



Atlanta Branch News

November 2020 Newsletter: Volume 71, Issue 3

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Branch Meeting Secretary

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Presidential Message

By: Cele Covatta

The first week of this month (October) was eerily quiet as we were not in a flurry to put on the 61st annual Bookfair. It felt very odd. Quiet times lead to reflection, and many of us have been thinking very hard indeed about how our organization is to go forward. Please listen to a recent song by Bon Jovi. It has become a sort of pandemic anthem: If you can't do what you do....do what you can. And we are! AAUW Atlanta is still doing what we can. The Bookroom is buzzing. We are making money! We have overcome the dual legal issues of terminating the contract with Perimeter Mall without penalty, and we have vacated the warehouse and managed to relocate our goods to the Bookroom and to various members' garages. We have some Zoom activities scheduled for Program and Bookclub. Philanthropy and Scholarship are working to distribute funds in a manner that continues to meet our mission. So we are moving forward although the path is not yet certain. National promises an organizational pivot, and a big vote is coming in the Spring. Please stay posted for more on this.

When you can't go out, try going in. Meditation and reflection are invaluable tools for coping in frightening and uncertain times. When the path ahead is unclear, it helps so much to be quiet and to seek guideposts. Try the Sky Breath Meditation technique, which is quite marvelous, and has been demonstrated to have salubrious effect for wounded warriors.

And VOTE! Because this IS something that we most certainly can do. All best from Wendy and me. We welcome your thoughts and ideas on the future of AAUW Atlanta.

A Challenge to Atlanta Branch Members

By: Sarah Rondeau

I am very inspired by the life and public service career of the late great Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg. As you know, Justice Ginsburg stood up for equity for women and girls—and for all Americans—throughout her long career. In my opinion, she was a wonderful role model.

I plan to make a monetary donation to the Branch in her memory, and I

Leadership continued

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will request that it be used at the Branch level. I would like to challenge each of you to join me in making a donation—to the Branch in Justice Ginsburg’s memory in whatever amount you chose. Further, I suggest that we establish a Ruth Bader Ginsburg Memorial Fund for the Branch to be used for local purposes. We do not need to specify exactly which purposes at this time. The main thing is to honor the memory of this outstanding American woman. I believe this would be a fitting tribute for one who contributed so much to the goals of AAUW. Please join me if you can! –Sarah D. Rondeau

Membership and Handbook Update

By: Marge Anderson and Phyllis Miller, Co-Chairs

Handbook Update

M. Louise Walters: change phone number.

Three New Members

Membership is thrilled to add three new members to the Branch’s 2020-2021 Roster. Please make a note in your handbook of these additions. Let Membership know if there is an error in your Handbook listing.

Jessica Owen #5371454

Agnes Scott College, BA French
Occupation: ASC office coordinator and business manager

Wynette Elizabeth Higdon (Member number TBA)

Univ. NC at Greensboro, BA 1966
Western Carolina Univ. MS, Ed. 1971
Occupation: Technical Writer, former teacher (retired)

Anne Tierney (Member number TBA)

Smith College in 1957 with an AB (Smith still adheres to the Latin Artium Baccalaureus)
Occupation: educator and a reporter. Retired.

Contemporary Literature Update

By: Kay Collins

Great News! We are returning to our regularly scheduled time effective Monday morning, November 2, 10:30 am via Zoom! We will discuss “The Secrets We Kept” by Linda Prescott. If you are already on my distribution list you will received an email message about Nov. 1 with the specific login information. The next meeting will be Monday, December 7. If you would like to be added to my list, please contact Kay Collins.

Bookfair News

By: Dale Merkle

A windfall! Atlanta Branch has received its share of profits from Oct. 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 book sales. A total of \$22,602 was distributed among the metro Atlanta branches, with our branch qualifying to receive 68%—\$13,955.51. And now our wonderful outreach projects will continue. If you were part of our ZOOM meeting on October 17th and heard from our two scholarship recipients who attended (Shaniqua Mitchell and Van Nguyen), you will have heard how important our scholarships are. It makes all those hours collecting, sorting, pricing, listing, packing, etc. worth it.

At our recent Bookfair Steering Committee meeting some announcements and decisions were made which will be of interest to many of us.

- (1) We have formed a subcommittee whose purpose will be to follow through on all the ideas that are submitted for selling our books. For example, the ideas of having a table or two at Schott’s Antique Market. The subcommittee will check availability, costs, etc. We are counting on our membership to keep these ideas coming in.
- (2) Books are still being priced as though they will be offered at a sale.
- (3) We will not hold any large-scale events before spring. Instead we will rely on internet sales, our continued partnership with Thrift Books, and other sales.
- (4) We now have a book drop placement in the Target parking lot located at 2400 North Druid Hills Road.
- (5) We are working on alternate opportunities for receiving donated books. We have recently been called to pick up books at Lenbrook Senior Community. Residents are often downsizing or moving to smaller accommodations. There are many such centers, and we might contact managements to offer our services.

**We would like to develop a flyer that would explain who we are, our mission our status, and some of our projects. This would be helpful information as we continue reaching out.

And, we are looking for some volunteers for specific needs.

- (1) The bookroom is open Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from approximately 10:00 until 2:00. It’s an opportunity to get better acquainted with fellow members while you’re helping.
- (2) Are you good at wrapping (and mailing)? We could use a back-up wrapper for those times when we’re lucky enough to have so many internet sales that one wrapper is not enough.
- (3) A back-up day chair on Tuesdays is needed. The job is not difficult but it’s very important for the volunteers to know what they should do, and to get directions as needed.
- (4) Linda Logsdon (from North Fulton branch) has been very loyal. She just needs to have someone to call on when she can’t be there.
- (5) Are you good at graphics? Perhaps you could help with the flyer mentioned above. There are people who will help with information and proofing.

Our annual Bookfair (for 60 years) is no longer the best use of our time and effort for raising our philanthropy funds. We are now in the midst of a metamorphosis into creating something new that will be equally profitable and with which we will continue to take great pride in fulfilling our mission of equity and justice for women and girls.

Please do what you can to help us to be successful!

Philanthropy Committee Update

By: Bea Miller

The Philanthropy Committee distributes funds to the Local Scholarship Fund and AAUW Funds. We also distribute monies to various groups requesting assistance. Some of the past recipients of these funds include Atlanta Technical College, International Rescue Committee, Dresden Elementary School Foundation, Kopila Valley Nepal Project, and Days for Girls International.

If you feel there is an organization that is deserving of our funding, please contact me. We ask that any organization recommended concur with the AAUW mission.

An Introduction to Daisy Bourassa

By: Daisy Bourassa

AAUW Atlanta Branch met fellow member Daisy Bourassa when she attended a December Christmas Tea as a Georgia Fellowship Winner for her PhD. She has kept up with us over the years and whenever we ask Daisy to do something, she does it. Her story follows in the article below –Phyllis Miller

Hi Atlanta AAUW,

I hope you are all doing well, or as well as possible in this crazy time!

I sincerely missed seeing you all in person this September. Every year I look forward to the AAUW Atlanta Fall Tea at Agnes Scott College. It is always a true highlight each fall. I am already looking forward to next year!

In lieu of chatting with you all in person, I am excited to tell you a little bit about myself via the November newsletter.

I was first introduced to AAUW in the fall of 2014 while in graduate school at Georgia Tech. I was approaching the end of my PhD program in Chemistry and was interested in finding external funding. At that time, most fellowships and scholarships for graduate students in STEM were only applicable to students in their first or second year. The AAUW Dissertation Fellowship was the only fellowship I found that specifically funded students in their final years of their graduate programs. I remember how pessimistic my research advisor was about my application. He told me he didn't want me to get my feelings hurt when I didn't receive the fellowship. I applied anyways and sure enough April 15, 2015 I was honored with receiving the AAUW Dissertation Fellowship, a \$20,000 fellowship grant for women in their final year of graduate school.

My research focused on visualizing zinc (along with other transition metals) dynamics during embryogenesis and cell division. Zinc is an essential micronutrient required for all forms of life. It is abundant and indispensable in many cellular processes and effect growth, development and wound repair. Visualizing zinc dynamics during processes such as cell division and embryogenesis is the first step towards understanding the cellular transport and control of zinc, which in turn is a prerequisite for a better understanding of the various cellular functions critical to life. For more information regarding my research that was partially funded by AAUW, please check out my digital portfolio:

bourassa.agnesscott.org/research

While in graduate school I worked part time as a Graduate Assistant in Residence Life at Agnes Scott College. I would work in a lab all day at Georgia Tech, then spend my evenings and weekends mentoring undergraduate students. I enjoyed my time at Agnes Scott so much it never felt like work.

After finishing my PhD in March 2016, I stayed at Georgia Tech an additional year as a postdoctoral researcher. In January of 2017, the Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students at Agnes Scott College met with me to discuss creating a new position to bridge academics and student affairs on campus.

That April, I started my new position as the Assistant Director of Residential Education. I have since been promoted to the Associate Director of Residential Education. In this role I oversee Resident Assistant selection, training, supervision and professional development, the Living Learning Communities (LLCs) including the two STEM LLCs, Global Learning LLC and Leadership Development LLC and all residential programming and community engagement efforts. Additionally, I teach for the chemistry department teaching biochemistry I, medical biochemistry, organic chemistry and currently I am enjoying teaching a first-year leadership course focused on Gender Equity in STEM.

I have used my platform at Agnes Scott College to connect college students to AAUW. I have attended AAUW Georgia conventions with students, connected students to NCCWSL opportunities, and partnered with Betty Slater to host two successful AAUW Atlanta Fall Teas at Agnes Scott College. Both the September 2018 “STEM and YOU” Fall Tea and the September 2019 “Work Smart - Salary Negotiation” Fall Tea were well attended by Agnes Scott College undergraduates. Pictures from AAUW Atlanta and AAUW Georgia events and meetings along with brief summaries of my contributions at the events can also be found on my digital portfolio here: **bourassa.agnesscott.org/aauw**

AAUW holds a special place in my heart. I know how important it is for undergraduates to be connected to and empowered by AAUW. My own experiences with my personal mentors in STEM fostered early in me a commitment to sharing that mentorship, and I have made it my mission to incorporate that commitment into every facet of my role with Agnes Scott College, both in student affairs and as an educator, as well as through my affiliation with organizations, such as AAUW, to promote women in STEM. I am proud to be a part of such an amazing group of individuals committed to that same end.



Dr. Bourassa teaching Biochemistry at Agnes Scott College

AAUW Atlanta Branch General Fund Budget

By: Dana Gordon

AAUW - Atlanta Branch General Fund Budget July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

	Actuals 2019-2020	Budget 2020-2021
REVENUES		
Membership Dues	\$ 3,257.50	
National Dues	\$(1,799.50)	
State Dues	\$ (360.00)	
Net Dues	\$ 1,098.00	\$ 1,100.00
Transfer from CF per Budget	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Transfer from CF to Correct an Error	\$ 1,980.00	
Transfer from CF to Correct an Error	\$ 757.50	
Interest Income *	\$ 1,765.24	\$ 12.00
Total Revenues	\$ 6,600.74	\$ 2,112.00
EXPENSES		
Accounting Fees	\$ 990.00	
Communications Scholarship	\$ 757.50	
Bank Fees	\$ -	\$ 25.00
Board Expense	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Conventions for AAUW	\$ -	\$ 400.00
Diversity	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Gifts for President	\$ 110.26	\$ -
Handbook	\$ 238.77	\$ 400.00
Hospitality	\$ 1,268.35	added to program dev
Marketing/Totes/Brochures	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Membership Committee	\$ 87.00	\$ 100.00
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Newsletter	\$ 9.78	\$ 20.00

Office Supplies	\$ -	\$ 100.00
President's Expense	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00
Program Development & Hospitality	\$ 55.45	\$ 475.00
Public Policy	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Student Membership Gifts	\$ -	\$ 125.00
Treasurer's Expense	\$ -	\$ 125.00
Website Maintenance	\$ 21.17	\$ 50.00
Total Expenses	\$ 3,588.28	\$ 2,620.00

EXCESS (DEFICIT) **\$ 3,012.46** **\$ (508.00)**

* This income represents several years of Interest Income on the CD and Money Market accounts.

Looking Ahead

Depending upon conditions in December, the next Branch meeting is scheduled for December 12 from 10 am to 12:30. It is a holiday celebration at the home of Gillian Horsley-Heinz.

We will update you closer to that time.

Quote of the month:

“Be present in all things and thankful for all things.”

–Maya Angelou

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