



Atlanta Affiliate News

November, 2025 Newsletter: Volume 78, Issue 2

Atlanta (GA) Branch

Table of Contents

Contents

Co-President's Message 1	
Upcoming Affiliate Events	3
2026-2027 AAUW ATLANTA AFFILIATE SCHOLARSHIPS	5
2025-2026 AAUW ATLANTA AFFILIATE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS	5
LIFTING ONE ANOTHER UP!	6
Booth at Westside Market to Close on December 31	7
Fun and Games	8
Across	8

2025-2026 Leadership

Co-Presidents

Karen Ludwig and Huiping Du
president@aauwatlanta.org

Program Vice President

Fran Russell
programs@aauwatlanta.org

Membership Co-Vice Presidents

Carol Brantley and Kathy Rivers
membership@aauwatlanta.org

Board Meeting Secretary

Kay Collins
Secretary-board@aauwatlanta.org

Affiliate Meeting Secretary

Marcy Nader
Secretary-meeting@aauwatlanta.org

Finance Officer

Sharon Bevis-Hoover
treasurer@aauwatlanta.org

College/University Relations

universityrelations@aauwatlanta.org

Continued on pg. 2

Website: aauwatlanta.org

Co-President's Message

By Karen Ludwig

How Did You Answer...To Be Or Not to Be?

This Is Your Input!

In the last issue of our AAUW Atlanta newsletter (and during the last couple of Affiliate meetings), your co-presidents asked members to respond to a survey. The survey's intent was to check on the current health of our organization and provide decision-making guidance for your leadership. Questions were drawn from various resources identifying **key factors that make a volunteer organization sustainable**.

We received responses from approximately 20% of our total membership. The responses indicate that it is essential for our organization to address a number of shortcomings if we are to continue to work together as the AAUW Atlanta Affiliate in our current form.



Diversity Chair

Mary Lynn Merkle
diversity@aauwatlanta.org

Historian

Wendy Venet
historian@aauwatlanta.org

Public Policy Chair

Velma Tilley
publicpolicy@aauwatlanta.org

Public Relations Chair

Phyllis Miller
publicrelations@aauwatlanta.org

Scholarship Co-Chairs

Rose Cannon and Nancy Jordan
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

Sharon Bevis-Hoover
aauwfunds@aauwatlanta.org

Philanthropy Chair

Myra Carmon
philanthropy@aauwatlanta.org

Communications Chair

Phyllis Miller
communications@aauwatlanta.org

Bylaws President Elect

Velma Tilley
bylaws@aauwatlanta.org

Bookfair Steering Committee

Cele Covatta
bookfairrep@aauwatlanta.org

Website: <https://atlanta-ga.aauw.net/>

Pillars of Sustainability Scorecard – How Are We Doing?

Does AAUW Atlanta Provide ...Can You Provide?	Yes*	No*
1. A clear mission & vision? Does our purpose resonate with you? Are you able to easily articulate our mission, vision, values?	70%	30%
2. Strong leadership & governance? Are you interested, willing and able to step up to a leadership role if called upon to do so in Atlanta AAUW?	50%	50%
3. Robust volunteer management and recruitment? Are you willing and able to actively support AAUW Atlanta's volunteer activities? Are you willing and able to participate in recruiting new community members to join AAUW Atlanta?	57%	43%
4. Financial stability and resource diversification? Are you willing and able to contribute volunteer hours supporting fundraising, resource planning, and fiscal management?	57%	43%
5. Community involvement/partnerships? Are you willing and able to help forge and maintain relationships with beneficiaries from our fundraising efforts and/or fellow organizations?	57%	43%
6. Adaptability & innovation? Are you willing and able to actively contribute your thinking on how our organization can anticipate change and respond proactively?	57%	43%
7. Measure and communicate impact? Are you willing and able to contribute your input to help our organization define goals, share results, and gather feedback to help us become a more successful organization?	50%	50%

***In calculating percentages in each response category, write-in responses of 'maybe' were counted as 'yes,' and '?' responses were counted as 'no.'**

On average, a little over half of those responding (which translates to a little over 10% of our total membership) responded positively ('yes'). Anecdotal responses expressed disconnection with the national organization and / or mission. Several responses indicated a willingness to continue to participate (with a focus on Atlanta Bookfair volunteer activities) while simultaneously expressing concerns about the ability to do so given personal limitations.

If we take a 'glass half-full' approach and assume that respondents are a representative sample of our entire membership we could say – more than half of us would respond positively. However, on the 'glass half-empty' side, it is more likely that those taking the time to respond are representative of our more engaged, active members. This presents a much more concerning picture regarding the state of the health of our Affiliate, highlighting the urgent need to take action over the coming year.

As I enter the last half of the last year of my co-presidency role – I'd like to share with you all that I am willing to continue to work towards the creation of a stronger organization. Your leadership has been actively discussing ideas to address some of the concerns that the survey responses have confirmed. For example – working more aggressively to identify partnerships with like-minded organizations to provide other activities of interest, as well as potentially grow membership.

I've had the chance to get to know more members over the course of my term as co-president. There is a broad array of professional experience and diverse talents residing within our Affiliate. I invite you all once again to share your thoughts (with me, or any other leadership team member) that you feel would be of help in re-shaping our organization into one that will continue delivering against our mission – **achieving a vision of equity for women and girls.**

Upcoming Affiliate Events

AAUW ATLANTA Holiday Party!!!



It's That Time of Year!



On **Saturday, December 6th at noon**, please join us for our annual AAUW Atlanta holiday gathering. This year will be lunch at *Terra Terroir Restaurant*. *Terra Terroir* is in the Brookhaven Plaza shopping Center located at 3974 Peachtree Rd NE. We will be in the Secret Garden dining room and have a choice of four entrees, from a vegan salad to a grilled chicken sandwich, plus holiday cookies and your choice of soda, iced tea or coffee. The cost is \$27.00 per person, including tax and tip.

This year we are providing baby diaper donations to "Helping Mamas" a charity which provides needy moms with diapers and sanitary products and is one of the organizations we support. If you'd like to participate, please bring unopened packages of ANY size diapers to the luncheon, or to the Bookroom.

Be on the lookout for the Holiday Party EVITE and be sure to RSVP.

Fran Russell

AAUW Atlanta Affiliate 2025-2026 Fiscal Year General and Community Fund Budgets

The following General Fund and Community Fund Budgets for the 2025-2026 fiscal year were adopted by the Atlanta Affiliate Board at the August 11, 2025 Board Meeting:

AAUW Atlanta Affiliate General Fund Budget July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026		
		Budget 2025-2026
REVENUES		
Net Dues	\$	1,000.00
Interest Income		5.00
Total Revenues	\$	1,005.00
EXPENSES		
Diversity	\$	100.00
Gifts for President		200.00
Handbook		350.00
Membership Committee		200.00
Newsletter		20.00
President's Expense		100.00
Program Development & Hospitality		1,200.00
Public Policy		100.00
Student Membership Gifts		60.00
Treasurer's Expense		50.00
Website Maintenance		25.00
Total Expenses	\$	2,405.00
EXCESS (DEFICIT)	\$	(1,400.00)

AAUW Atlanta Affiliate Community Fund Budget July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026		
		2025-2026 Budget
Philanthropy Committee		
AAUW Funds		
Local Scholarships		
Philanthropy		
Total Philanthropy		\$ 17,500.00
Branch Operations		
Financial Services	\$	1,000.00
Communication Scholarship		4,000.00
Total Branch Operations		\$ 5,000.00
Reserve Items		
Ruth Bader Ginsberg Memorial Fund	\$	175.00
Financial Services Reserve		1,000.00
Unallocated Assets		18.85
Total Reserve Items		\$ 1,191.85
Total Community Fund Budget		\$ 23,691.85

Myra Carmon, Philanthropy Committee Chair, presented the Philanthropy Committee's proposal for dissemination of available funds (\$17,500) within the Community Fund Budget at the September 29, 2025 Board meeting. The Philanthropy Committee's recommendations were guided by consideration of a decrease in the amount of money available for this coming fiscal year and preference to support local charities in the areas of health care, food insecurity, and shelter. The proposal was unanimously approved by the Board with funds to be distributed as follows:

Atlanta Area Technical College Foundation	\$ 4,000
AAUW Funds, American Dissertation Fellowship	\$ 500
Helping Mamas	\$ 500
Our House	\$ 2,000
Atlanta Community Food Bank	\$ 1,000
Equality Foundation of Georgia	\$ 1,000
Reserve Fund (for creation of named scholarship at Georgia State University in lieu of individual scholarship awards managed by AAUW Affiliate)	\$ 8,500
TOTAL	\$17,500

\$175.00 given in remembrance of Ruth Bader Ginsburg will be given to CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocate organization.

If you have any questions about these Budgets, please contact Finance Officer Sharon Bevis-Hoover."

2026-2027 AAUW ATLANTA AFFILIATE SCHOLARSHIPS

We will endow a scholarship at Georgia State University starting in 2026 and are putting aside money towards that goal.

We will continue to contribute to Atlanta Technical College to fund scholarships to deserving students enrolled in the fields of nursing and physical therapy.

We will continue to fund an internship in Communications to work with the Atlanta Affiliate of AAUW. Our current recipient is Abri Bazemore.

2025-2026 AAUW ATLANTA AFFILIATE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



- Davon Crawford - Emory University, Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Alyssa Hooper - Emory University, Master's in Nursing
- Maggie Hutson - Mercer University, Doctor of Physical Therapy
- Alexia Gaviria Hubbard - Emory University, Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Tayler Johnson - Mercer University, Doctor of Physical Therapy
- Leigh Parker- Mercer University, Doctor of Physical Therapy
- Lydia Shaw - Emory University, Master's in Nursing

LIFTING ONE ANOTHER UP!

Mary Lynn Merkle
Diversity Chair

I am sharing some thoughts about women and womanhood written by my grandniece Meghan, a student at the University of Michigan and on the Michigan Daily staff there.

Meghan's article asks the same questions and ponderings that I (and many of you) faced sixty years or more ago. "We've come a long way, baby." Nevertheless, the "road" is still bumpy. On reading her article I felt compelled to continue the pressure for equity and equality even as we seemingly are losing ground—not so much for myself, but for those generations who are coming after us.

Ponder some excerpts from Meghan's article. Do they resonate with you as well?

"There are rules imposed upon women like invisible Minecraft barrier blocks, and that's startlingly clear in professional settings. When entering a professional context or applying for a position in nearly any field, women are tasked with finding the perfect balance. It's possible to be too bossy or too submissive, too girly or too masculine and are you wearing the right length of skirt? The right top? Heels or flats? Be friendly, network, but don't be too friendly lest your eagerness be interpreted as a different kind of interest! Be proactive but don't be annoying. Be chill, but take your job seriously. Don't offend anyone, but don't be uptight either, learn to take a joke!"

"For years, it seems there's always been categories for women to squeeze themselves into, and it's incredibly limiting. ---Instead of pursuing every interest that comes your way, you're boxed in. It's unfortunate knowing there's a world of possibilities I didn't explore because I was too busy fitting the image of what I was supposed to be."

"These categories were supposed to give us community and a sense of belonging but don't even seem to exist in practice. I've never met a girl that simple. Just because you're a girl's girl doesn't mean you can't have moments where you aren't. It's possible to spend time doing your makeup in the morning and be passionate about kickboxing."

"I've seen lots of women judge each other for being too emotional and too sexual and to this or too that. These categories divide us. ----Not one of us is a finite being and to claim that a woman is too much or too little of one thing or another is a disservice to us all!"

"We live in a world that rewards women who push other women down the ladder. That's why lifting one another up feels so powerful."

And finally—"You were never simple, and you were never meant to be. You are a complex bundle of everything. Embrace every part of it."

Thank you, Meghan, for reminding us how important the mutuality, respect and compassion amongst women is.

Let's all try to do some heavy lifting whenever the opportunity arises!

Mary Lynn Merkle
Diversity Chair

Booth at Westside Market to Close on December 31

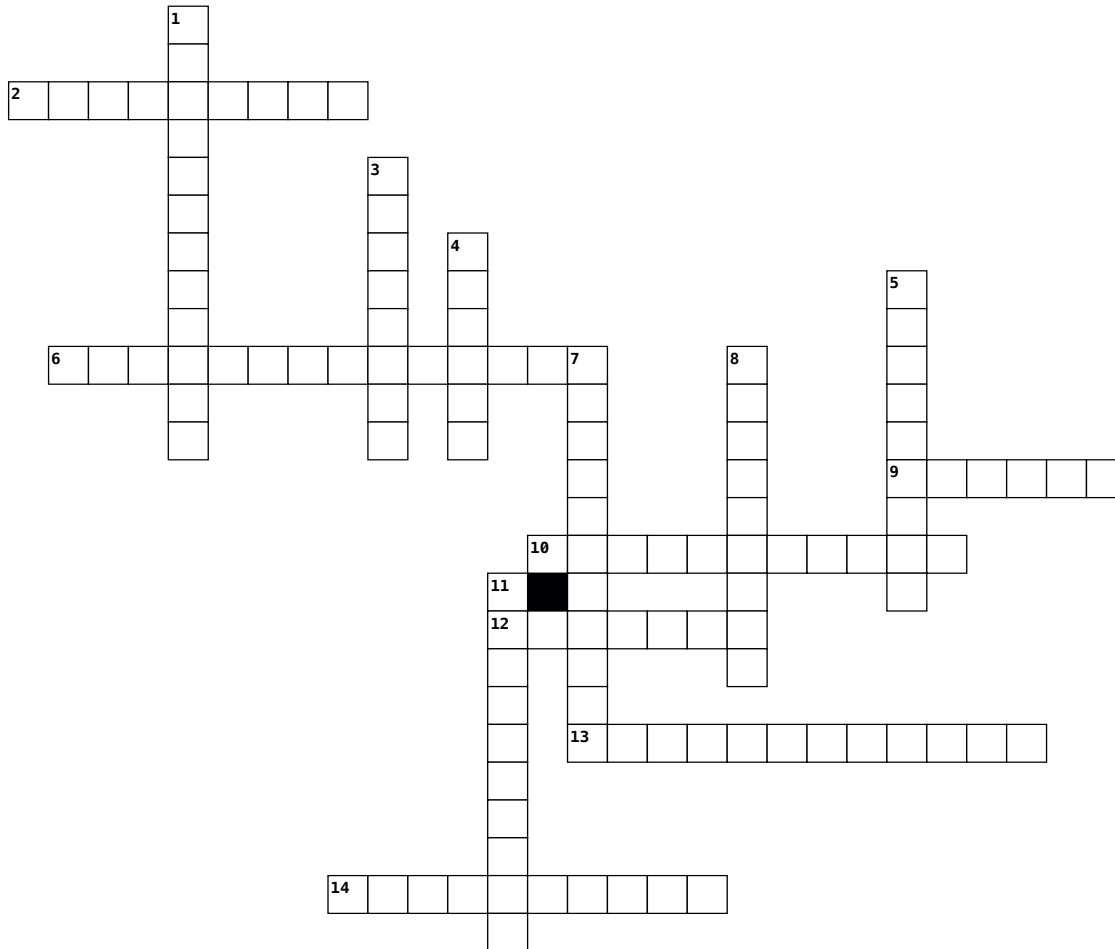
by Wendy Venet

The Bookfair Steering Committee, endorsed by the Atlanta Affiliate board, has voted to close our booth at Westside Market. This decision follows a year of lagging sales. However, Westside

Market will allow us to hold future sidewalk sales without paying rent, and these sales have traditionally netted us a tidy profit. Please check your email regularly in the coming weeks as we ask for volunteers to help with a final sidewalk sale this year. Thanks to all who have helped with the Westside effort during the past four years.

Fun and Games

AAUW Atlanta Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. AAUW
2. 6. – Team responsible for outreach and publications
3. 9. – Membership questionnaire assessing organizational health
4. 10. – Local branch promoting equity for women and girls
5. 12. – Fund set aside for Georgia State University scholarship
6. 13. – Committee distributing \$17,500 to community causes
7. 14. – Guides the organization's direction and strategy

Down

1. 1. – Nonprofit collecting diaper donations at the luncheon
2. 3. – Annual AAUW Atlanta fundraiser built on volunteer support
3. 4. – Core mission of the AAUW organization
4. 5. – Key focus area promoting inclusion and representation
5. 7. – Financial award for nursing and physical therapy students
6. 8. – What members embody through active participation
7. 11. – Neighborhood of Terra Terroir restaurant for holiday party

Answer Key:

AAUW Atlanta Crossword Puzzle

