



Cobb Update

volume 28, Issue 5

January, 2012

Special Dates of Interest

- Jan. 6th - Roving Gourmet
- Jan 19th - Meeting at Cobb Cty Government Bldg.
- Jan 16th - Book Group
- Feb. 3rd - Roving Gourmet
- Feb 14th - Monthly Meeting
- Mar 3rd - Women's History Panel
- Mar 13th - Monthly Meeting
- Mar 19th - Book Group



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Legislative Forum



THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2011

Our program for January is a shared effort with Marietta/Cobb LWV and the Rho Zeta Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority on January 19th at 6:15 - 9:00 pm. All of the Cobb Legislators have been invited to attend. To date, Sam Teasley, Ed Setzler, Judson Hill, Stacey Evans, and David Wilkerson have responded they will participate. We have received regrets from Terry Johnson, Rich Golick, and Matt Dollar. We have not heard from the other Cobb Legislators. If you know your Representative or Senator and they have not yet responded, please contact them and urge them to participate. They can rsvp to me at carterstephens69@att.net. If, on the other hand, you do not know your legislators, then this is a perfect time to make that initial contact to invite them to participate. Please see the article in our newsletter on suggestions from Women for a Change on how improve our lobbying efforts.

Each organization is responsible for bringing part of the refreshments. We will be supplying the hot beverage supplies and equipment from our Hospitality Bin prior to our holding our meetings at Mansour Center. AKA will be supplying the sweets. If anyone can bring any of the following please let Carol Stephens know: bottled water, cheese and crackers, veggies and dip, or fruit.

The forum will be televised by Ch. 23 and we will let you know when it will be shown. This is a perfect opportunity for us to network with the members of these other organizations as well as to meet your legislators in an informal setting. Questions from the audience will be asked, so please bring your concerns and ask them! See you on Thurs. Jan. 19th at 6:15!



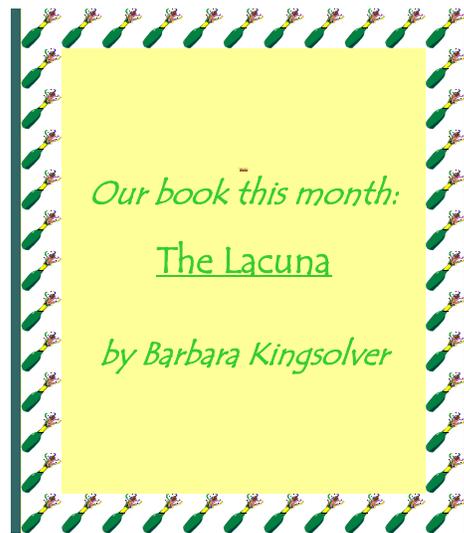
Book Group

For additional Book Group information please email or call Denise Bossarte at dci_bst@hotmail.com

Our Book Group meeting will be Monday, January 16th at 7:30 pm
in the home of
Carol Stephens
1288 Rolling Oaks Drive
Kennesaw, GA 30052

Our hostess is providing the refreshments
and will also facilitate the discussion of the book.

Please RSVP to: carterstephens69@att.net
or 678-206-4929 (cell)



ROVING GOURMET

SAVE NEXT MONTH'S DATE!!
Friday, February 3rd

Vespucci's

4805 Canton Road, Suite 100
Marietta 30066
770-928-1212



FRIDAY, January 6th, at 7:00 PM

Please contact Debbie for reservations by WEDNESDAY, January 4th
at Debbiedah@msn.com or 770-591-7956

“LOOKING AHEAD” INTEREST GROUP

A preliminary meeting of our new interest group, “*Looking Ahead*” will be held on Monday, Jan. 23, 2012, at the East Cobb Government Center, at 2:00pm. Feel free to bring a spouse or friend. This will be a time of sharing concerns around issues such as how to age positively, keeping active, housing considerations, transportation, finance and health issues. Bring your own stories and experiences to share. At this meeting we will decide future projects, such as tours of various assisted living facilities, for those who are interested. We have a wealth of wisdom among ourselves just waiting to be tapped! Elinor Spalten will be a co-facilitator with Marty Hughes, and will help to set up any future tours. Please RSVP to Marty Hughes [marty-hughes@mindspring.com or 770-953-3403] if you plan to come, so we will know how many to plan for.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope that you all had wonderful holidays. I'm just thankful that the hullabaloo is over and that we can get back to normal – whatever that is! Please plan to attend the Legislative Forum on Thursday, January 19 in the Cobb County Commissioner's room. This is a great opportunity to put names with faces and to hear what's on the agenda for the legislature and to see what issues we wish to address as AAUW. I'm rather new to the advocacy process, but Carol's article revved me up, and I hope that you, too, are eager to make your voices heard.

What a delightful group of scholarship winner we welcomed at our Scholarship Celebration last

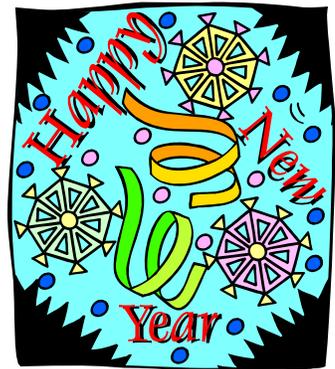
month! They are articulate, talented, enthusiastic young women who will be making their marks in the future. Thank you to Shirley Mills for chairing the committee and to Denise Bossarte, Yetta McMillan, Joanne Mazula, Linda Stewart, Marcia Caproitti for the time they spent – and spent well – in the selection process.

Please remember to increase your bookroom hours this year. Saturday is mostly Cobb volunteers, but people are there on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well from 10-2 and would welcome your appearance. There are many boxes of books to be sorted, and we need you. If you have any questions about directions or anything else, please call me Karen (770-971-4087) or

Debbie (770-591-7956). We'd love to see you.

Happy New Year! Invite a friend to Roving Gourmet, the Book Group, or to our next meeting. The more, the merrier!

--Karen



NOTES FROM THE BOOK ROOM

We have had some very nice sales this month, but the best news is that we are getting a new computer monitor. The one that Denise donated a few years ago has decided to give up the ghost and has been flickering so much that it has been giving Ellen Milholland migraines and is threatening to cause epilepsy in Karen. It should be arriving this week, and those persons who list the books and those who mail them are delighted.

It's always nice to get good feedback from our internet customers. Sometimes it is more personal than "the book arrived in good condition and in a timely manner," though that is also nice to hear. This week we received the following:

"The book I ordered for my daughter and son-in-law for Christmas arrived in pristine condition! I can't tell you how touched I was when I then read your insert about the AAUW volunteers. Thank you, thank you and Merry Christmas to all. Continued success and so glad to know I was contributing, through my purchase, funds towards your scholarship fund."



"The friend who holds your hand and says the wrong thing is made of dearer stuff than the one who stays away." Barbara Kingsolver

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In principle and in practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. Membership is open to anyone who holds an associate's or equivalent, bachelor's, or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!



FEBRUARY 14 - TUESDAY, 7:00 P.M. at MANSOUR CENTER
Is Your Home Safe? - mortgage/rental laws, foreclosures, personal safety, police/fire

In honor of Women's History Month, on Saturday, March 3 there will be a panel discussion at the Continuing Education Center at KSU to celebrate women in business who have broken through the glass ceiling. More details will follow, but mark your calendars and plan to attend this special event.

MARCH 13 - TUESDAY, 7:00 P.M. at MANSOUR CENTER
Can You See Us? - panel discussion on Hispanic Women in the community



HAPPY NEW YEAR

WHO ARE THESE MEMBERS?

Last month's members:

1. Marty Hughes learned to use a unisex toilet in Japan
2. Peg Montgomery tried learning to smoke but just couldn't get the hang of it.
2. Marcia Capiotti was a disc jockey in college

Now who are these members?

1. She is the oldest of 23 first cousins – not the boss, but bossy – also loves jazz and can cut a mean rug.
2. She joined the National Teacher Corps under President Johnson and taught reading for two years.
3. She was the founding director of the Amelia Island Historical Museum.





Scholarship Recipients

We had less funds to dispense this year, due to Cobb's having had fewer hours than previously. Surely we will reverse this trend in 2012!

This year's scholarship committee consisted of Denise Bossarte, Marcia Capriotti, Joanne Mazula, Yetta McMillan, Linda Stewart, and Shirley Mills, Chairperson.

We began the process with soliciting applications from the four schools noted in our "Policies & Procedures," KSU, SPSU, Chattahoochee, or Life Universities. (Feedback from the applicants indicated that the contacts we have at those universities did, indeed, inform students of our scholarships.)

We received many applications, winnowing them down to nine. Of that number, we chose to award full scholarships of one thousand dollars each to five (5) women.

For those of you who were unable to be present at the December 13, 2011 meeting where we introduced the scholarship winners, I am including a short bio for each of them. (A couple of the women have indicated an interest in helping with our Bookfair, which would give all of us an opportunity to meet them in person. Let's hope that works out, for our winners this year were particularly impressive.)

One recipient, Greta Samuels, is a returning student. She was laid-off from the telecommunications industry and decided to launch a new career in a field that never gets downsized, Early Childhood Education. Greta will receive her two-year certificate in May, and intends to get her Bachelor's at either KSU or Mercer. Meantime, she is serving as a model for one of her three daughters, in going back to school. (Greta is an inspiration to us all!)

Fate Obbasi, a native of Persia, is a biology major at KSU, in preparation for going into dentistry. A naturalized American citizen, Fate speaks four languages (Farsi, German, English, & Spanish). German was attained with a middle-school-age stay in Germany, and Spanish by dint of study, as well as her flawless English). One of the things that impressed our committee the most is that Fate has a strong record of community service, including over 200 hours as a volunteer intern at an orthodontics practice. Fate believes her multicultural and multilingual background enables her to serve as a role model for other female students.

Yasmine Jonaidi is our 2nd Persian native, still working on obtaining her citizenship. Yasmine is majoring in Industrial Engineering Technology at SPSU, with minors in both Architecture & Business Administration. Reflecting on the dearth of female faculty in engineering, as well as less than 10% of the students in each class, Yasmine has made time to volunteer as Outreach Chair for the Society of Women Engineers chapter at SPSU. She organized a conference at SPSU for a local girl scout troop to visit the university and take part in fun experiments involving engineering, and she is part of a team going into middle and high schools across Atlanta to encourage young women to go into engineering, in effect, to let them see that studying engineering can "be cool."

Brittany Sharp, a senior psychology major at KSU, is an officer in KSU's AAUW chapter, and is also a student of Dr. Amy Buddie, one of the AAUW advisors, who strongly recommended Brittany for our scholarship. Brittany is leading a team preparing a paper to be presented at a national conference this spring. Next year, Brittany intends to go to graduate school to become a school psychologist. In the meantime, this past year she made time to go on a mission trip to Ethiopia. She has also volunteered in the mentoring program at KSU, as well as serving as a volunteer intern at MUST ministries.

Tiane McKoy is a graduate of our local Marietta High School, now studying Apparel & Textiles Technology at SPSU. She has been in the Honors Program and on the Dean's List all along at SPSU, and she has a long list of volunteer service, including MUST ministries. She is an officer in Honors Student Council and is vice-president of a group associated with her field of study, Designers for a Purpose. Tiane's "fashion forward" appearance presages her ambition to become a designer and boutique owner.

The last \$1 thousand was divided equally among our four "encouragement grant" winners: Brittany Poag and Samantha Roberts at KSU, Rigel Cano at Chattahoochee, and Ilea Johnson at SPSU.

Thanks to each member for your hard work to earn the funds for these scholarships.

Sincerely,

Shirley Mills (for the Committee)

Georgia Women for a Change

I want to say thank you to Georgia AAUW for sending me to the 21st Annual Georgia Women's Assembly. It was a very inspiring conference. In our last newsletter, Karen gave some of her highlights. I had promised her I would write up something a little more extensive. **Carol Stephens**

Georgia Women For a Change is a bipartisan coalition of many women's organizations formed to research, draft laws, and secure sponsors for legislation that protects the economic security of women and prevents violence against women and girls.

Interesting and concerning observation from GWFC: **The recent redistricting specifically targeted white females.**

Women's Engagement in the Political Process: as Voters, as Candidates, as Organizers

What do women bring to the political process? We bring a different viewpoint about issues than men, we bring issues that relate to women and children, we are big picture thinkers rather than the detailers, we bring a vote.

When we approach men about passing legislation we cannot just talk about why it is good and just, we must relate it to their bottom line of dollars and cents.

Why do women avoid the political process? It is a blood sport! However, if we don't play, we will be left behind! There is a blurring of the lines, we don't want to "play the game", but we can't win if we are not at the table. The cons outweigh the pros, but the pros should be enough in themselves. Women do not see themselves as leaders. Why do we have that self-image? It is difficult finding the balance with our roles as mothers. However, many women pointed out that our children learn from parent involvement. If we want to change that self-image, then we have to step out there and do it! There are other ways to be involved instead of running for office. Actively seek appointments to government advisory boards.

Women need to be ASKED to run, while men INITIATE a run. So, if you know a good woman to run for office, ASK her to run!

WOMEN AS VOTERS

Be sure to make personal contact with your representatives and senators before the legislative session starts. The best time is over the summer or during the fall. Phone them and introduce yourself and your affiliation with AAUW and what your biggest concerns are or if you don't have any then, just let them know that you will be contacting them in the future about issues as they come up. Ask them if they prefer to be contacted by phone or email and what number or email is best to use. Then when an issue comes up, contact them about that issue, give them information about it and let them know you will be following up about it in the near future. Then, follow up about it! When the legislative session is over, be sure to recontact them to thank them for their votes or to remind them that they did not vote the way you had hoped they would and that you will be in contact with them in the future about other issues. This is good because it lets them know that you are not just mass emailing things, but that you are watching to see what they have done.

Did you know that the first national strike of domestic workers took place in Atlanta in 1881?

Shirley Franklin: The main message that Shirley had for all of us - OVERREACH! Stretch yourself emotionally, physically, and intellectually!

How do you pay your CIVIC RENT? Continue to push! Don't speak up and sit down; speak up and continue speaking up!

Important information resources:

2020georgia.org is a broad alliance of community leaders and organizations whose goal is to promote a balanced approach to budget and revenue solutions that meet the short and long-term needs of our state. 2020georgia.org

Cobb County Board of elections for a list of our elected officials by district.

Georgia Government alphabetical list of legislators and their contact info as well as what committees they serve on.