



Atlanta Branch News

April 2023 Newsletter: Volume 74, Issue 2

Table of Contents

President’s Message.....	1
2023 AAUW of Georgia Annual Meeting.....	1
Cocktail Party.....	2
May Branch Meeting.....	2
Report from AAUW Atl Branch.....	3
Contemporary Literature	4
Travel Group.....	4
Bookroom Celebrates Mardi Gras...5	
Scenes from Westside Sidewalk Sale.....	6
Volunteer Dedication to Book Drop.....	7

2022-2023 Leadership

President

Velma Tilley

president@aauwatlanta.org

Program Vice Presidents

Betty Arden and Nancy Jordan

programs@aauwatlanta.org

Membership Vice President

Carol Brantley

membership@aauwatlanta.org

Board Secretary

Belinda Dapreis

Secretary-board@aauwatlanta.org

Branch Meeting Secretary

Kay Collins

Secretary-meeting@aauwatlanta.org

Finance Officer

Sharon Bevis-Hoover

treasurer@aauwatlanta.org

College/University Relations

Marge Anderson

universityrelations@aauwatlanta.org

Continued on pg. 2

President’s Message

By: Velma Tilley, President

This month, with the trees and flowers blooming all around us, the visible signs of new life all around us, I turn to a topic that some may consider political. It is not. It is a topic that should, in my opinion, be of concern to all people, but especially to women.

Nearly every single day in this country, a child, a youngster, a teen, or an adult, leaves home and will not return because of one thing. That one thing is an AR-15 in the hands of an “ordinary” citizen who should never have been able to acquire one. Why is this complicated? Why should a weapon meant for war be in the hands of ANY ordinary citizen? Why are we the only country in the world who allows this? Why are we the only country in the world who routinely hears about, reads about, weeps over, the slaughter of our children in school rooms? There IS a solution to this travesty! I believe that we should ban the blasted things! We should buy back every one of them in the country in private hands legally purchased BEFORE the law is passed. Make it illegal to possess one 100 days after the law is passed. Arrest and prosecute anyone who possesses one thereafter, including those who display them proudly on their holiday cards.

Do we value our children over allowing anyone to own such a weapon? Do you? We must rise up and let our politicians – all of them – know.

TOO GOOD TO MISS: 2023 AAUW of Georgia Annual Convention

The Atlanta Branch has been diligently planning the 2023 AAUW of Georgia Annual Convention.

Where: Central Congregational United Church of Christ, 2676 Clairmont Road, Atlanta, 30329

When: Saturday, April 22, 2023
 9:00 a.m. to Registration and Light Breakfast
 9:30 a.m. Placing and looking at displays & Silent Auction items

Leadership continued

Diversity

Mary Lynn Merkle
diversity@aauwatlanta.org

Historian

Wendy Venet
historian@aauwatlanta.org

Hospitality

Betty Arden and Nancy Jordan
hospitality@aauwatlanta.org

Public Policy

Julianna Burke
publicpolicy@aauwatlanta.org

Public Relations

Sharon Bevis-Hoover
publicrelations@aauwatlanta.org

Scholarship

Rose Cannon, Betty Slater
scholarship@aauwatlanta.org

Web Information

Terry Eshenour
webmaster@aauwatlanta.org

Contemporary Literature

Kay Collins
contemporaryliterature@
aauwatlanta.org

Travel Group

Betty Arden
travel@aauwatlanta.org

Publications

publications@aauwatlanta.org

AAUW Funds

Phyllis Miller
aauwfunds@aauwatlanta.org

Philanthropy Chair

Myra Carmon
philanthropy@aauwatlanta.org

Communications Chair

Marcy Miller Nader
communications@aauwatlanta.org

Bylaws Chair

Chair TBD
bylaws@aauwatlanta.org

Bookfair Steering Committee

Cele Covatta
bookfairrep@aauwatlanta.org

What: A day to learn:

- about current public policy
- about immigration concerns and some possible solutions

A day to share:

- ideas, information, and friendship

A day to celebrate:

- what AAUW members have done and can do to further equity and justice for women and children everywhere

Highlights:

- A report from Georgia Senator Sally Harrell on the 2023 Legislative Session
- One way to avoid Run-off Elections, presented by Better Ballot Georgia
- Keynote: Kembra Smith, Immigration Attorney “The Law of Immigration”
 - (Kembra would like to receive your questions two weeks in advance of the meeting, mhumphry@cox.net)
- The “Heart” of immigration, presented by Grace Hawkins from Transit Angels

Lunch: Delicious box lunches from Panera Bread (also sweets from Atlanta members)

At our business meeting, we will hear from a National staff person (via Zoom) to discuss necessary and possible changes to National and State bylaws.

We will elect and install our 2023/2024 officers.

There will also be a Silent Auction to raise funds for a non-profit that is important to us. Please bring items, new or used, edible or “collectible” or not. Let your imagination be your guide.

A COCKTAIL PARTY

Atlanta Branch member Gillian Horsley will host a Friday (April 21st) evening cocktail party for out-of-town visitors in her home. Directions will be provided for those who will be attending.

May Branch Meeting: PRISONERS ARE PEOPLE, TOO

The next meeting of the Atlanta Branch will be held on May 6 at 11:00 am.

It will be held at the Cross Creek Country Club, 1221 Cross Creek Parkway, Atlanta, 30327. Parking is available in front of the restaurant.

You will be able to order individually off of a limited menu, and you must pay with a CREDIT CARD, no cash accepted.

Following the program there will be a business meeting and installation of new officers for 2023-2025. Please try to attend and don't forget to RSVP via Sign-Up Genius.

The program, "Prisoners are People, Too," will be presented by Lee Culpepper and Nicole Wieson, the Georgia Director of the Multifaith Initiative to End Mass Incarceration. People who are incarcerated had lives before prison. They are part of families, they have left friends behind, there's someone missing when families or friends gather.

Both presenters at our meeting have important stories to share about incarceration in Georgia prisons. Nicole Wieson, the Georgia Coordinator of the Multifaith Initiative to End Mass Incarceration and Program Development Manager for the National Incarceration Association, has bachelor's and master's degrees in clinical social work and additional clinical training. Lee Thrasher Culpepper has a PhD in Counseling Psychology from UGA. Although now retired, she has much experience counseling with people who are experiencing difficulties.

Both of these women know firsthand what many prisons are not doing and what they could be doing to improve the lives of those imprisoned, and they are both passionate about improving our prisons and about the negative consequences of long sentences. You may have heard our president, Velma Tilley (who is also very involved in ending mass incarceration), quote this statistic: "If Georgia were a country, it would be 4th in the rate of incarcerated people in the world." This is shameful!

Report from 2023 AAUW Atlanta Branch

Nominating Committee members Rose Cannon, Myra Carmon, Connie Eshenour, Wendy Venet, and Ruth Yurchuck present the following Slate of Officers for 2023-2025:

Co-Presidents Elect: Karen Ludwig and Huiping Du

Board Secretary: Rose Cannon

Branch Secretary: Kay Collins

Nominating Committee for one year, 2023-2024:

Rose Cannon

Myra Carmon

Wendy Venet

Ruth Yurchuck

Blondie Chitunya-Wilson

Contemporary Literature

The Contemporary Literature group will meet Monday, May 1 and Monday, June 5. The May meeting discussion will be on “Bewilderment,” by Richard Powers. At the June meeting, we will choose the good reads for next year. If you have suggestions for a discussable, readily available book for the group please send them to Kay Collins, contemporaryliterature@aauwatlanta.org

Travel Group Field Trip

Travel group lunch at Tuk Tuk after visiting the exhibit at SCAD FASH of dresses designed by Madame Gres and photographs by Horst P. Horst, March 16.

Front left: Dana Gordon, Kay Collins, Betty Arden, Betty Slater, Cele Covatta and Ingrid Reinhard.



Bookroom Celebrates Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras was celebrated by the Tuesday crew at the Bookroom with four retired workers joining us. Billie Collier, Joyce Cohrs, Mary Womack, and Coral Bevier came for lunch and stayed to help out. It was so good to have this gang back together again!



Scenes from the Westside Sidewalk Sale, March 1 – 2, 2023



Volunteer Dedication to Book Drop: Huiping Du



aauwatlanta.org