



Atlanta Branch News

February 2020 Newsletter: Volume 70, Issue 7

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HEART HELPERS

By: Betty Slater and Billie Collier

The American Heart Association’s national movement to end heart disease and stroke, Go Red for Women, designated February 7th, 2020 as its National Wear Red Day. Therefore, it is timely that our February 8th, 2020 branch program, Heart Helpers, will feature Dr. Gina Lundberg, Clinical Director of Emory’s Women’s Heart Center. The meeting is scheduled for 1:30pm to 4pm in the Family Life Center at First Ponce De Leon Baptist Church (which is located behind the church at 275 Peachtree Rd. Atlanta, GA 30305; 404-231-0375).

NOTE: this is a change in venue from that printed in our handbook. To celebrate Heart Month, PLEASE WEAR RED TO THIS MEETING!

Dr. Lundberg will present information about the project to help 10,000 women with heart issue. Some Branch members have participated in this study and learned of their own heart disease. She promotes women in medicine through her involvement in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as the Georgia ACC Chair and serves on the Emory Department of Medicine.

After her presentation, we hope to enjoy some Valentine's dessert and coffee. **Please RSVP by Tuesday, February 4th** to Billie Collier or Betty Slater !

PRESIDENT’S LETTER: AAUW UPDATE

By: Diana Witt

Hello everyone! We are in a period I like to call the calm before the storm; the last 4 months of the AAUW calendar. We have settled most of our outstanding obligations for the year, except for the Community Fund budget. The budget should be ready for branch members consideration at our next program meeting. AAUW Funds have been dispersed, Bookfair is 8 months away, and what lies ahead are officer elections, scholarship awards, and three Branch programs.

This period is also a time when our legislature is in session. While I know that some people may not have time to go to the capital, it only takes a few minutes to contact your legislators through mail, email, phone call etc. Street Grace, a group with which we’ve partnered with in the past, has been sending out regular updates on the continuing campaign against sex trafficking.

Leadership continued

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Despite our previous success on this issue in Georgia Legislature, there is much more to do. Anti-Sex Trafficking Lobby Day is February 13th from 9am to 1pm. I'm hoping that some of our branch members can join other local AAUW branch members and be a presence on this day. Contact www.streetgrace.org for further details.

You are already aware that 2020 is a major election year. We know that voter turnout and suppression of that turnout are going to be major issues. Please contact groups such as the League of Women Voters to ensure that every legally registered voter can get to the polls in every electoral event between now and November. Let's start mobilizing for these events!

I hope everyone is enjoying our short cold season. We all look forward to spring, which in Georgia is just around the corner.

Stay warm.

Diana Witt
President, AAUW Atlanta Branch

SAVE THE DATES FOR UPCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS!

Saturday, March 21st: Georgia Equality, 11:30 am-2:00 pm at Cross Creek Café

Saturday, May 2nd: Pearl Cleage: Novelist, Essayist, Playwright, and Poet, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at Colonnade Restaurant

RACISM IN OUR SCHOOLS – DOES IT EXIST?

By: Mary Lynn Merkle

The October 2019 issue of “NEA Today for NEA Retired Members” focused on racism. And, in fact, it not only exists but it thrives in schools across our nation.

Initially, in many school systems children of color were not allowed to attend school. A fortunate few were taught a skill-set, which in turn, would ease the lives of middle-class or upper-class Americans--the vast majority of whom were white.

Many years later in 1954, the Supreme Court declared that segregated schools were inherently unequal (Brown vs. Board of Education). Many of us are old enough to remember the “discussions” in our high school government class. But it didn't seem “personal” to me.

Do you remember the equally vehement discussions about affirmative action in colleges and professional schools? It was a little more personal to me this time as a favorite nephew of mine didn't get into medical school, while people with lower MCATs and grade points did. But he did get into dental school and is an outstanding dentist.

I'm so glad that this is all behind us! WRONG! According to studies and research cited in the magazine, institutional racism is still a force to be reckoned with. One of our efforts forward is to attack poverty. Poor neighborhoods often have a majority non-white population. After all, we have systematically prevented open educational and employment opportunities for people of color and those of other cultures. So, too often, we provide another band-aid and think it's healed. Think about the ups and downs of school breakfast and lunch programs. Who makes these decisions?

One of the first questions young families ask as they search for a new home is, "How are the neighborhood schools"? If they don't get the right answer, they look elsewhere, or they go to a charter or private schools. These schools may be costly to families and sometimes take school tax dollars from those schools which most need them.

Consider our "adopted" school, Dresden Elementary. We know that many of the students are part of immigrant families who do not speak English in the home. Does the school have a school nurse? Is there an adequate library? A-V equipment and computers? Are the children provided counseling when needed? Is there a social worker who can help with home/school communications?

What we do know is that Dresden Elementary has a Foundation which, indeed, assists both teachers and their students to experience educational and personal successes. We have donated part of our Philanthropy Funds to this Foundation for the past several years. So, we are part of this success. One of our members, Bea Meyer, volunteers there, and tells us that her rewards are many from her service there. And they could always use more volunteers!

But what about all the other schools? If people like us, many of whom are or were educators, call out institutional racism in our schools when we see it, perhaps change will occur--maybe just one school or one program or one child at a time. And that will be progress!

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE MEETING

By: Kay Collins

We will meet Monday, February 3rd at 10:30am in the Sandy Springs Library in room C (395 Mt. Vernon Hwy., Atlanta, 30328/404-612-7000). This is the same large room we met in for the January meeting. We will discuss "Pachinko" by Min Jin Lee.

Contact Kay Collins with any questions.

TRAVEL GROUP

By: Betty Arden

The travel group will meet 10:30am on February 13th at Ansley Mall Kroger to carpool to The Coca-Cola Company's new Central Reception Building on its North Avenue campus. The theme of a "City Within A City" is seen throughout the campus. There are seven restaurants and world-class Coca-Cola art and artifacts.

For further information, contact Betty Arden at travel@aauwatlanta.org.

COMMUNITY FUND BUDGET PROPOSAL

By: Finance Committee

In our February meeting, we will present, discuss, and vote on the proposed Community Fund Budget. With the nearly \$24,000 that we earned from the 2019 Bookfair, and with funds carried forward, the Board approved the following budget:

Community Fund Budget Proposal		
January 25, 2020		
Available Funds		
	Sun Trust Checking	\$ 21,776.07
	Money Market	24,000.00
	Total	\$ 45,776.07
Recommended Allocations for 2020		
	Philanthropy Committee Recommendations	
	AAUW Funds 2020	\$ 10,500.00
	Local Scholarships	10,000.00
	Kopila Valley Nepal Project - BlinkNow	500.00
	Days for Girls International	500.00
	Dresden Elementary School Foundation	4,000.00
	Saturday Milestone Prep	
	Academic Milestone Program	
	Atlanta Technical College Foundation	2,000.00
	International Rescue Committee	2,500.00
	Branch Operations	
	Allocation to General Fund	1,000.00
	College/University Relations	400.00
	Financial Services	1,000.00
	Community Fund Mgmt	150.00
	Communication Scholarship	1,500.00
	Reserve Items	
	Community Event	3,000.00
	Financial Services Reserve	3,500.00
	Fundraising Reserve	-
	Unallocated Assets	5,226.07
		\$ 45,776.07

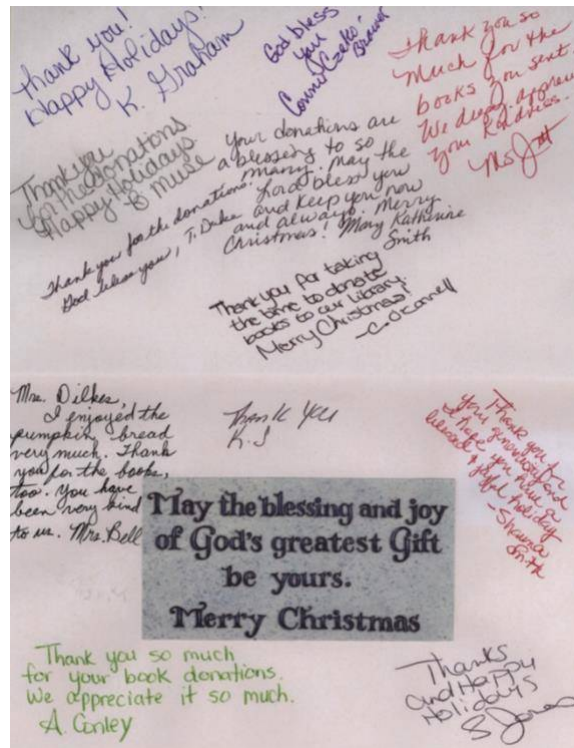
EXPANDING AAUW OUTREACH

By: Cele Covatta

Several years ago, Betty Slater, one of our best Branch cheerleaders, was networking at a Presbyterian Women's meeting. Because she NEVER misses an opportunity to advance our mission, she fell into conversation with the remarkable Virginia Dilkes, who does amazing work in prison ministries for women. Virginia told Betty about her need for books for inmates, and books aplenty do we have!

For the last few years, Virginia has faithfully picked up books we cannot sell online or at Bookfair and transported them to the Lee Arrendale facility library. Judy Lambert has coordinated this effort. Recently, Virginia very kindly shared a heartfelt thank-you from the inmates who so clearly value our contribution.

So many great things come out of the Book Room. Come join us to carry on this good work!



HELP WOMEN WITH THEIR JOB INTERVIEW WITH DRESS FOR SUCCESS!

By: Betty Slater

Atlanta branch members are encouraged to check your closets for items that would make a woman look her best for a job interview. Bring these items to our February meeting! Talbot's national Dress for Success Program takes place from February 18th through March 1st. You can take items to your nearest Talbot's store. The Talbot's located at Peachtree Battle Promenade Shopping Center (2391 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta, Ga 30305) is holding their clothing drive on February 20th to February 23rd.

This store also invites all members to attend their Trunk Show on Wednesday, March 4th at 11 am to 3 pm. Please let Betty Slater or General Manager Barbara Farrow know if you plan to attend. The store number is 404-261-9222.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By: Phyllis Miller and Marge Anderson

As we close in on winter season, the membership committee rests until we gear up again in the spring for a new Fiscal Year starting July 1st, 2020. We have 67 members, of which three are students. We have four Honorary Life members, two Life members, and one dual member.

Please note the additions and changes to the Atlanta Branch 2019-2020 Handbook online.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 3rd: Contemporary Literature Meeting

February 8th: Heart Helpers Branch Meeting

February 13th: Travel Group Meeting

March 28th: Board Meeting (March 28th from 10am -12pm at The Mansions at Decatur, 2677 Lawrenceville Highway, Decatur, GA 30033)

Quote of the month:

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

AAUW Atlanta

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