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Co-President's Message

By: Wendy Venet

At its meeting on November 10, the Board voted to make our Branch newsletter a quarterly publication and to use the email format of Breaking Branch News to supplement our newsletters with issues of more immediate concern. Very soon, you will receive a BBN containing the proposed Philanthropy budget to be voted on by membership at our December 11 holiday party.

AAUW's book business continues to evolve. In early October, Branch members participated in another sale at Scott Antique Market, our third this year. Our newest effort is a retail booth at Westside Market at the Toco Hill shopping center on Lavista Road in DeKalb County. In partnership with the Cobb Branch, we began selling there on November 1. Westside is a boutique-style market with 100 vendors. In addition to its success in attracting 5,000 customers each month, Westside presents a good opportunity for us because its staff will sell our merchandise. We focus on restocking and staging our shelves. While the setup and logistical elements of this effort have taken longer than expected, we have achieved a modest profit for the month of November, and we hope that the holiday season will help our sales.

Internet sales continue to drive our overall success in the book business. Thanks to all who volunteer in the book room and who help with sales at Scott and Westside. Your efforts allow AAUW-Atlanta to give a significant amount of money to scholarships and charities.

Mark your calendars for our holiday party on December 11 and best wishes for the festive season.

Leadership continued

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Diversity Article

By: Mary Lynn Merkle

“Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words can never hurt me.”

Remember that comeback from those long ago playground days?! In our innocence we believed that to be true. But research into child development and mental health has proven again and again the power of insensitive or even sometimes purposeful hurtful language.

In our schools and workplaces there are guidelines and rules about name-calling, bullying, and harassment. In our communities there are laws about it. In our government meetings we have always expected that we would find co-operative discussions and respectful behavior in order to get the business of our city, county, state, nation and, yes, even our school boards accomplished in a timely manner. But recent news sources and government officials paint a much different picture.

So what is going on? And what can a single person or group do about it? Let’s face it! Not much! If we do not speak up, we are not doing what we are about!

However as a group AAUW prides itself as continually working toward equity and justice, we have to name injustice and inequity when and where we see or hear it. We have to participate in discussions about equity and the strength of a diverse community. And we have to listen for new thoughts and ideas for actions that might move us closer to our goal. We need to be active! We need to make our goals more viable.

When a stone or stick is dropped into a pond, ripples are formed which travel away from where the drop occurred and out to the edges of the pond.

It is no different with harmful or discriminatory language. When a leader uses racial, ethnic or religious slurs when addressing a group, the group members who hear it may continue the stream of harmful speech (and, all too often, thoughts) in other parts of their lives.

We, too, as educated, thoughtful and still learning women can also cause ripples. We can speak up and speak out. We can continue to inform ourselves so we can share facts, not emotions.

Ripples are healthy. They aerate the water and thereby help the living plants and animals in the pond. Let us keep rippling for a healthier, saner, more equitable, more just community!

Holiday Party!

Mark your calendars—the Holiday Gathering and Branch Meeting will be December 11 at 11:00 a.m., at the home of Gillian Horsley.

Contemporary Literature Meeting

The Book Group will be meeting at the home of Gillian Horsley on Monday, Dec 6, 11:30 a.m. We will be discussing *Writers and Lovers* by Lily King.

AAUW Atlanta Board Recommendations for Philanthropy Donations

On October 14, 2021, the AAUW Atlanta Philanthropy Committee met to review suggestions for branch philanthropy. In attendance were Cele Covatta, Nancy Jordan, Fran Russell, Betty Slater and Wendy Venet. The amount designated for philanthropy in the AAUW Atlanta 2021-2022 Budget is \$30,000. Any funds not distributed will be held for emergency or unexpected requests.

On November 10, 2021, at a regularly noticed meeting, the AAUW Atlanta Board discussed the Philanthropy Committee's suggestions. See below for the Board's philanthropy recommendations for 2021 – 2022.

| Budgeted Funds: \$30,000 | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Purpose | Proponent and Discussion | Recommended Amount |
| Scholarships | Betty Slater and Rose Cannon, co-chairs of the Scholarship Committee suggested allotting funds for four \$3,000 scholarships at this time, as determining the number of qualified recipients may vary. In addition, they requested \$3,000 for the Atlanta Technical College. <i>The Board recommends allocating \$15,000 for potential scholarships and for Atlanta Technical College.</i> | \$15,000 |
| AAUW Funds | Dana Gordon, AAUW Funds chair suggested allotting \$5,000 to AAUW funds by donating \$2,000 to the Economic Security Fund and Legal Advocacy Fund, \$2,000 to the Education and Training Fund, and \$1,000 to the Leadership Fund. | \$3,000 |

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| | <i>The Board recommends allocating a maximum of \$3,000 to AAUW funds, with that \$3,000 allotted to the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, fund no. 3999.</i> | |
| Local Donations | | |
| International Rescue Committee Atlanta | <p>Ingrid Reinhard suggested supporting IRC Atlanta, a charity providing housing and assistance to the more than 1,000 Afghan families expected to come to Atlanta.</p> <p><i>The Board recommends allocating \$3,000 to IRC Atlanta.</i></p> | \$3,000 |
| Purpose | Proponent and Discussion | Recommended Amount |
| Equality Foundation of Georgia | <p>Ingrid Reinhard requested donating to an organization which supports LGBTQ+ persons. She suggested Georgia Equality Inc., a political advocacy group 501(c)(4), or the related Equality Foundation of Georgia, which provides services mostly to youth and is a 501(c)(3) charity. Jeff Graham, Executive Director, spoke about the work these organization has done and continues to do for the LGBTQ+ community at an AAUW Atlanta luncheon.</p> <p><i>The Board recommends allocating \$2,000 to Equality Foundation of Georgia.</i></p> | \$2,000 |
| Wellspring Living | <p>Betty Slater suggested supporting Wellspring Living. Founded in 2001, Wellspring Living is a non-profit organization based in Atlanta which provides support through four residential programs to survivors of domestic sex trafficking</p> <p><i>Sharon questioned the religious affiliation of Wellspring Living and the Board deferred recommending the allocation of \$2,000 to Wellspring Living.</i></p> | \$2,000 (deferred) |
| Our House | <p>Nancy Jordan requested supporting Our House, a shelter for homeless families with newborns. Our House has two locations, one on Boulevard NE in Atlanta and one in Decatur. They provide housing, food, training and support for homeless families for up to six months.</p> <p><i>The Board recommends allocating \$2,000 to Our House</i></p> | \$2,000 |

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| Free99Fridge | <p>Cele Covatta suggested supporting Free99Fridge, a local grassroots organization which operates as a mutual aid model, not a charity, with the goal of involving all the people who use the service and provides access to fresh healthy food in unlocked refrigerators in food desert areas of Atlanta.</p> <p><i>Sharon questioned the current viability of Free99Fridge and the Board deferred recommending the allocation of \$1,000 to Free99Fridge.</i></p> | \$1,000 (deferred) |
| Purpose | Proponent and Discussion | Recommended Amount |
| Dresden Elementary School | <p>A recipient of many of our gently used children’s books, and a beneficiary of Bea Meyer and Pat Bevis, the Board recommends allocating \$500 to Dresden Elementary School.</p> | \$500 |
| International Donations | | |
| Books for Africa | <p>Cele requested a monetary donation to Books for Africa, which has been a recipient of our books. Atlanta is one of the two collection sites in the United States and ships the donated books to Africa.</p> <p><i>The Board recommends allocating \$1,000 to Books for Africa.</i></p> | \$1,000 |
| Blink Now | <p>Blink Now is an international organization whose mission is to provide quality education and a safe environment to the children of Kopila, Nepal in hopes of creating an educational model for all of Nepal. Alta Birdsong is a proponent of Blink Now.</p> <p><i>The Board recommends allocating \$500 to Blink Now.</i></p> | \$500 |