



Atlanta Branch News

April 2024 Newsletter: Volume 75, Issue 2

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2023-2024 Leadership

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President’s Message

By Velma Tilley

As I sit to write the final newsletter entry of my presidency, instead of looking backwards, I want to look forward to our future. As we face the opportunity of finding a new space for our Bookroom, possibilities open. What if we find a better space, a space from which we can actually sell and not just receive, sort, and send on? What if we need to downsize? What will that mean to streamline our operation? As these decisions are made, we must remember that we have an ongoing need (I’m looking at you, Velma), for volunteers for the Bookroom.

Knowing that our primary effort is raising funds for scholarships and charitable donations that benefit women and families, we are also exploring an opportunity that has come our way through Georgia Tech freshman, Sophie Anderson. Sophie reached out to us at Atlanta AAUW because, as a middle school girl in California, she found her love for science at AAUW sponsored Tech Trek. Tech Trek is a program that exposes girls who have been recommended by their science or math teachers to a number of possible STEM careers.

At our February general meeting, we voted to explore this opportunity and a small committee was formed to do so. Next steps are a virtual meeting between committee members, Sophie, and Mary “Dr. Mimi” Isaac, Director of the AAUW California Tech Trek Program to determine feasibility. I will report back in future newsletters, not as president, but as chair of that committee (drafted, not volunteered, but happy to do it). Enjoy your spring and summer and think about volunteering with Atlanta AAUW!

MAY CHAPTER MEETING

The end of the year meeting will include installation of officers and a program.

It will be held at Cross Creek Cafe on Saturday, May 4th, at 11:00 am. Lunch will follow the program. Everyone will order off a menu and be responsible for payment.

Leadership continued

Diversity

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Bookfair Steering Committee

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The program will be presented by board members of Court Appointed Special Advocates. CASA is a volunteer organization that provides oversight of the Georgia Foster Care System. Come to the meeting and learn more about one of the organizations we support.

Please be sure to RSVP to the EVITE when it is delivered to your inbox, so we can give the restaurant an accurate count.

Hope to see all of you there.

AAUW Atlanta Board Motion for Membership

At its April 5, 2024 Board Meeting, the Atlanta AAUW Board adopted the following recommendation to be voted on by the Membership on May 4, 2024:

“Because the Bylaws do not permit the Finance Officer to serve more than two consecutive terms, and because Sharon Bevis-Hoover has not only done a superb job in performing the duties of Finance Officer and is willing to serve another term when no other member is willing to serve, the Board urges the Membership to approve a temporary suspension of the Bylaws in this regard to permit a third term for the office of Finance Officer.”

Furthermore, because the purpose of this provision of the Bylaws is clearly to ensure the financial integrity of the organization, the Board approved an audit of all the financial components of the organization.

The Nominating Committee and the Board of Directors are grateful for Sharon’s experience, expertise, institutional knowledge, and commitment to Atlanta AAUW, and appreciate her willingness to continue as Finance Officer if elected by the Membership.

AAUW Slate for 2024-2026

The Nominating Committee recommends the following officers for the coming term:

Program VP	Fran Russell
Membership Co-VPs	Carol Brantley, Kathy Rivers
Finance Officer	Sharon Bevis-Hoover
Communications	Phyllis Miller

Nominating Committee for 2024-2026

Betty Arden, Dana Gordon, Blondie Chitunya-Wilson, Susan Diffenderfer, Rose Cannon

DIVERSITY ARTICLE

By Mary Lynn Merkle

I AM NOT A RACIST!

Easy enough!

It is my assumption that we in the Atlanta Branch do find it easy to make that above statement. The challenge for us is to take it to the next level—to truly be anti-racist (or anti any injustices). This next level requires us to name inequity where and when we see it.

And that is not always easy.

It might be an unintended comment by a friend or acquaintance. It might be a local news item that doesn't tell the whole story. It might be one of those posts from a community sharing site like Nextdoor that contains unacceptable language. Now what? It takes courage and confidence to act.

AAUW at every level values diversity. Whether those differences are about race, ethnicities, abilities, citizenship, sexuality or gender identities, or religious beliefs, we all gain when our known "world" grows wider.

I share with you, with permission, an essay that was written by a fifteen-year-old bi-racial young man. As you read it, think about people you know who are members of a minority population. Each of us has the power to make a difference—even if it's one person or event at a time.

WHO AM I?

You see me as you want to.

You may follow me,

You may cross the street,

You may harass me, dismiss me

or even turn a blind eye.

I see you, too.

You clutch your purse tighter, closer; you slide your
wallet into your front pocket.

You lock your doors while I'm crossing the street.

These things don't bother me

For if you knew me, you would know that I'm kind,

intelligent, out-going, and understanding.

My feelings have no color nor are they disabled.

Rejection is universal.

I find comfort in those who accept

and those who don't just listen but hear.

And all I will ever need is a chance-

A chance to show I too am beautiful; I too can shine.

You see me as you want to.

If all you see is a stereotype, then you shall never know me,

But you will forever know who I am not.

(Note: This teen is now a successful adult in movie and television production.)

Contemporary Literature Meeting

The Monday, May 6 meeting of the Contemporary Lit. book club will select books for the next year. This is a change from the schedule in the Handbook. The group will gather at the home of Mary Hanson at 11:00 am that day for a potluck lunch before discussing and selecting the next great reads! For more specific info., contact Kay Collins. The June 3 meeting will discuss "The Librarian of Burned Books" by Brianna Labuskus. These two meetings have been reversed.

Get Well Wishes



Wishing a speedy recovery to Myra Carmon, who is recuperating from a serious automobile accident, and to Ruth Yurchuck, who is in rehab following surgery.

Great Bookdrop Workers



Dedicated Bookdrop workers Kathy Rivers and Fran Russell

AAUW Longtime Members



Betty Slater, Betty Arden, and Martha Matthew! We all met in the AAUW bridge group many years ago. Martha is a past President of a branch in Texas.