affinity for that person. On the other hand, when we meet someone from another part of the country (or world) or whose career is completely different than ours, we should take that time to know more.

It would be our loss if our circles were composed completely of people just like us. It should certainly not be our goal to encourage everyone to think alike—whether that be in politics, immigration issues, faith issues, or even which Georgia university is ranked higher.

Our diversity is our strength. It's part of the recipe of a group that thrives. So, let's celebrate and enjoy the "spice" in our lives!

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE JANUARY MEETING

By: Kay Collins

On Monday, January 7, 2019 we'll begin the new calendar year by discussing *Still Life* by Louise Penny. We'll meet 10:30AM at the home of Mary Hanson. Join us whether you've read the book or not!

Questions? Contact Kay Collins contemporayliterature@aauwatlanta.org

TRAVEL GROUP: REFLECTION ON DECEMBER TRIP

By: Mary Lynn Merkle

The Travel Group was treated to a tour of the Christkindl Market (located at Atlantic Station). It was led by Michaela Schulze, Executive Director of the German American Cultural Foundation, and was part of the group's December travel adventure.

This traditional German festival is held for the four weeks of Advent. The first market in Atlanta happened in 2008 and it has grown larger since. This year there are 26 street booths encompassing German street food, German sweets, and many authentic German products and wares.

250,000 people experienced Atlanta's Christkindl (Christ Child) Market last year and Michaela is hoping to surpass that number this year.

For further travel group information contact Betty Arden: Travel@AAUWAtlanta.org



Left to right—Michaela Schulze (our tour guide), Betty Slater, Gail, Billie Collier, Kay Collins, Betty Arden, Connie Eshenour, Mary Lynn Merkle

Photo taken by Terry Eshenour

TRAVEL GROUP: JANUARY ADVENTURES

By: Betty Arden

The AAUW Atlanta Travel Group will meet on January 10th at the Atlanta History Center in Buckhead at 10 am. We will view the Locomotion exhibit, featuring the restored steam locomotive "Texas". The exhibit shows the role railroads played in transforming Atlanta into the transportation hub it is today. Also on display is the Zero Mile Post, a historic stone railroad marker at the city's center since the 1850's. Lunch follows at the History Center.

Contact Betty Arden: Travel@AAUWAtlanta.org

REPORT FROM THE PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE

By: Bea Meyer

Your Philanthropy Committee recommends that four groups receive of funding from AAUW Atlanta Branch this year.

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1. The IRC (International Rescue Committee) in Atlanta is a social services organization and a non-profit resettlement agency dedicated to helping individuals and families from around the world who have escaped war and persecution. Charity Navigator has given the IRC an A+ rating. The recommendation will be to direct the funding to assist women and girls. (award: \$2,500)
2. Atlanta Technical College, a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia, provides lifelong educational training that leads to technical certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Two thirds of the enrollment is female. Our funding will be used to assist young people facing hardships that may end their college training. Using these funds will help maintain a quality workforce in the area. (award \$2,500)
3. Dresden Elementary School's Saturday Milestones Prep Academy provides identified beginning learners the academic skills necessary to ensure that students are prepared for the Georgia Milestones, a comprehensive testing program conducted in all public schools among students in grades 3-12. This Academy was held previously with 85 of the 86 identified students passing the test. Providing funding in this area would have a positive impact locally in helping children succeed. It is important to note that in our Member Survey, helping Dresden Elementary School was our preferred project. (award \$4,500)
4. Days for Girls is a global, not for profit movement that prepares and distributes sustainable menstrual health solutions to girls who would otherwise miss school during their periods. These kits are made by volunteers in many different countries. The founder and CEO was awarded a Purpose Prize by AARP in 2017. (award \$500)

Your Philanthropy Committee,

Bea Meyer, Dana Gordon, Wendy Venet, Ingrid Reinhard
Huiping Du (ex officio)



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS!

DeKalb County Public Library's very own Joyce Cohrs was selected as a 2018 City of Decatur Hometown Hero. Joyce was nominated by the Friends of Decatur Library for her role in the rejuvenation of the Friends group along with her tireless service in managing the book sales which raise funds for the Library. In recent years, Joyce's efforts have allowed the book sales to provide more than \$10,000 annually for the Decatur branch. Joyce has volunteered with the Friends of Decatur Library for more than 15 years. Congratulations, Joyce!

NEW MEMBERS

Monique Gilmore

Agnes Scott College Student, B.S.

Agnes Scott College

Student Affiliate member, Neuroscience and Public Health

Leslie Langford

Auburn University B.A.

Education

Quotes of the month

I didn't get here by wishing for it or hoping for it, but by working for it

-Estee Lauder

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