



Atlanta Branch News

April Newsletter: Volume 69, Issue 10

Table of Contents

President’s Article.....1
 Diversity Article.....2
 Contemporary Literature Meeting.....3
 Travel Group.....3
 Women and Finance Tips.....3
 AAUW and Heartbound Ministries.....4
 Upcoming Events.....4

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Continued on pg. 2

PRESIDENT’S ARTICLE: AAUW UPDATE

By: Diana Witt

I hope everyone is doing well! I regret being unable to attend our March meeting on women and finance. I heard it was a very informative event. However, I look forward to seeing everyone on May 4th at our final meeting of the 2018-2019 Branch year. It will be at the High Museum of Art (see separate article about this program.) Come enjoy the tour and participate in the election and installation of new officers.

The following is an important update about your Board. Pat Bevis, our bylaws chair, has called to attention to the rule that an elected officer can hold only one position, meaning Huiping Du cannot serve as both co-president and treasurer. Huiping has graciously agreed to step aside as co-president and will serve as acting finance officer. She will also run for finance officer in the May election. This has been a difficult year of transition for our finance committee and officers, so please thank Huiping for her service to the Branch.

Please plan to attend the AAUW of Georgia State Convention April 12th -13th, right in our backyard at the Hilton Garden Inn Wildwood (3045 Windy Hill Road, Atlanta 30339.) The Cobb Branch is doing a lot of work to put this together. All you have to do is show up! This is going to be an important convention with a great program. Some of us have been very concerned with AAUW National’s decision to present two Work Smart programs in Atlanta without notifying the local branches these events are taking place. I have been in conversation with National about our concerns, and the Work Smart program will be showcased at our convention. This will be our opportunity to find out how National is planning and presenting these programs and how our branches could work with them. Please register if you haven’t already. It will be on April 12th (cocktail reception 6pm to 9pm) and April 13th (registration check-in starts at 9am.) The fee is \$40 and covers everything except lodging.

Finally, we’ve done all we can about lobbying the legislature on issues we care about in this session. Women’s health issues continue to be our focus. SB 106 relates to Medicaid expansion and needs input from women voters. Other important bills that have passed both committees are the Behavioral Health Commission, which would improve the state’s mental health system, and two HIV-related bills that have

Leadership continued

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moved forward for a vote. Georgia currently leads the nation in the rate of newly diagnosed HIV patients. HB 83, which would mandate a 30-minute recess for all K-5 students has made it out of the Senate committee. The AJC Legislative Navigator is a good source of information (<https://legislativenavigator.myajc.com>.)

See you all at the State Convention and on May 4th for our final meeting!

ZERO TOLERANCE IN OUR SCHOOLS: IS IT WORKING FOR EVERYONE?!?

By: Mary Lynn Merkle

In a study done by AAUW nearly half of students in grades 7 through 12 reported verbal or physical sexual harassment during the 2010-2011 school year. More girls than boys experienced the harassment and were negatively influenced by the experience (feeling unsafe at school).

The National Women's Law Center reports that there is little discrepancy between races in the number of harassment cases of girls. However, schools respond differently. Girls of color are more often ignored, disbelieved, and sometimes punished. Picture this: a middle school girl is "touched" continuously by the boy sitting behind her when the teacher is not looking. Finally, she slaps him, and the teacher takes notice. They are both sent to the office. The disciplinary action is that both will receive a one-day suspension. The girl complains it is unfair. It might happen that when a white girl explains, adjustments are made. It might also happen that when a girl of color also explains—but is louder or more adamant; she gets a three-day suspension. The girl now misses three days of class, has a harder punishment than the harasser, and becomes worried about continued "touching."

Monique Morris, in her carefully researched book *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*, documents the disciplinary differences for girls of color with supporting statistics. *Brown v. Board of Education* ended segregated education in the 50's, but it did not end racism or poverty (both of which are alive and well today). Crowded classrooms, less experienced educators, lack of educational tools, and behavioral difficulties all contribute to youth (male and female) entering the pipeline of suspensions, alternative settings, juvenile detention centers, etc.

Women of ALL races have made progress toward equity and justice only when they have spoken up, spoken out, and refused to accept the status quo. White privilege is a fact. The privileges accorded to a college/university graduate are well-known. Let's use the privileges we have to "push" for additional opportunities for our adolescent sisters of color who need a quality academic/technical education in order to achieve their best futures.

*** Note: Morris tells of a Georgia student, six-year-old Salecia Johnson, who was arrested and handcuffed for having a tantrum in her classroom in 2012. Really?!

APRIL CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE MEETING

By: Kay Collins

We will meet Monday, April 1, 10:30 AM at the home of Mary Hanson. We'll discuss "Educated" by Tara Westover.

Please contact Kay Collins with questions contemporaryliterature@aauwatlanta.org

TRAVEL GROUP: APRIL ADVENTURES

By: Betty Arden

The AAUW Travel Group will meet at 10:15 am on April 11th in the parking lot of the Canton House Restaurant (4825 Buford Hwy, Atlanta) to carpool to tour the new Big Green Egg Culinary Center. The Culinary Center is located at 3786 DeKalb Technology Parkway at the intersection of Chamblee-Tucker Road. The tour will include the history of the Big Green Egg museum, a retail showroom, and event area for cooking classes. The group will then return to the Canton House for lunch.

Contact Betty Arden for further information travel@aauwatlanta.org

TIPS FROM OUR WOMEN AND FINANCE MEETING

By: Betty Slater



Lee Ann Gregg speaking to AAUW regarding financial literacy

Our AAUW March programing was a great success. It was led by Ms. Lee Ann Gregg, Financial Advisor for Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.

The following are a few tips Ms. Gregg gave the group of 24 women.

1. Get your paperwork organized. We should keep important papers at home as well as another location.
2. Have six months living expenses saved for emergency funds saved.
3. Have a will!!

Everyone was given articles about women investors, protecting themselves beyond insurance, and women in retirement. We left the meeting better informed on taking care of ourselves.

AAUW AND HEARTBOUND MINISTRIES

By: Cele Covatta

Here is a win/win for AAUW Atlanta and Heartbound ministries! This remarkable organization was first introduced to us by Sarah Rondeau as a possible philanthropic endeavor and we have been contributing our non-sale children books to them on a small scale.

Andrea Shelton, director, and Madison McGinn, her intern, have recently made us aware that Heartbound currently serves 42 libraries for male and female adult inmates as well as juvenile offenders. This has greatly expanded their need for books and gives us the opportunity to donate from our bulging book shelves.

Heartbound does so much more than serve libraries in correctional facilities. Their mission is to provide programs and resources to meet the needs of prison communities; inmates and their families, as well as correctional staff abound. If you are interested in helping to change the culture from one of crime and incarceration to hope and restoration, go to heartboundministries.com or contact Cele Covatta publicpolicy@aauwatlanta.org



Alta Birdsong, Madison McGinn, and Heartbound Little Readers Coordinators: Rose Canon and Mary Womack

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1ST: Contemporary Literature Meeting

April 11th: Travel Group Meeting

April 12th – 13th: AAUW Georgia State Convention

May 4th: Branch Meeting at High Museum

Quote of the month

In the book of life, the answers aren't in the back
-Charlie Brown

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