



Cobb Update

Volume 28, Issue 7

March, 2012

Special Dates of Interest

- March 13th - Branch Meeting
- March 17th - CTAUN
- March 19th - Book Group
- March 31st STEM Workshop
- April 6th - Roving Gourmet
- April 13-14 State Convention in Savannah



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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"Can You See Us?" Hispanic Women in the Community

TUESDAY, MARCH 13th, 2012

7:00 p.m.

at MANSOUR CENTER
995 Roswell Street, Marietta, GA 30060

We will also spend some time brainstorming in small groups concerning ways in which we can be more responsive to the needs of women and girls, so plan to attend and bring your ideas to share.



SATURDAY, MARCH 31st

AAUW STEM PROGRAM

"UTEACH: WE'LL LEARN"

SPSU STEM students and greater Atlanta students

Special thanks to our member Nancy Coakley

and her committee for this great program.



Book Group

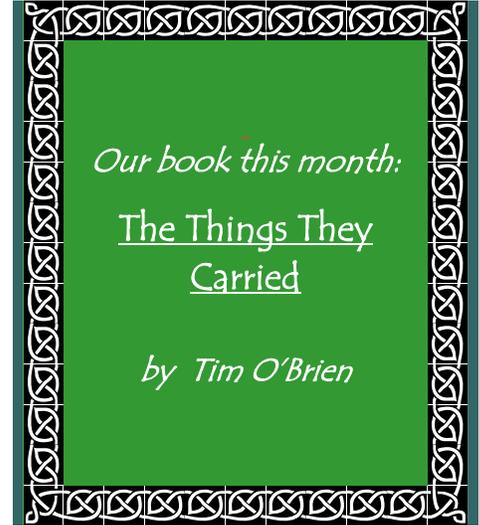
For additional Book Group information please
email or call Denise Bossarte at
dci_bst@hotmail.com

Our Book Group meeting will be Monday, March 19th at 7:30 pm
in the home of

Joan Zenteno
221 Ennisbrook Drive
Smyrna, GA 30082

Joan will facilitate the discussion of the book.
A little leprechaun told me Rita Neal will bring ice cream!!

Please RSVP to: jzenteno@bellsouth.net
or 678-309-1323



ROVING GOURMET



FRIDAY, April 6th, 7:00 p.m.

CHINA DOLL

1230 Powers Ferry Road SE # 5
Marietta, GA 30067 (770) 955-6544

www.chinadollmarietta.com

Please RSVP Marie Shockley by Wednesday 4th of April at
mariepearsonshockley@yahoo.com
or 770-984-9928



We look forward to having many of you at our Roving Gourmet events!

BOOKROOM NOTES:

A message from a happy internet purchaser and someone who has newly learned about our organization.

"Hello,

"I just purchased the book - so you do not have to send pictures. However, I do want to thank you so much for all of your wonderful help and extremely kind assistance with my inquiries. You were all great and you definitely come across as a great organization with just the little contact I have had with you. Best of luck with your future sales!

"Kind Regards"

WHO ARE THESE MEMBERS?

Last month's members:

1. Marie Shockley was spelling bee champion in elementary school and has traveled to five continents.
2. Karen Peters had a job which entailed reading out loud (punctuation and all) every day for a law firm.
3. Jo Rae Dahl has sailed in England and the Canary Islands and has visited 63 foreign countries.

Now, who are these members?

1. She lived in Manhattan for 45 years.
2. She was an exercise instructor during graduate school.
3. Is a frustrated actress, having been involved in every single high school and college play, either on stage or behind the scenes, and has her name on a plaque at college for being "Player of the Year" her senior year.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Thanks to Denise Bossarte for taking the initiative following our book club discussion of The Lacuna to invite people over to watch "Frieda" on a Saturday afternoon. She provided the movie, refreshments and popcorn which delighted the group that attended. Marie Shockley is doing a spectacular job of picking up books at Providence. Where do all of those books come from? She has been stopping by two or three times each week to check on things. Thanks also to Debbie Karvey, Shirley Mills, Carol Stephens, Barbara Blue and Sylvia Good-year who also help out.

Good news from both Marie Wilson and Patricia Clay who

are recuperating well from their recent surgeries. And Barbara Stidfole's news is quite exciting as well. I'm hoping that she'll keep us updated on her adventures.

I have been enjoying trips to the capitol and meeting with other women's groups to learn about the issues and how to lobby our legislators. The important thing is that very few people can have an enormous influence just by making our voices heard. The legislators emphasize again and again that they love hearing from their constituents on issues. They are unable to know everything about every bill and enjoy receiving information that is helpful to them in making their decisions. I have been intimidated by the process in the past, but it's fun

getting to know and recognize some of the legislators and the issues that are important as well as some of the women who are very involved in the process. The important thing is to get involved in one way or another either in state politics or in other issues that help women and girls. Other ideas are most welcome.

--Karen



Don't forget our need for workers in the Book Room!!

Working hours in the Book Room are Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 10 am to 2 pm
For more info call the Bookroom at 404-261-7646
Address: 3060 Pharr Court North, Atlanta, GA 30305



"LOOKING AHEAD" INTEREST GROUP

Some of us attended a lecture, part of a series, at Winnwood on Feb 21. on planning an estate sale. Next in the series is an explanation of how to lease your home. The lecture was preceded by a nice brunch (there are lots of "freebies" at these events!) Barbara Hammond has donated some books on aging from her office at KSU for our "lending library". Titles will be sent to our members, for anyone who is interested. Thanks, Barbara!

The next "Looking Ahead" meeting will be Monday, March 12, at 2:00pm, at East Cobb Government Center, in the Conference Room. Some of our topics will be a tour and luncheon at Presbyterian Village, sometime in April, (Elinor Spalten is our contact person), and ideas for future speakers. Any of our branch members are welcome to attend any of our meetings, and/or join us on our tours. Please RSVP to Marty Hughes if you plan to attend. Bring your ideas and concerns to this dynamic new group!



“The problem with the future is that it keeps turning into the present.”

Bill Watterson

Judy Ribarsky, Editor
282 Renae Lane SW, Marietta, GA 30060

Please call, mail, email newsletter articles by the 22nd of the month prior to publication date.

Phone: 770-319-1776
E-mail: jvr@pcvisions.com

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.

S A V E T H E S E D A T E S !!

May 8, 2012 7 p.m. “Sisterhood of the Traveling Women”
MANSOUR CENTER



JUNE 12, 2012 TUESDAY, 6:30 P.M. MANSOUR CENTER.
ANNUAL MEETING, WOMAN OF YEAR PRESENTATION.
(buffet dinner \$28 per person) ** note earlier time



Catching up with members:

Barbara and Gene Stidfole have set their future in motion.

A long time dream has been realized, Barb and Gene will be heading out to Bryce Canyon Lodge, Utah ... to spend 6 months working in a national park. Barbara has always wanted to do this and now it is a reality. So if you are traveling out west, check in with the Stidfoles at Bryce Canyon. They will be there March through October - and plan to do a lot of site-seeing while they are out there.



Their home in East Cobb is on the market and hopefully may have a buyer soon. They are packing up their household in preparation for a final move to Jacksonville, FL ... Barb and Gene will return directly from Utah to set up household in their new home in Ponte Vedra Beach neighborhood. Barbara and Gene, with their children, Dave and Kathy, were previously long time residents in the Jacksonville area. Their grandson, Noah, will be a very short drive away.

Barbara is a lifetime member of AAUW, and a longtime member of AAUW of Cobb County Branch, serving as branch co-president with Carolyn Kotch and as AAUW of Georgia Secretary ... and I know once she gets settled in, she will connect with a branch in the Jacksonville area. I hope to see her at 2013 National AAUW Convention in New Orleans.

For some of us, road trips to visit Barbara and Gene in Florida will be a must. We wish Barb and Gene all the best and will greatly miss them.



DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS:

Tiffany Fannin's email is: tiffanyfannin76@me.com
Barbara Stidfole's email is: barbarastdl3@gmail.com

Greetings from AAUW of Georgia:

Laura Shaw and I want to encourage our branch members to attend the AAUW of Georgia State Convention in Savannah the [weekend of April 13, April 14](#).

Savannah is a terrific place to visit and we hope that many members will plan on coming for a weekend of fun, including our membership gathering at state convention.

It is such an honor to have Linda Hallman, AAUW Executive Director, attend our convention - and we hope many of you look forward to meeting her and talking with her.

We plan to have a dynamic spin to the convention, with a focus on one of our signature projects, Georgia Lobby Corps, as well as a workshop focusing on getting voters out to the polls.

We will have important business to discuss, as well as celebrate our successes this year. The convention will start Friday, April 13th, with registration followed by an awards banquet with guest speakers.

Saturday will be a full convention business day with worthwhile focus on moving Georgia forward and getting AAUW more actively involved in a unified state-focused local outreach.

The convention will be dismissed at a reasonable time Saturday afternoon, when members with friends and family are free to explore the charms of Savannah on their own.

Our convention will be held at the Savannah Hilton Garden Inn-Midtown.

We have reserved double rooms at a convention rate - reasonable, with many amenities, including twice daily shuttle service to the heart of Savannah, if you don't want to drive.

We have secured an excellent catering service with selections that will be made available in advance through the Cherokee Rose Spring issue Convention Registration Form.

Gathering together in the spirit of AAUW's mission and friendship is always a stimulating time ... and we look forward to discovering Savannah together. We hope to be joined by national members living in the Savannah / Statesboro area. Please look for your issue of the Cherokee Rose with registration information and form included, which will be released in mid-March.

Second, I would like to share the opportunity for AAUW of Georgia Lobby Corps members, Virginia Merlini (Cartersville) and Debbie Karvey (Cobb County) to join the Georgia Women's Policy Institute. As inaugural participants, we will have dynamic instruction and first hand exposure to the political process, to active lobbying and to learn how to introduce a resolution to the Georgia Legislature to ensure the security and quality of life for senior women in our state. Working closely with the Georgia Women's Policy Institute is Stephanie Davis and Georgia Women for a Change. Ann Rosenthal, a lobbyist and activist is working closely with Stephanie Davis and facilitates classroom instruction and hands on experience at the capitol. We intend to utilize this information and instruction to enhance the efforts of our own Georgia Lobby Corps. We already have a committed activist in Carol Stephens and greatly appreciate her individual efforts as well as her efforts on behalf of Cobb AAUW Public Policy to keep us informed of important issues at the Georgia State Capitol. She is a true advocate and asset with her passion for good government and responsible leadership.

There will be many opportunities for AAUW of Georgia to make a difference. Join us at convention, join in the efforts to support important issues affecting women in Georgia. In the long run, we can promote positive change and look out for the welfare of all Georgia citizens.

I look forward to seeing many of you at state convention in April. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions. And I look forward to seeing you at the next branch meeting at the Mansour Center.

Respectfully,

Debbie Karvey,

AAUW of Georgia Co-President



CTAUN Presents
The Fifth Annual Atlanta Conference
WATER: GLOBAL AND LOCAL CHALLENGES
Saturday, 17 March 2012 8:30 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.
 College of Education, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

LWV Lobby Day

Karen Peters, Debbie Karvey, and Carol Stephens attended the February Program at the LWV Lobby Day at the State Capitol on Thurs. Feb. 16th. What an informative session presented by a "cast of stars"! We heard from various legislators in support and opposed to the State Charter School Amendment proposal, as well as Verdaillia Turner from AFT (American Federated Teachers) who presented that group's legislative priorities.

We also heard from a member of the Non-Civil Judiciary Committee that was hearing a bill that day to consider making it a felony for an abortion to be performed on any woman regardless of circumstances beyond 20 weeks. If the health of the mother is in jeopardy and the "abortion" was medically necessary to save the mother's life, HB 954 requires the doctor to do all that is medically feasible to preserve the life of the fetus to ensure its viability. The rationale behind this law is that some in the medical profession believe that at 20 weeks a fetus can feel pain. Karen, Debbie, and Carol attended the Committee Hearing that afternoon among 180 other individuals. Two of Cobb County's legislators sit on that committee, Rep. Rich Golick, Chair and Rep. Ed Setzler. When the minority Whip, Rep. Stacey Abrams, asked whether the sponsor of the bill was responding to many constituents demands, he acknowledged that no constituent had come to him for this legislation, only his wife. You may have heard that a Police officer who was elected to represent a Clayton County district has filed a "vasectomy limitations" bill in response to this piece of legislation. She also sits on that committee.

Brian Kemp, our 2010 elected Secretary of State, spoke to us about voter registration efforts as well as electronic voting efforts. It appears that he is trying to open up the registration and voting process and improve access to our military citizens stationed overseas. Check out the new MVP button (My Voter Page) at the sos.ga.gov website. It allows you to track your absentee ballot process.

Anton Gunn, Regional Director of U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, spoke about the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (affectionately known as Obama Care). You can go to www.healthcare.gov to learn more about it. Basically, he said that the new health care act 1) expands access to health insurance 2) makes it more affordable for those who struggle to have it 3) provides for consumer/patient protections and choices 4) focuses on quality in the areas of doctor training, research, communication, and discharge plans 5) encourages/rewards prevention and public health efforts as well as response to emergencies. Georgia has received \$24.9 from this Act. This money is going to 1) lower costs for seniors who fall into the "donut hole" as well as there is a 50% cut in brand name drugs and no copay for routine screenings 2) provide \$4.4 million for chronic condition management (ie. diabetes) 3) National Health Service Corps in which a student in a medical program can receive \$175,000 to pay back loans if he/she is willing to serve in underserved areas of the state for given periods of time (2-5 years depending on whether a physician's assistant or doctor) 4) provide \$15 million in biomedical research and 5) provide \$2.6 million to care for expectant mothers and newborns. He was a most impressive speaker and had served as a representative in the South Carolina Legislature. Their loss is the regions gain - an editorial opinion.

The following are some of the bills that received attention at the information session:

HB 663 sponsored by Rep. Benefield which would disallow the use of shackles on women inmates who are in the process of delivering a baby at a hospital. Apparently some counties do shackle women during childbirth and that increases the need for caesarean sections.

SB 391 attempts to address ethics reform and proposes a \$100 cap on any single event paid for by a lobbyist as well as expands the expenditure reporting requirements by lobbyists. Georgia is only one of three states that allows unlimited gifts to legislators by lobbyists.

HB 432 attempts to allow flexible use of earned sick days to be used for the care of a sick child or adult in the family

SR 263 sponsored by Jason Carter that proposes a constitutional amendment to establish a non-partisan, independent commission rather than the General Assembly to make reapportionment decisions

HB 899, 949, SB 325, and 326 all address election reform.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Stephens

