



Atlanta Branch News

May Newsletter: Volume 69, Issue 11

Table of Contents

May Branch Meeting.....1
 President’s Article.....1
 AAUW Dues.....2
 Diversity Article.....3
 Contemporary Literature Meeting.....3
 Travel Group.....4
 Congrats Marge.....4
 Legislative Update.....4
 Big Green Egg.....5
 AAUW Georgia State Convention.....5
 AAUW and Heartbound Ministries.....6
 Upcoming Events.....6

2018-2019 Leadership

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MAY BRANCH MEETING

By: Betty Slater

The Atlanta Branch will hold its May branch meeting, Women in the Arts, at the High Museum on Saturday, May 4th at 11:30 a.m. Branch officers will be elected and installed, and following lunch at Twelve Eighty, there will be a tour of the High Museum so please wear comfortable shoes. If you have not yet responded to your evite, please contact Billie Collier at hospitality@aauwatlanta.org by April 26. The cost of the lunch is \$25.00 per person.

Lunch choice: Entrees- Crispy Grouper Sandwich, the High Chicken Stack, or Vegetable Faro.

Dessert – Crème Brûlée or Chocolate Mousse Cake

We have passes for members to tour the High’s “Women in the Arts!” Members of the High can help another person to attend the exhibit with a \$5.00 fee. Please attend this outstanding end of the year celebration of a terrific year!

PRESIDENT’S ARTICLE: AAUW UPDATE

By: Diana Witt

Hi everyone: This will be my last message for the 2018-2019 AAUW year. I’m thrilled to announce a wonderful slate of candidates which our Nominating Committee recruited to fill vacant board positions for 2019-2020. You will have the opportunity to formally elect and install them at our May meeting. They will officially assume their responsibilities July 1st.

Our new **co-presidents** elect will be **Cele Covatta** and **Wendy Venet**. Our current **Branch Secretary**, **Marcy Nader**, will be serving a second term. **Kay Collins** will be the **Board Secretary**. And **Huiping Du** will be the **Financial Officer**. The current **Nominating Committee** (**Betty Arden, Sharon Bevis-Hoover, Dana Gordon, Mary Lynn Merkle, and Bea Meyer**) will continue for another year.

Leadership continued

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Please attend our final branch meeting on May 4th at the High Museum and vote your support for these women who are graciously offering their time for these positions.

The AAUW of Georgia Convention on April 12th and 13th had a wonderful program and the opportunity to see old friends from other Georgia branches. AAUW National Senior Vice President of Fellowships and Programs, Gloria L. Blackwell, gave us a wonderful overview of what National is doing with the funds we are sending them. All branches are trying to balance how much we give to national initiatives vs. funding local projects. It was illuminating to see what the goals and priorities are for national, and how they are working with corporate donors like Coca-Cola.

The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Zoe Spencer, a Legal Advocacy Fund plaintiff in a pay discrimination suit. Her presentation was a life lesson on what it's like to be on the front line of the gender gap in pay levels. I know we all hoped that gender discrimination was in decline, but that is clearly not the case. Our activism on behalf of women and girls has never been more important

Outgoing President Yetta Macmillan presented an award to the Atlanta Branch as the Outstanding Chapter in Georgia. It is a beautiful crystal plaque, and everyone will have a chance to see it at our May meeting. Thanks, Yetta!

Finally, an early reminder that Bookfair is now less than 6 months away. Start planning now to take at least two shifts. Bookfair will again be held at Perimeter Mall. Opening night is Monday September 30, and Bookfair ends Sunday night, October 6. We will need all hands for our largest project of the year.

See you on May 4th at the High!

AAUW DUES

By: Phyllis Miller

It's time to renew AAUW membership. We hope to have everyone rejoin for another important and enjoyable year with the Atlanta Branch.

Membership dues can be paid by check or on-line. AAUW dues are \$59.00 to National, \$10.00 to State, and \$18.00 to the Atlanta Branch; totaling \$87.00. You will receive an email from Membership prompting you to pay by credit card or debit card if you choose to try this option. National AAUW would like the AAUW Branches to start using this on-line method of payment but dues can still be paid by check.

AAUW Atlanta Branch past presidents over 65 years of age have the option of not paying Branch dues of \$18.00. Those of you choosing this option pay \$69.00 and you will pay by check. Thanks!

DISCOVERING DIVERSITY

By: Mary Lynn Merkle

Many long years ago my almost three-year-old son and I were Halloween shopping in a K-Mart. He was sitting in the shopping cart seat with eyes aglow at all the sights to behold, and I was checking my list. All of a sudden in a very loud voice he said, “Mommy, mommy, look at the witches.” I turned in his direction, and there were three nuns dressed in black (I told you it was a long time ago) doing their shopping. OMG! How embarrassing! But they smiled and waved at the little boy in the cart and went on their way. I then had an opportunity to explain to Chris that these women were probably teachers—just like his pre-school teacher and his Sunday School teacher.

Like Chris back in the day, we often look at someone, taking in their hairstyle, their clothing, their skin color, and make a guess. And that guess is, at best, limited or inaccurate. When we engage in conversation with others, asking questions requiring a reflective answer, we often experience new learning, understanding, and interest.

It is my belief that within our Atlanta Branch membership we may be much more diverse than we realize. Of course, we share some important factors. We are educated. We are mostly older. We are mostly financially comfortable. However, we are vastly different in so many ways. We have come together from many varied places and from broadly different experiences to work together as a Branch on shared goals.

Here is a true example from my past: I spent a semester (4 ½ months) living in a travel trailer with our three children in a KOA (campground) in Salem, Oregon when my husband spent a sabbatical leave at Monmouth State Teachers College. Of the “permanent” residents at that KOA, there were probably ten school-age children. Our two boys and one other child were the only ones who were attending school. One of the families who had an RV pulled by a truck had their truck repossessed during the night. From then on some of us picked up groceries for them. One day I was asked to drive two teen-age runaways to the bus station where there would be tickets (sent by their parents) waiting for them. How different this was from our small college-town existence back in Pennsylvania!

I would LOVE to write a “diversity article” on some of your varied experiences. Perhaps it could be where you went to college, research you were part of, amazing people you’ve met, places you’ve visited, travel experiences, employment, or volunteer experiences. Let’s get to know one another. Send your “story” to me at diversity@auwatlanta.org

Let’s discover our commonalities and celebrate our differences!

MAY CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE MEETING

By: Kay Collins

We meet Monday, May 6th at 10:30 am in the home of Mary Hanson. We'll discuss "Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II" by Liza Mundy. This book is a must read. AAUW was instrumental in establishment of women serving in military and becoming Code Girls!

Questions? Contact Kay Collins, contemporaryliterature@auwatlanta.org

TRAVEL GROUP: MAY ADVENTURES

By: Betty Arden

The AAUW Travel Group will meet at 10 am on May 9th at the Ansley Mall Kroger store. We will carpool to tour the new southeast flagship Whole Food Market located at the corner of 14th and West Peachtree streets. The tour will include the rooftop terrace (Canopy Court), which offers skyline views overlooking 14th street. Lunch will follow at one of the four eateries in the store.

Contact Betty Arden at travel@aauwatlanta.org if you have questions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARGE ANDERSON!

By: Ruth Yurchuck



Our own Marge Anderson, current Membership co-chair, will receive “Jake’s” Golden Heart Award on Sunday, May 12th as part of the 2019 Emory graduation weekend. Marge is a member of the *Corpus Cordis Aureum*, an esteemed group of alumni who graduated from Emory 50 or more years ago. She graduated from Emory in 1962 and returned in 1978-1980 to become a Physician Assistant.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By: Cecilia Cantrell

I hope all of you are recovering from the legislative session. Of course, our work is not seasonal. Here are some health and social policy updates that can use your attention and intervention. I am especially focusing my efforts on efforts to undermine the Affordable Care Act by focusing on delay tactics like Medicaid waivers. Having taught Sociology of Human Sexuality, I am also concerned about the information on syphilis in rural Georgia. These two issues are connected. Current syphilis and gonorrhea treatments are endangered by the evolution of drug resistant forms of these STDs. An uninsured Georgia population leave many positive undiagnosed and uninsured people of all ages untreated. Many positive people show ambiguous or even no symptoms. The 1996 Rockdale County syphilis outbreak among more than 200 teens, is being repeated in even younger Georgia children. In my opinion, we need to expand Medicaid without delay. The health of all Georgia citizens is at stake. Legislators and the Governor can still be contacted even though sine die has passed.

Thank you for all your efforts.

VISIT TO THE BIG GREEN EGG CULINARY CENTER



AAUW Atlanta members and friends touring the Big Green Egg Culinary Center

In April a few AAUW members took a tour of the new Big Green Egg Culinary Center. The tour included a brief history of the Big Green Egg museum and a look at where cooking classes are held. The group then returned to the Canton House for lunch.

AAUW OF GEORGIA STATE CONVENTION OVERVIEW

By: Betty Slater

The convention was attended by members from the eight branches who heard the speakers share about the work of AAUW. Ms. Gloria L. Blackwell, Senior Vice President of Fellowships and Programs, is responsible for designing and implementing initiatives to expand women's and girls' opportunities in nontraditional spaces through leadership oversight of \$4 million in fellowships and grant programs. She shared with the group the largest grant money was given by Coca Cola and helps women with salary negotiations through a program called Work Smart. This program can be taken online through the AAUW website. We are hoping the Atlanta branch will be able to use this program at our September meeting at Agnes Scott College.

The inspirational speaker, Dr. Zoe Spencer, an AAUW LAF Plaintiff shared her experience in court suing Virginia State University for hiring two individuals who were not as qualified as she was and paying them much larger salaries for comparable positions at the college. Dr. Spencer, who earned her Ph. D from Howard University, teaches Sociology at Virginia State University, and serves as president of the faculty senate. AAUW funds helped fight her way in the courts, which she greatly appreciated. She made those members who attended the convention thankful that we have a LAF fund helping women in similar situations.



AAUW Members at the State Convention

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.

There are opportunities for volunteering in their mission to provide programs and resources to meet the needs of prison communities; inmates and their families as well as correctional staff abound.



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

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 Cele Covatta at publicpolicy@aauwatlanta.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 4th: Branch Meeting at High Museum

May 6th: Contemporary Literature Meeting

May 9th: Travel Group Meeting

Quote of the month

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

-Anne Frank

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