



# Atlanta Branch News

January 2021 Newsletter: Volume 71, Issue 5

## Table of Contents

Co-President's Message.....	1
January Program News.....	2
AAUW Membership Update.....	2
From the Bookfair Steering Committee.....	3
Contemporary Literature Meeting...	4
Community Fund Budget Proposal...	4
Our Holiday Meeting.....	5

## 2020-2021 Leadership

### **Co-Presidents**

Cele Covatta and Wendy Venet  
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### **Program Vice Presidents**

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### **Membership Vice Presidents**

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### **Board Secretary**

Kay Collins  
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### **Branch Meeting Secretary**

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Secretary-meeting@aauwatlanta.org

### **Finance Officers**

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### **College/University Relations**

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*Continued on pg. 2*

## **Co-President's Message**

*By: Cele Covatta, Co-President*

As this unparalleled year draws to a more hopeful close, it is good to reflect upon what we have accomplished rather than what we have lost.

There were many things that the Branch did not do or could not do, but so much more that we did. Of course, there were many missed meetings and events, but we jumped in with Zoom and have returned to a robust Contemporary Literature group. We have had wonderful help from our Webmaster, Terry Eshenour, our communications intern, Ansley Dyer, and book group chair, Kay Collins.

Our first Zoom program meeting on the census was well received.

Recently, we enjoyed an online program put together by the tireless Program committee. Velma Tilley and Betty Arden have plans for a January 30, 2021 program on heart health. Plans for a New Members' coffee, whether online or in person are in the works.

Bookroom continues the all important work of selling books. We are making money online, working with Thrift Books, and we continue to look for venues and opportunities to sell books in the absence of our discontinued traditional Bookfair. We continue to repurpose good books that cannot be sold. Recently, Heartbound Ministries wrote to us:

"Thank you so much for providing books to our Little Readers program. It is a beautiful thing that you are giving to. We hope that you feel our deep, deep gratitude. We are so grateful for AAUW's continued support of Heartbound's programs!"

The Community Fund has delineated allocations for Scholarship donations and for continuation of work reflecting our mission.

Van Nguyen, a 2020 scholarship recipient wrote to us: "I cannot tell you how grateful I am. This is a hard time for everyone, and AAUW is still supporting us. I feel overwhelmed with love and luck....".

Scholarships are to be awarded in 2021. Rose Cannon and Betty Slater have been hard at work revising the application form to fit current needs.

## *Leadership continued*

### **Diversity**

Mary-Lynn Merkle  
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### **Historian**

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### **Hospitality**

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### **Public Policy**

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### **Public Relations**

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### **Scholarship**

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### **Web Information**

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### **Contemporary Literature**

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### **Travel Group**

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### **Advisory Board Chair**

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### **Publications**

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### **AAUW Funds**

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### **Philanthropy Chair**

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### **Communications Chair**

Ruth Yurchuck  
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### **Bylaws Chair**

Pat Bevis  
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We have received high praise from State for the efforts of our amazing Membership Committee (see the article in this newsletter), and have had thanks from National for our generous ongoing contributions to national programs.

In the wonderful book, *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* by Charlie Mackesy, the Boy asks the horse,

“What is the bravest thing you have ever said?”

“**Help,**” said the horse.

We are being as brave as we know how to be. For now and always, Wendy and I are asking for your help.

We wish all of you much joy for the holidays, and in the coming year.  
Cele Covatta, co-president  
AAUW Atlanta

### **January Program News**

*By: Betty Slater and Velma Tilley*

### **Atlanta Branch Zoom Meeting on Saturday, January 30, 2021**

On February 8, 2020, the Atlanta Branch had planned a meeting with Dr. Gina Lundberg, Clinical Director of Emory Women’s Heart Center, to talk with us about Women and Heart Disease. This meeting was cancelled because of a snow event.

But we are pleased to announce that Dr. Lundberg will be presenting a program about Women and Heart Disease on Saturday, January 30, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. February is national heart month, and because heart disease is the leading cause of death for women, this is an important meeting for each AAUW member. We need to hear what she has to say! Look for an Evite after the first of the year!

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! Stay safe and well.

### **AAUW Membership Update**

*By: Marge Anderson and Phyllis Miller, Membership Co-VPs*

We are proud of the Atlanta Branch as we have had 100% of membership renewals this year! In addition, we have a new member, Judy McKinley, was invited to join by Jennifer Parker. Judy has already participated in the December Contemporary Literature group and attended the December general meeting, Tea for Three, which she

thoroughly enjoyed.

Please add to your handbooks:

## **MCKINLEY**

Judy

DePauw University, BA

Georgia State Univ., MEd.

Psychotherapist

Judy has already volunteered in the bookroom. She makes our total membership to be 70 for this current year. Thank you to everyone for all of your AAUW contributions. Remember to volunteer in the bookroom and ask your friends to join us. If you cannot locate your handbook remember that you can go online to [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) using your ID and a password that you create and then to membership. Select membership database and you can see all of the members in our branch.

## **From the Bookfair Steering Committee**

*By: Mary Lynn Merkle*

The Steering Committee met on December 9<sup>th</sup> to continue the process of re-imagining the future of Bookfair. Internet sales have continued at a good pace, thanks to the work of Atlanta Branch volunteers Ellen Milholland and Sharon Bevis-Hoover. Our recently retired Atlanta Branch member, Karen Ludwig, has joined them to help increase sales.

We are making initial inquiries into partnering with real estate salespeople to increase our donations. As the agents approach potential sellers who have built up libraries that they now want to downsize, those sellers would be given information about Bookfair. Our Atlanta branch member Merle Land, who is in real estate, is helping us figure out a process that will be mutually beneficial on all sides.

And, you know that Target parking lot book drop that was featured in the last newsletter? It's gone missing—stolen in the middle of the night on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and carried away on a flatbed truck. It's been reported to the police, but we have little hope that we will see it again. And it was going to bring us so many books!

We have a wish list! We are always looking for additional volunteers in our Bookroom. Those who are already there will tell you that it's fun to spend time with the other women—especially when our member Mary Womack bring her delicious baked good treats. We are particularly looking for someone willing to wrap and mail on those internet sales; but be assured, all volunteers are warmly welcomed and appreciated.

**\*\*Please note that during these difficult times all safety precautions and guidelines are followed.**

## Contemporary Literature January Meeting

By: Kay Collins

Contemporary Lit. meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 4, 2021, 10:30 am to discuss *Meet Me at the Museum* by Anne Youngson. Provide your own refreshments while we discuss the issues raised from this book. You will receive the login information on Sunday, January 3—next year! If you have questions contact Kay Collins.

## Community Fund Budget Proposal

By: Sharon Bevis Hoover

The Board approved the following Community Fund budget proposal at its December 15th meeting. Membership will vote to approve it at the January 30th meeting.

### AAUW Atlanta Branch Community Fund Budget Proposal July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

**Available Funds as of December 1, 2020** **\$ 22,828.78**

#### Recommended Allocations for 2020

##### Philanthropy Committee Recommendations

AAUW Funds *	-
Local Scholarships	10,000.00
Kopila Valley Nepal Project - BlinkNow	100.00
Atlanta Food Bank	800.00
International Rescue Committee	400.00

##### Branch Operations

Allocation to General Fund	1,000.00
College/University Relations	400.00
Financial Services	2,000.00
Community Fund Mgmt	25.00
Communication Scholarship	1,500.00

##### Reserve Items

Ruth Bader Ginsberg Memorial Fund	125.00
Community Event	1,500.00
Financial Services Reserve	1,000.00
Fundraising Reserve	1,000.00
Unallocated Assets	2,978.78

**\$ 22,828.78**

**\* A total of \$10,025 was sent to AAUW Funds in July and September of 2020 We anticipate another allocation from Bookfair in July, 2021  
Our 2021 AAUW Funds allocation will come from those funds**

## **Our Holiday Meeting**

*By: Velma Tilley*

While we were unable to have our traditional holiday celebration this year, we enjoyed a very special online production, Tea for Three, by Broadway actress Elaine Bromka. Elaine “inhabited” three First Ladies, Pat Nixon, Lady Bird Johnson, and Betty Ford, as they speak poignantly and humorously about life in the White House,

21 members paid to view this presentation, and after the performance ended, 12 members participated in a great talkback afterwards with the creator and actor, Elaine Bromka. She answered our questions and gave us interesting details into the process of creating the piece. Thank you, Cele Covatta, for alerting us about this program; thanks to Sharon Bevis-Hoover, for making it easy to pay, and thanks to Ansley Dyer for her technology skills who made this work. And lastly, thanks to all the members who joined us for this excellent presentation.

### **Quote of the month:**

“Kindness, kindness, kindness. I want to make a New year’s prayer,  
not a resolution. I’m praying for courage.”

–Susan Sontag

***[aauwatlanta.org](http://aauwatlanta.org)***