



Atlanta Branch News

October 2021 Newsletter: Volume 72, Issue 2

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2021-2022 Leadership

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Membership Vice Presidents

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Board Secretary

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Branch Meeting Secretary

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Finance Officers

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Co-President's Message: Improvements in Branch Communication

By: Cele Covatta

There are very few things in life that are certain, but there is a constant certainty--that things change. So much has changed in the last few years, and many of the traditions of AAUW need to be re-evaluated in light of the current reality. The most important aspects remain strong: our mission and our commitment to it.

The time has come to take a look at the manner in which we communicate, in which we disseminate information to and among our members.

The newsletter, long our main format for sharing information, was developed prior to newer and more effective ways of being in touch with one another. In the pre-Covid days, we could rely upon getting together and seeing each other frequently. Although we were delighted to gather for the membership tea on September 12, we cannot consistently count on being together in person in any sort of regular way.

Over the summer, we instituted Breaking Branch News as a way to inform. It has been quite successful. It is not limited to a single communication. Several pieces of information were sent out as questions were asked about parking for the tea, among other items of interest. It can be sent out very quickly and seems to catch the attention of our members in a way that the newsletter no longer does.

Our long-time editor of the newsletter, Ruth Yurchuck, has done a remarkable job for a very long time. Assisted by our communications intern, and those who preceded her, Ruth has gotten the newsletter out, not to mention the handbook, with great professionalism. However, she is the editor; she does not write the newsletter. Contributions to the Newsletter are infrequent, and invitations to write are sometimes disregarded. Feedback suggests that people often do not read the newsletter. Questions are often posed about matters that were covered in the most recent Newsletter.

We do not have a Public Policy chair, nor has anyone come forward to fill this position. Already overburdened officers and committee chairs, many of whom work in the Bookroom, struggle to write

Leadership continued

Diversity

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articles for a vehicle that is not serving us effectively. We are in the beginning stages of reevaluating standing rules and by-laws, as so much has changed with the sale of books, still the main way in which we raise funds for philanthropic endeavors.

We must take a hard and very careful look at the manner in which we conduct business across the board.

The time has come to re-evaluate the usefulness of the newsletter in its current form. This matter will be discussed at the November Board meeting. Input from each and every one of you is solicited. Wendy Venet, co-president, and I welcome your comments and ideas for improvement.

Thanks to you all,
Cele Covatta, co-president, AAUW Atlanta

October Branch Meeting

By: Velma Tilley

The Program Committee is excited to announce that our October 23rd meeting speaker will be Daniel Kansa from the Georgia Budget and Planning Institute. We should have LOTS of questions about how our state dollars are spent and particularly whether there is a negative impact on women and girls, particularly women and girls of color. Among topics to be discussed will be a GBPI paper called "Women Powered Prosperity."

Can I have an "Amen!" We will meet at St. James United Methodist Church from 11 - 1 and we will have box lunches. Betty and I hope to see you there!

Please Volunteer at the Scott Antique Market October 7 – 10

By: Sharon Bevis-Hoover

Once again, our AAUW Atlanta Bookfair will have an 8' x 20' booth at the Scott Antique Market for their upcoming sale October 7 - 10. We had two successful sales at the Market in May and July.

We hope that you will be able to participate! We will set up our booth on Wednesday, October 7. The sale opens on Thursday and continues through Sunday.

Our booth is in the South Building of the Market at:

Atlanta Expo Center - South
3850 Jonesboro Rd SE.
Atlanta, GA 30354

The admission charge will be waived for our volunteers.

More information on the Market is available at www.scottantiquemarket.com.

Celebrating Scholars at the Fall Tea

By: Rose Cannon

After months of recruiting, decision making, and awarding by the Scholarship Committee it was finally time to meet our 2021-2022 Scholarship recipients. Three of the five were able to be present to give brief remarks related to their academic journeys, what the scholarships mean to them, and their goals for the future. Rose Cannon, Co-Chair of the Scholarship Committee, paid tribute to Co-Chair Betty Slater who was out of town, and to the members from three local Chapters who work tirelessly to collect, process, and sell books throughout the year. This endeavor raises the funds for scholarships and other philanthropic endeavors to support women and children.

The members of the Scholarship Committee were also recognized for participating in the process to select scholars that begins in the fall, and culminates in the announcement of the winners in late July. The Committee includes Betty Slater and Rose Cannon, Co-Chairs, and members Susan Diffenderfer, Cecillia Cantrell, Judith Vanderver, and Judith Behrens. Adviser to the Committee is Mary Hanson, and Ex Officio member is Wendy Venet.

The audience was enthralled with the presentations each of the scholars made, and voiced their compliments for having such a stellar group of students.



1 Our Scholarship Winners

Kelsey Taylor's long journey includes a wealth of personal and global experiences that led her to the School of Nursing at Emory University where she is pursuing a master's degree to become a nurse practitioner. Her longer term goal is to earn her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. When Kelsey was in high school her mother needed extended home care prior to her death. Kelsey's education was interrupted, but the care she gave to her mother planted a kernel in her mind of one day earning a professional degree in health care.

Oma Efeadue was born in Nigeria into a family of six children. She is now enrolled in the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University in the pre-licensure program completing the courses that will lead her into the master's program. Prior to entering school she worked full time as a unit clerk at Emory St. Joseph's Hospital. Her presentation demonstrated her persistence and resilience to enter Emory having to apply three times to finally earn her admittance.

Belinda Dapries is a student at Georgia State University entering her junior year pursuing a degree in English. Because she is a single mother of three sons who struggled during her first years in college, she created a support group for women like her. Now she continues to lead "Parenting Panthers" helping women students navigate and find the resources to help them be successful in college. She hopes to share this support service

concept to other colleges and universities. Her scholarship partially includes donations made in memory of longtime AAUW member Bea Meyers who died this year.



2 Julianna and Amelia Burke

Student scholarships were Bea Meyer's favorite causes, thus we were honored to have Julianna Burke, Bea's daughter, and Amelia Burke, Bea's granddaughter present to speak of Bea's long history with AAUW wherever she lived and the difference she made in many women's lives. Happily, both daughter and granddaughter are now members of the Atlanta Branch to help continue the work their mother and grandmother loved!

We look forward to meeting our remaining two Scholarship winners Candice Sullivan and Nicole Butler at our October meeting. You won't want to miss this opportunity!



3 Ruth Yurchuck and Mary Lynn Merkle



Atlanta Branch General Fund Budget

By: Sharon Bevis-Hoover

AAUW - Atlanta Branch General Fund Budget July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

| | | Budget July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Revenues | | |
| | Net Dues | \$ 1,100.00 |
| | Transfer from CF per Budget | \$ 2,000.00 |
| | Interest Income | \$ 15.00 |
| | Total Revenues | \$ 3,115.00 |
| Expenses | | |
| | Bank Fees | \$ 25.00 |
| | Board Expense | \$ 100.00 |
| | Conventions for AAUW | \$ 1,000.00 |
| | Diversity | \$ 100.00 |
| | Gifts for President | \$ 200.00 |
| | Handbook | \$ 450.00 |
| | Marketing/Totes/Brochures | \$ 100.00 |
| | Membership Committee | \$ 250.00 |
| | Miscellaneous | \$ 200.00 |
| | Newsletter | \$ 30.00 |
| | Office Supplies | \$ 100.00 |
| | President's Expense | \$ 150.00 |
| | Program Development & Hospitality | \$ 900.00 |
| | Public Policy | \$ 100.00 |
| | Student Membership Gifts | \$ 125.00 |
| | Treasurer's Expense | \$ 200.00 |
| | Website Maintenance | \$ 50.00 |
| | Total Expenses | \$ 4,080.00 |
| Excess (Deficit) | | \$ (965.00) |

Atlanta Branch Community Fund

By: Sharon Bevis-Hoover

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

| | | Budget July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022 | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Philanthropy* | | | |
| | AAUW Funds | | |
| | Local Scholarships | \$ 30,000.00 | |
| | Philanthropy | | |
| Branch Operations | | | |
| | Allocation to General Fund | 2,000.00 | |
| | College/University Relations | 1,000.00 | |
| | Financial Services | 1,000.00 | |
| | Community Fund Mgmt | 25.00 | |
| | Communication Scholarship | 1,500.00 | |
| Total Expenditures | | | \$ 35,525.00 |
| Reserve Items | | | |
| | Ruth Bader Ginsberg Memorial Fund | \$ 125.00 | |
| | Community Event | 2,500.00 | |
| | Financial Services Reserve | 1,000.00 | |
| | Fundraising Reserve | 1,000.00 | |
| | Unallocated Assets | 225.83 | |
| Total Reserve Items | | | \$ 4,850.83 |

\$ 40,375.83

* The Philanthropy Committee, led by Fran Russell, will propose allocation of these funds.

Membership Update

By: Phyllis Miller

Please note new members and corrections for the Handbook.

DERSO #5375126-SAF

Frehiwot

PrairieView A&M Univ., BSN

Candidate Phd. Health Education and Promotion, Walden Univ.

Norcross, GA

Grad Student

YARBROUGH#5375285-MOB

Cathy

Univ. of GA, BA

Atlanta, GA

Former Science Writer Emory Univer.

DAPREIS #5375353-SAF

Belinda

New York Institute, MS

Georgia State Univ., BA

Atlanta, GA

Undergraduate Student at GSU

Contemporary Literature Update

By: Kay Collins

The October meeting of the group will be via Zoom on Monday, Oct. 4, 10:30 am. We will discuss “Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents” by Isabel Wilkerson. Please contact Marcy Nader if you would like to be added to the login information distribution list.

Enjoying the Diversity in Multiculturalism

By: Mary Lynn Merkle

Sometimes we find ourselves surrounded by folks who closely resemble us—we share so many interests and lifestyles. And we are curious, so we travel. We discover new places, new histories, and people who share our DNA but not our specific cultures. We expand our horizons, and our world becomes larger and smaller at the same time. Our fellow member Marcy Nader recently posted the essay below on Facebook, and with her permission I’m sharing it. Definitely food for thought.

Try to travel, otherwise
you may become racist,
and you may end up believing
that your skin is the only one
to be right,
that your language
is the most romantic
and that you were the first
to be the first.

Travel,
because if you don't travel then
your thoughts won't be strengthened,
won't get filled with ideas.

Your dreams will be born with fragile legs and then you end up believing in tv-shows, and in those who
invent enemies
that fit perfectly with your nightmares
to make you live in terror.

Travel,
because travel teaches
to say good morning to everyone
regardless of which sun we come from.

Travel,
because travel teaches
to say goodnight to everyone
regardless of the darkness
that we carry inside

Travel,
because traveling teaches to resist,
not to depend,
to accept others, not just for who they are
but also for what they can never be.

To know what we are capable of,
to feel part of a family
beyond borders,
beyond traditions and culture.

Traveling teaches us to be beyond.

Travel,
otherwise you end up believing
that you are made only for a panorama
and instead inside you
there are wonderful landscapes
still to visit.

- Gio Evan, poet and songwriter.
Translated from Italian.