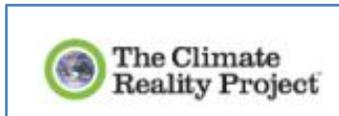




## COBB COUNTY

This past AAUW year, Cobb County members enjoyed guest speakers and programs as well as Bookfair celebrations and holiday concerts together.



In September, after attending an immersive training session for the Climate Reality Project Leadership Corps Activist Training, Gaela Peters and guest, presented excerpts from the training sessions they attended in Atlanta. The statistics and data were beyond informative and revealing.

In the fall, Atlanta, Cobb and North Fulton Branches, combined volunteer efforts to host the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual AAUW Atlanta Bookfair at Perimeter Mall. Patrons, collectors and dealers continue to welcome and support this vital fundraiser. The week long book sale sees individuals, families and others continue to enjoy the world of books. Scholarship recipients can be found volunteering their time as well to "pay it forward."

Our own Bea Piddock presented an engaging program on the 2020 Census. She conveyed the critical importance of the Census and engaged all present with historical tales of past census years and unique cycles that impacted the census we will all complete this year. Online is new this year.



On March 7th, AAUW Cobb co-sponsored a Women's History Day Event at Chattahoochee Tech North Metro Campus. The theme was Women of Action: Turning Dreams into Reality.

After the panel discussion, Dr. Carol Anderson, Emory Professor and author of White Rage and One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression

is Destroying Our Democracy.



AAUW Cobb County partnered again with Chattahoochee Tech Foundation to sponsor 2 scholarships. Like many other gatherings, the April 3<sup>rd</sup> Scholarship Awards Luncheon was cancelled. AAUW Scholarships will be awarded to two students and announced directly through the CTC Foundation office. Helping students in our local communities succeed in their educational pursuits and professional goals validates all the volunteer hours our members contribute during the Atlanta AAUW Bookfair each year.

How do you like our new banner?

*Treatment, care and guidance*

## COLUMBUS

### COLUMBUS AAUW BRANCH IS IN DOUBLE DIGITS!

Yes, it's true; Columbus AAUW Branch is now up to 11 members with the recent addition of 3 new members. We've had some guests recently and hope to add more to our numbers (after the social distancing guidelines are lifted, of course!)

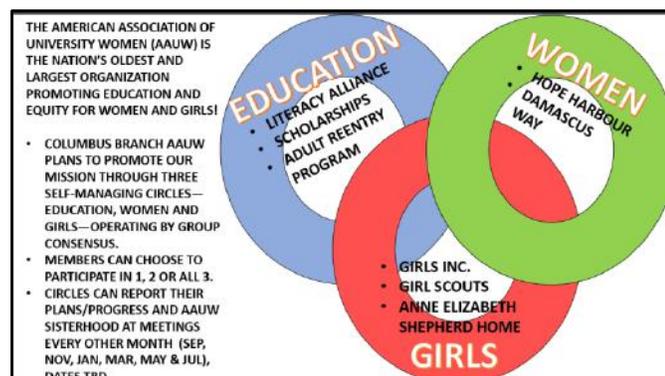
We've made some BIG changes and we'd like to share them with you. Many organizations, including AAUW, are having difficulty recruiting and keeping members engaged. Due to our small size, we reorganized into a more concise arrangement actively involving members without the necessity of a title (belonging to a wonderful organization without a specific job title—how novel is that?) We have a President (to jumpstart us), a Treasurer (to handle the money) and all the members choose to participate in any of three self-managing, focused circles (Education, Women and Girls) meeting every other month (January, March, May, July, September and November).

Rather than having monthly programs/speakers or a single project at a time, members are free to choose any of the circles which align with their own interests. The self-managing circles establish their own group norms, vision, plans, and actions and determine their own mode of communication within their circle that works for the group.

The three self-managing circles support AAUW's mission to promote education and equity for women and girls.

- The EDUCATION CIRCLE focuses on Literacy Alliance (volunteers to increase literacy for preK-adult), Scholarships and Adult Reentry Program (Columbus State University) ;
- The WOMEN'S CIRCLE focuses on the needs of Hope Harbour (home for abused women) and Damascus Way (home for homeless women and children); and
- The GIRLS CIRCLE focuses on Girls Inc. (educating and empowering girls 6-18 to be smart, strong and bold); Girl Scouts (the best everyday leadership development for girls in K-12) and Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Home (residential care for girls 7-18 who are severely disturbed emotionally and/or behaviorally.)

At the beginning of the bimonthly meeting, we share AAUW, GA AAUW news and upcoming events, and then any circle member can share/report their plans and progress. Then we have lunch and visit with each other. We're just getting started, and our membership has given us their support to concurrently head off in a new direction. Let's give it a try!



## HOUSTON PEACH

Since 1974, our Houston-Peach Branch has been sponsoring Reading is Fundamental book distributions in elementary schools in Houston & Peach Counties. About ten years ago we added two non-profit child care centers for low income working parents. Several times a year, children are allowed to select a book to take home to add to their home library. This project is perhaps the most fun an AAUW member could ever have! Just take a look at the faces of these children as they look over possible books, hug their selection, begin reading before they can even return to their seat, and share their book with a friend. At Byron Elementary we were fortunate to be there on Whacky Wednesday as part of Read Across America week...costumes were wonderful! We estimate 60,000-65,000 books have been given since 1974.



## MACON

Longtime members continue to keep AAUW Macon on the map.

## NORTH FULTON



AAUW North Fulton embarked on the 2019/2020 year with our September 21 meeting held at the Doubletree Hotel in Roswell and our special guest speaker, United States Representative Lucy McBath, from Georgia's 6th Congressional District. At our largest ever meeting, Representative McBath addressed the 70 attendees and discussed her first year in Congress along with her legislative accomplishments.

Saturday, October 12, 2019 North Fulton members met for brunch at the Brookwood Grill in Roswell to introduce and celebrate our Gwinnett Technical College scholarship winners for the Fall semester. Uchechi degree and Alayna Petre medical sonography awards two \$1,000 Spring semesters.



introduce and celebrate our Gwinnett scholarship winners for the Fall Thomas is working towards her R.N. is pursuing a degree in diagnostic The North Fulton scholarship program scholarships in the both the Fall and

From September 30 until October 6, 2019 North Fulton participated in the 60th Annual Bookfair with the Atlanta and Cobb County branches. Our pro rata portion of the proceeds of this annual event along with the on-line book sales provides the funds for North Fulton's scholarship awards and donations to AAUW National causes. Several of our members work in the Book Room, gather books from donors and replenish Free Little Libraries.



North Fulton welcomed The Honorable Mary Robichaux, Georgia House of Representatives – District 48, at the Saturday, November 9, 2019 monthly meeting held at one of the branch's favorite meeting sites, Amy's Place. Representative Robichaux discussed her achievements during her first year in office and goals for the coming year.



Our Annual North Fulton Holiday luncheon at Bistro VG was held on Friday, December 13, 2019. Following the luncheon Anna Marie Hoffman invited everyone to her home for dessert and our gently used book exchange. Most sought after book during the friendly exchange? The Dutch House by Ann Patchett.

On Saturday, January 11, 2020, North Fulton members met at Amy's Place, a gathering place for Alzheimer caregivers. Member Sheila Santoro started the new year leading a group discussion concerning loss and change. With a doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology, master's degree in Counseling, multiple postgraduate certifications ranging from Chemical Dependency to Life Coaching and over 30 years of counseling and coaching experiences, Sheila is a licensed professional clinical counselor in the states of Ohio and Georgia.

In February, Anna Fulton to our annual where everyone wears self-isolation, and discussion!



Marie Hoffman treated North Valentine's brunch and business a bit of red. Social distancing, quarantining were topics of

Little did we know that last group discussion would lead to the cancellation of the annual city literary event, "Roswell Reads" in March and delayed our Caravan to the Swan House to see "Any Great Change," an exhibit commemorating the centennial of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. We're looking forward to our next event, whenever it is!

## VALDOSTA

Valdosta A.A.U.W. Branch held their 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sister-to-Sister Summit on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> on the campus of Valdosta State University.

"What Power Do I hold?" was the theme of the 22nd Sister-to-Sister Middle School Girl's Summit Affiliate on March 7th, University's the question was event when grass The efforts of our together with financial process by drafting a Holliman kept up with through gentle email other members



facilitated by the AAUW, Valdosta 2020 at Valdosta State University Center. The answer to formulated months before the root efforts were put into action! treasurer, Dr. Diane Holliman chair, Rosetta Coyne began the letter for community support. Dr. promoting membership donations reminders while Ms. Coyne and traveled in the radius of 45 miles

(the coverage represented by middle schools from three surrounding counties) to present at various community meetings, talk with managers from popular local stores, visit church leaders and later also enlist military women leaders from Moody AFB to join other community women leaders as a team of motivational mentor presenters.



Planning committee efforts lead by the local Valdosta AAUW president Dr. Beverly Richardson-Blake, co-chairs Dr. Jamie Hill and School Counselor Quita Jones, along with Retired K-12 Educator Ms. Rosetta Coyne and Graduate Assistant Dorothy Nickell all rolled up their sleeves and developed what proved to be a historic day that heightened the awareness of the celebration of the 100 year Anniversary of Women's Suffrage. This year's Annual Summit echoed

the theme of the “Power of the Girl” throughout each engaging workshop and activity from 8am throughout the end of the Summit day at 5pm... Vision 2020 and beyond was in the making with almost 100 girls actively learning good decision making skills for a better future!

No local AAUW Valdosta member was left behind in the venture of supporting and/or educating the middle school girl attendees! Many are not identified by name because of their wish to silently support. Others have also consistently contributed as traditional presenters transforming minds with creative experiences on topics that have sparked interest. While Dr. Martha Leake annually facilitates afternoon planetarium shows that are both informative and literally out of this world, Sheila Hall during the morning sessions consistently grounds our middle school girls with the reality of the “power of image” and dangers connected with the misuses of cell phones.

After the registration check in, t-shirt changes, breakfast and short “safety tip” games conducted by Public Health volunteers Senior Airman Amber J. Hester, Airman first Class Ebonie Curry and Staff Sergeant Evelyn Alvarado from Moody Air Base, transitions were made to set the stage for all the events of the day! Powerful introductions were delivered by our Co- chairs Dr. Jamie Hill and Quita Jones welcoming and explaining the “Why” of the Summit and the importance of celebrating the 100 Years of Women’s Suffrage. Immediately following, there was even more attention given to the importance of the day --, the girls were given an opportunity to experience some challenging moments in history that emphasized the issues leading up to the nineteenth amendment. Historical figures were represented through the voices of Valdosta State Theatre Students-Abby Gill, Chloe Ochoa, Caitlyn Palmer and J.T.Whipple depicting the history leading up to women’s suffrage. They’re acting skills took everyone back to a time in history when conversations were about struggles and issues dealing with the inequalities that women faced before, during and after women’s suffrage. Our girls listened attentively to a piece of history that got their undivided attention regarding the importance of the theme of the 22nd Annual Middle School Girls Summit-“What Power Do I Hold?” Vision 2020!



In small groups the girls rotated through three 45 minute interactive morning workshops. Other powerful morning sessions (not mentioned) included “Power of the Girl” delivered by counselors in training Emanii Davis and Jamila Chambers which focused on encouraging young ladies to celebrate their confidence and strength using the G.I.R.L. acronym which stands for Great, Impactful, Real, and Leaders. “Power of Words” presented by Attorney Karla Walker also clearly delivered a message that words are the most powerful force available to humanity. Words can be encouraging or destructive. The girls learned how to choose words that have energy and power with the ability to help and heal instead of hindering, hurting, harming or humiliating.

Next on the agenda was lunch which provided additional food for thought through a panel discussion consisting of four women who are leaders in their career field. The panel included the following individuals: Major Dr. Nicole Croley, Family Practice Physician and Major Lakeatta Tong, Perinatal Nurse who both work at Moody Air Force Base. Also, included on the panel was Chief Leslie Manahan from the Valdosta Police Department and Judge Detria Powell Carter, a Lowndes County Probate Judge. Each one shared what motivated them to pursue their present day careers and more importantly information was shared about the people who made a positive difference in their life when they were faced with making choices during life's most critical moments. They were all candidly honest when responding to the myriad of middle school girl's questions which made this session extremely powerful.

During the afternoon, STEAM activities (not already mentioned sessions) included the "Power of Money" by both Kenya Yarbrough and Donna Farwell from Bank America, "Power of Music/Art" presented by LaNeka Allen (& guests from the Village of Aya) and also Doctor Nicole Croley returned during the afternoon to deliver workshops on the "Power of Nerves". This session dealt with self-checking nerve responses from the cranial nerves. The activities involved stirred up a surge of interesting questions regarding the medical profession. More importantly, all the workshops throughout the Summit were highly engaging, interactive and appeared to create an aura of new confidence in each attendee! As the Summit photographer, this wonderful transformation was reflected through many pictures and later through many informational thank you notes.

Finally, the power of team is evident annually among our members who make Sister-to-Sister a special day for all who attend. Thank you to all members who continue to serve which includes gathering and organizing, getting many items donated, securing financial donations, being actively involved in giving time, energy and sharing creative thoughts to effectively empower middle school girls through a one day annual Summit. We are especially thankful to teachers and counselors who oversee the process of completing an application with accurate information along with a parent's signature. Most importantly, we are grateful to all the community financial supporters who provide



funding or donations that made the 22nd annual Middle School Girl's Summit possible. [Pictured on the left is an example of a civic presentation given by (C) Rosetta Coyne and attendees (L) Vivian Cody and (R) Dr. Beatriz Potter.] This Year's 2020 Summit theme asked a question, "What Power Do I Hold?" which has marked the 100 year Celebration of Women's Suffrage! Each girl who attended is better able to respond to the question because she now has a better understanding that she is a powerful individual who will help build better future communities by recognizing the positive potential within

her and others while at the same time striving to carefully make well informed future life choices! ----- Written by Rosetta Coyne, an AAUW member and an active participant and supporter



Kudos to the Valdosta Branch for the growing success and community support for their Sister-to-Sister program!!!