



# Atlanta Branch News

August 2022 Newsletter: Volume 73, Issue 2

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## **President’s Message**

*By: Velma Tilley*

Greetings to all Atlanta AAUW! I am so honored to be the President of this noble organization, a position that has been held by many of you in the past. I will plan to rely on the experience and wisdom of all who have come before me. I am grateful to Cele and Wendy, our most recent co-presidents, and all who have served with them. I am grateful to all who have taken on responsibilities going forward. Thank you.

I have read in the Handbook that one of the duties of the President is to develop the vision of the branch for the two-year term of office. I know it won’t come as a surprise to you that the vision that I have for us as the Atlanta Branch is to understand justice and to do justice. I had a first draft of this complete before the Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade, a 50-year precedent, was released. I know some of you agree with that decision. I know that many of you, including me, are quite distressed about this and what it portends for our country that has not prepared itself to care for mothers and children. Each of us must respond to this decision as our conscience directs us.

On a different justice issue, as part of the vision to understand and to do justice, I propose that we take a Branch pilgrimage to Montgomery, AL and visit the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. It can be done as a day trip although that makes for a long day. No one can come away from that experience unmoved. So as we prepare for a new program year, let us each ponder how justice or injustice touches our lives, or the lives of those we love, and perhaps we can listen and share with each other in the days and weeks to come.

Justice, grace, and peace,  
Velma

*Leadership continued*

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## Save the Dates!

### Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be on September 9 at 10:30 a.m. at the Buckhead Library.

### Fall 2022 Program

Membership Tea and Celebration of Scholarship Winners

Date: Sunday, September 18

Time: 2:30-5:00 pm

Location: Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church  
Community Wellness Center

Politics, Policy, Peril and Promise: 2023

Date: Saturday, October 15

Time: 11:00am

Location: Mary Mac's Tea Room

Speaker: David Schaefer, Research Director  
Georgia Budget and Policy Institute

Holiday Celebration

Date: Saturday, December 3

Time: 11:00 am-12:30

Place: home of Gillian Horsley-Heintz

### NEWS FROM AAUW OF GEORGIA

*By: Mary Lynn Merkle, Co-president*

The first BIG news is that Belinda Dapreis from our Atlanta Branch has accepted the position of Board Acting Secretary. Since she is also serving as one of our Branch secretaries, she'll be taking and distributing lots of minutes. As co-president of AAUW of GA, I am very grateful for Belinda's "stepping up." We were unable to get a "local" communications vice-president, but Daisy Bourassa graciously agreed to continue from her new home in South Carolina.

Secondly, at our State Convention last April, co-president Laurie Shaw and I were commissioned to write a letter to National itemizing our many complaints about communications and national services. We reminded them of the considerable dues we pay to National. We zeroed in on the lack of membership information. We mentioned the many times we have requested help and have received no reply.

We sent the letter directly to CEO Gloria Blackwell via registered mail with the expectation that it would be delivered that Friday. The following Monday Laurie and I received an email from the Director of Institutional Advancement, who suggested a conference to discuss our concerns.

This has renewed our faith that National really does care about its grassroots members, and that we can continue to ALL work toward equity and justice for women and girls with our letters, our voices, and our hands-on fund-raising efforts.

### A LOOK BACK—WHAT A CELEBRATION!

It had been three years since our last AAUW of Georgia Convention. And all who gathered in Byron on April 23rd agreed that it was a day worth celebrating. Our keynote speaker, Cathy Cox is an amazing cheerleader for women in leadership. She was the first woman to be elected and to serve as Georgia's Secretary of State. She shared examples of the "glass ceilings" she overcame as she successfully pursued leadership positions. She let us know how important our efforts as AAUW members are. We all felt new enthusiasm for continuing to work toward AAUW's mission.

Eight members of Atlanta Branch were in attendance, more than any Branch other than the host Branch, Houston Peach. We had lots of fun and found great bargains at our Silent Auction. We voted at the meeting to use all proceeds to help Ukrainian refugees who are in Germany. A check for \$175 has been sent to Rosetta Coyne, from the Valdosta Branch, who has a personal connection with people who are providing aid.



AAUW of Georgia Co-President Mary Lynn Merkle with Keynote Speaker Cathy Cox

Front Row: Kay Collins, Connie Eshenour, Velma Tilley  
Back Row: Marcy Nader, Susan Diffenderfer, Mary Lynn Merkle, Dana Gordon, Cele Covatta



## **2022 AAUW Atlanta Branch Local Scholarship Winners**

Atlanta Branch Local Scholarship committee, with seven members and one advisor, met on June 2 to award a total of \$12,000 to several women over 30 who met our requirements. An additional \$3,000 was awarded to Atlanta Technical College.

Scholarship winners include:

Ashley J. Danaher, Emory University Master of Nursing, Women's Health Nurse Practitioner Program

Andrea M. Green, Georgia Institute of Technology, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Leah B. Maille, Emory University, Master in Nursing

Tiffany O. Paul, Emory University, Master in Nursing

Dahlia A. Rodriguez, Emory University, Master in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner Program

Tara J. White, Emory University, Master in Nursing

Scholarship funds will be given to students attending Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University. We will meet these women at our membership meeting September 18, 2022!

### **Article on Diversity**

*By: Mary Lynn Merkle*

#### **HOW CAN I HELP? WHAT SHOULD I DO?**

Transgenderism continues to be a hot button issue, an issue that may cause curiosity, discomfort, and perhaps even pain.

Because celebration and respect for all diverse populations is important to me, I was interested in becoming more informed and more aware of what it means to being a transgender person. I especially wanted to know how best to stand beside and behind this population and their families.

I was directed to the excellent website of the National Center for Transgender Equality, [ncte@transequality.org](mailto:ncte@transequality.org). I would recommend this source for learning about and understanding transgenderism.

One of the titles I found helpful was "Questionable Questions About Transgender Identity." Most of us have had little experience with transgender people. We want to know, and we want to be respectful.

Before asking "the questions," there are some considerations:

(1) If you're just curious, there are better sources of information, such as the website listed above. However, specific information, such as knowing the name and pronouns the person prefers, may help us be more respectful.

(2) Is it a question that might be asked of a heterosexual person? Protecting a person's privacy is always important.

(3) "How did you know?" If the transgender person is a family member or a friend, this could be a very welcome question. Talking about the journey of discovering one's gender as differing from that at birth can actually deepen a relationship.

Here is just a brief list of those questions that should seldom be asked:

Have you had the surgery? Are you on hormones? Have you had puberty blockers? What was your birth name? What bathroom do you use?

Researchers have found again and again that being a transgender person is not a choice one makes. The choice is to live one's life openly and proudly. Surgeries and hormones don't turn a person into a different gender. That was decided at their birth.

It is said that knowledge is power. Perhaps we can ease the way for a transgender person who may be on a difficult path.

### **Contemporary Literature**

*By: Kay Collins*

We will start our new year on Monday, September 12 discussing "The Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles. We will begin gathering at 10:30 am at the home of Mary Hanson. Mary will provide beverages and maybe a sweet. You may bring your own snack, of course. Contact Kay Collins, [contemporaryliterature@aauwatlanta.org](mailto:contemporaryliterature@aauwatlanta.org) be added to the distribution list. The list of books and dates for the 2022-2023 year will be published in the new Handbook or contact Kay.

### **Travel Group**

*By: Betty Arden*

Purpose: To tour recent openings and events and to visit historical sites in the Atlanta area.

Chair: Betty Arden

Meeting: 10:30 a.m. Thursday, approximately quarterly. See Branch Newsletter for specific dates of upcoming meetings.

## Attention Booklovers

By: Karen Ludwig

The annual Bookfair sale formerly staged by our AAUW Atlanta and Cobb Branches may be a thing of the past. However, our commitment to turning gently used books into opportunities for women and girls continues. You can still get books at bargain prices and know that the proceeds from your purchase will go towards funding AAUW scholarships and other philanthropic endeavors by shopping:

### Online at Amazon

Bookfair markets used books under the vendor name *Oldbooky* on Amazon. You can find our inventory listings by clicking on the following link:

[https://www.amazon.com/s?me=A1TYIJN1CH7GMB&ref=sf\\_seller\\_app\\_share\\_new2](https://www.amazon.com/s?me=A1TYIJN1CH7GMB&ref=sf_seller_app_share_new2)

You will be able to scan our inventory by scrolling through the listings. You can also search for a particular title or author by typing into the search bar, then clicking on the magnifying glass. If it is in our inventory, you should be taken to our listing – with the option to add it to your cart appearing in the upper RH corner of your screen.



**However -- in some cases – you will need to search all available listings to find the *Oldbooky* listing (by looking at ‘Sold by’ information in the listings presented to you).**

If you search for a particular title or author and it is not in our inventory, you will receive the message ‘no results.’

*Oldbooky* listings provide a complete description of our item’s condition so you can decide if it meets your needs before making your purchase.

### Westside Market Toco Hill

You can also visit Booth # 414B at Westside Market Toco Hill seven days a week during Westside Market’s normal hours of operation.

### Special Sales Events

There may be times when Bookfair will run ‘specials’ at Westside or stage a sale in conjunction with another event that makes sense. We will be keeping members in the know via email as well as posting information on the Bookfair website: [bookfairaauw.org](http://bookfairaauw.org)



### **Bookdrop Locations**

- Dunwoody Village 5511 Chamblee Dunwoody Rd., Dunwoody 30338 (North of Mount Vernon, near Walgreens-Under the Trees – Painted Red)
- Buckhead Branch Fulton County Library 269 Buckhead Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30305 (Red bookdrop is located in the parking lot on the west side of the library.)
- Buckhead Bookdrop Publix at The Peach Shopping Center 2900 Peachtree Rd NW, Atlanta, GA 30305 (Red bookdrop is located at the south entrance to Publix.)
- Cobb County Bookdrop St. Peter & Paul Episcopal Church 1795 Johnson Ferry Rd.  
(Across the street from Mt. Zion Methodist Church and just around the corner from its prior location.)

For more information, please visit <https://bookfairaauw.org/where-to-donate>