



# Atlanta Branch News

February Newsletter: Volume 69, Issue 8

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## 2018-2019 Leadership

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## **WHAT YOU CAN LEARN FROM YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY?**

By: Betty Slater and Billie Collier

Prepare for a new journey--to your public library! Shirelle Atkins, manager of the Buckhead Library, will enlighten us about what you can learn from your library. She will share resources the library has, including free materials and ways to obtain information about Atlanta area events.

This branch meeting will be held on **February 9th** from **11:15am to 2:00pm** at **Cross Creek Cafe** (1221 Cross Creek Pwy NW, Atlanta; Phone: 404.351.1550). Representatives from some of our College/University Partners will also be attending. Our own Dr. Myra Carmon will represent Georgia State University; Dr. Lois Richardson and Ms. Laura Maxwell will represent Georgia Gwinnett College; and Ms. Tia Williams will represent Emory University. Ms. Gail Buckner, an ERA advocate, will also update us on what is happening in Georgia.

We will order from a selected menu and pay individually.

Please RSVP as soon as possible to your evite or email [hospitality@aauwatlanta.org](mailto:hospitality@aauwatlanta.org) to confirm your attendance. Bring a friend along! See you in February!

## **CO-PRESIDENT’S ARTICLE: AAUW UPDATE**

By: Diana Witt and Huiping Du

Welcome to what promises to be a very interesting 2019! We look forward to exciting programs, fellowship, and advocacy in the rest of the Atlanta Branch year.

The Finance Committee and the Board of Directors agreed that the time has come to obtain assistance with handling all of our bookkeeping tasks. We are pleased to announce our branch has hired Jennifer Roberts to be our bookkeeper. Under the supervision of our treasurer and Finance Committee, Jennifer will handle most of our financial matters. This includes Bookfair responsibilities. Our treasurer remains responsible for financial disbursements.

## Leadership continued

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Alta will be available to help and advise. We thank Susan Diffenderfer and the Finance Committee for their hard work in making this happen.

Our Communications Intern, Keresa Richards, has partnered with our Public Policy Chair, Cecilia Cantrell, to send valuable emails about public policy issues of interest to our members. These emails have covered topics including human trafficking and the Georgia Legislature. I have reproduced some of the links below.

An article from the AJC:

[https://epaper.ajc.com/popovers/dynamic\\_article\\_popover.aspx?guid=8fb7e71d-9e7f-4624-b5b9-4a59236ffac5&pbid=8e0858ee-1443-484d-9e94-f8b8a1eaaaff](https://epaper.ajc.com/popovers/dynamic_article_popover.aspx?guid=8fb7e71d-9e7f-4624-b5b9-4a59236ffac5&pbid=8e0858ee-1443-484d-9e94-f8b8a1eaaaff)

An article from the Saporta Report on human trafficking:

<https://saportareport.com/column-coalition-launches-three-year-plan-to-fight-human-trafficking/>

Please take a moment to contact your local legislator about issues of concern to you. All evidence indicates that legislators listen to their constituents. If you need help contacting your legislator, here is a link: [www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do](http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do)

We hope to have information at our February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting about upcoming Legislative Lobby Days. Many of us have attended these sessions in the past in efforts to make a difference. Please see the program article in this issue about our next event. See you on February 9<sup>th</sup> at Cross Creek!

## **WHAT ABOUT IMMIGRATION?!**

By: Mary Lynn Merkle

Immigration has been front-page news for some time now. The more we digest information, we realize how conflicted the situation is.

A few years ago, I read *They Take our Jobs and 20 Other Myths about Immigration* by Aviva Chomsky. Dr. Chomsky is well prepared to address this issue. She is Professor of History and Coordinator of Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Salem State University in Massachusetts.

The following are a few of her “myths” (using past history as a basis) for us to ponder.

**First Myth:** Immigrants compete with low-skilled workers and drive down wages.

Each period of expansion and reform has been accompanied and/or followed by a redefinition of exclusion. An exclusion guarantees the

continuing existence of a worker pool for the secondary labor market. This exclusionary citizenship has allowed the US to maintain a fiction of equal rights while also making sure that employers have access to workers without rights.

**Second Myth:** Immigrants don't pay taxes.

The majority of immigrants, being of prime working age and ineligible for many public services, tend to contribute more to the public sector than they actually use.

Undocumented workers in formal employment often give false social security numbers. Thus, these workers pay in to Social Security but have no access to it. As of 2005, Social Security received about 7 billion dollars a year through false social security numbers—allowing it to break even.

In addition, many immigrants are in the service economy (where most new jobs originate). Both employers and consumers benefit from these lower wages that lend to cheaper products.

**Third Myth:** The country is being overrun by illegal immigrants.

The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights says, "Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law." The concept of 'illegal' immigrants is shaky. Primarily because the difference between "legal" and "illegal" is fluid, i.e. the student who overstays the student visa. Even a single household can have people of differing immigration status.

In general, most unauthorized immigrants who crossed the Mexican border entered without inspection (no papers). While those who entered from outside the Americas usually came with valid papers, but overstayed. At the time of publication only 4.3% of all workers were unauthorized migrants, but they represented 19% of the workers in agriculture, 17% of the workers in cleaning and building maintenance, 12% in construction, and 11% in food preparation.

**Fourth Myth:** The United States is a melting pot that has always welcomed immigrants from all over the world.

A mid-1800's Supreme Court Justice wrote that the framers of the Constitution clearly intended it to refer to white people when guaranteeing rights and privileges. BUT the big question at the time was, "Who belonged to the 'white race'?" Would it be decided by skin tone, national origin, or a combination?

Through-out history many segments of American residents were not given citizenship rights. Puerto Ricans and African-Americans were in this category even though the later was forced to immigrate. Some non-slave states prohibited African-Americans from moving there—including Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, California and Oregon. Native Americans were displaced and had no citizenship rights until 1940.

I have addressed only four of the 21 myths from *They Take our Jobs and 20 Other Myths about Immigration*. Dr. Chomsky has a new book out on this subject, published just last year. If you are interested in hearing more of Dr. Chomsky's views on immigration, check out her website. You can also go on YouTube to watch two seminars she has presented in the past 18 months.

We AAUW women are complex people. We are not of one mind on many issues. There are nuances in our viewpoints on immigration—both legal and undocumented. To share our different approaches on important public policy is ALWAYS a good thing. So—let's talk!

## **CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE FEBRUARY MEETING**

By: Kay Collins

Our February meeting will be 10:30 am on Monday, February 4, 2019 at the home of Mary Hanson (3875 W. Nancy Creek Ct., Atlanta). We'll discuss "Transatlantic" by Colum McCann. Join us whether you've read the book or not!

Questions? Contact Kay Collins [contemporaryliterature@aauwatlanta.org](mailto:contemporaryliterature@aauwatlanta.org)

## **TRAVEL GROUP: FEBRUARY ADVENTURES**

By: Betty Arden

The AAUW Travel Group will meet at 10am on February 14th at the Ansley Mall Kroger store. We will then carpool to see the latest SCAD FASH exhibition, "Cinematic Couture". SCAD is located at 1600 Peachtree Street. The parking deck is located on the bottom floors of the building. The exhibition focuses on period film and television garment design. Clothing and millinery on display comes from 24 films. Lunch will follow.

Contact Betty Arden at [travel@aauwatlanta.org](mailto:travel@aauwatlanta.org) if you have questions.

## **DIABETES AND LEGISLATION**

By: Cecilia Cantrell

As a type 1 diabetic, I rely on insulin to stay alive. Recently, my pharmacy was out of insulin for a week and my supply was down to less than 1/2 a bottle. Fortunately, I received a refill before any problems occurred. Some diabetics are not so lucky. They cannot afford insulin and the consequence is fatal. No matter how much one believes in capitalism, some things cannot be based solely on profit. When morality and humanity clash with the greed of profit, I vote for the former. Greed kills. This legislative session, health issues are on the agenda. Please support life for all of us, not just the financially fortunate.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

February 4<sup>th</sup>: Contemporary Literature Meeting

February 9<sup>th</sup>: Branch Meeting at Cross Creek Café

11:15am – 2:00pm

February 14<sup>th</sup>: Travel Group SCAD FASH exhibition

February 21<sup>st</sup>: Women's Lobby Day at Old City Council Chambers

8:30am – 11:00am

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### Quotes of the month

I fell in love with her courage, her sincerity, and her flaming self-respect

*-F. Scott Fitzgerald*

Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better

*-Maya Angelou*

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[aauwatlanta.org](http://aauwatlanta.org)