



# Atlanta Branch News

April 2020 Newsletter: Volume 70, Issue 11

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## 2018-2019 Leadership

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### **Program Vice Presidents**

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### **Branch Meeting Secretary**

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## **CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE MEETING**

By: Kay Collins

The April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting is cancelled; discussion of the book, “Where the Crawdads Sing” will be determined. No decision has been made about the May meeting currently scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup>. The book is “The Moment of Lift” by Melinda Gates.

If you have questions, contact Kay Collins  
 contemporaryliterature@aauwatlanta.org

## **TRAVEL GROUP**

By: Betty Arden

Due to the threat of the Corona Virus, the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AAUW Travel Group has been cancelled.

## **PRESIDENT’S LETTER: AAUW UPDATE**

By: Diana Witt

Hello everyone. When I posted the president’s message in last month’s newsletter, we were living in a totally different world. Even though I am far away, I think of our branch often, and remember the great fellowship and the wonderful things we’ve accomplished as a branch. Like all of you, I am fearful of the future, but I am happy we have all accomplished so much. I am optimistic that we will regroup and continue once again when this crisis passes.

As you are aware, our March and April branch programs have been canceled. I am hopeful that our May meeting will occur as planned, along with the election and installation of new officers. I will be checking on that possibility in April with our Program Vice Presidents and we will keep you posted. If necessary, we can have an e-vote and mail-in ballot.

Our wonderful Nominations Committee (Betty Arden, Sharon Bevis-Hoover, Dana Gordon, Mary Lynn Merkle, and Bea Meyer) has done a great job, and our 2020-2021 slate can be found on page 2 of this newsletter. I’m also hopeful that Bookfair activities will resume this summer. Our Finance Committee has things under control, and both

*Leadership continued*

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the Community Fund and General Fund budgets have been approved by the board. So, we are in good shape with the branch infrastructure.

Fortunately, we are intelligent, curious and active women with much to offer the community. Please reach out via email and phone to fellow members and others, especially those women and girls in need. We've always done this and will continue to pursue our mission in the future. Please stay safe and healthy. You are in my thoughts always.

Diana Witt  
President, AAUW Atlanta Branch

**REPORT OF THE 2020 NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

By: Betty Arden

Under normal circumstances the proposed slate of officers would be presented at the April meeting, but these are not normal circumstances. So, the report of the Nominating Committee, the proposed slate of officers for 2020 is posted here. The election will take place at our May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**Co Presidents:** Cele Covatta and Wendy Venet

**Co Vice Presidents for Program:** Betty Arden and Velma Tilley

**Co Vice Presidents for Membership:** Marge Anderson, and Phyllis Miller

**Finance Officer:** Sharon Bevis-Hoover

**Nominating Committee for 2021:** Myra Carmon, Blondie Chitunya-Wilson, Ingrid Reinhard, Betty Slater, and Ruth Yurchuck

Submitted by:

Betty Arden, 2020 Nominating Committee Chair

Committee Members: Sharon Bevis-Hoover, Dana Gordon, Mary Lynn Merkle, and Bea Meyer

**WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!**

By: Mary Lynn Merkle

How many times have we heard that statement in the past weeks? So

- who is meant by "all?"
- Is it just Americans?
- Is it those living in the western hemisphere? Or,
- Is it people around the world?

We've named this "game-changer" the Covid-19 virus, and everyone I know is doing his or her best to contain it by protecting themselves, their loved ones, their friends, and even those they don't know by following public health guidelines. We hear some people calling it "the

Chinese virus”. After all, that’s where it started (we think). Why didn’t they move faster and communicate sooner? Then we think about the many families who, years ago, adopted children from Chinese orphanages. These are children who grew up, from earliest days, in American homes in the United States. However, their Chinese heritage is physically apparent; and they face discrimination on the basis of their physical attributes from those whose citizenship matches theirs. So, is this P.C. (politically correct)?

This isn’t our first rodeo (as Tom Selleck says on a TV ad). Most of us remember the AIDS scare back in the 70’s and 80’s. Male homosexuals were accustomed to prejudices, but now they were an anathema--unable to obtain needed hospitalizations or have funeral services sometimes.

As a retired special needs educator, I have observed firsthand the lack of equal opportunities for students who live with mental, emotional, or physical disabilities. More recently it has been the immigrants waiting on our southern border who have fled the life-threatening conditions in their home countries.

So, what is the role of PC? It may have served to diminish attacks and bullying for those who may be “different.” But is it enough? Wouldn’t it be better to think about C.C. —caring correctness, or H.C.—humane correctness, or R.C.—responsibility correctness, or A.C. —accepting correctness?

In this time of difficult decisions and choices, perhaps individually we can go beyond political correctness. We can own the statement, “We are all in this together!” Because we, indeed, are!

Be safe!



**Quote of the month:**

*“If you look at what you have in life, you’ll always have more.”*  
~ Oprah Winfrey

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