

# Atlanta Woman's Club



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Patrons of the arts and literature, no doubt, have long appreciated the vision of Mrs. Rebecca Douglas Lowe, Atlanta Woman's Club founder and first president in 1895, and other founding members who felt the AWC should have a "social, literary, and humanitarian" purpose. Certainly for many decades, numerous cultural events have been presented at the AWC. Having addressed our *social* purpose in the *September Newsletter*, I could only begin the discussion in the *October Newsletter* of what the early founders may have meant by asserting that we have a *literary* purpose. In this month's *President's Message*, I continue that exploration.

For decades, with the **Lucille King Thomas Auditorium** built in 1922 just behind the Wimbish Mansion where the AWC meets monthly, **The Atlanta Woman's Club** functioned as a viable venue for cultural events on Peachtree Street prior to and since the opening of the **Arts Alliance** (housing the **Atlanta Symphony**, **Alliance Theatre**, and **High Museum**) and the **Margaret Mitchell House** (featuring various contemporary authors lecturing and reading from their works in the

## Note from Betty Daniels

We will be celebrating the Atlanta Woman's Club's **113<sup>th</sup> Birthday** at the Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. **Cheryl Miller**, Fifth District President of the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs, will be our speaker. The AWC has had a long history of contributing to the Atlanta, Georgia and World communities. So, I hope as many of our members

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home where the author of *Gone with the Wind* once lived). These three unique arenas, showcasing various artists and cultural events and located just blocks from each other, speak to the desire for guests and residents in Atlanta to immerse themselves in the arts.

I happened to read earlier this year in the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution* that **Houdini** appeared on stage at The Atlanta Woman's Club in a performance in 1924, a little known fact today certainly expanding upon the type of artists usually associated with those who have performed at the AWC.

Continuing upon such expansion, AWC's remarkable tenants—**Opera**—have restored the Lucille King Thomas Auditorium, built shortly before Houdini's performance, to what looks now

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as possible will join in paying tribute to our club and its participation with the General Federation of Woman's Clubs. Maybe there will be a special surprise from the Decoration Committee also.

The reporting year for the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs comes to an end on **Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>** and I remind all Department Chairs to think about

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## Department News

### Conservation and Beautification

By Carla Micciche  
Co-Chairman,  
Conservation Department

“Each year, Americans generate millions of tons of waste in our homes and communities.” In my process of learning what and how I could make a difference, I researched the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) website and also conferred with Rhonda Rollins, my friend and colleague at the EPA. You may already be familiar with her as she had joined us for our September luncheon as my guest! She has expressed a sincere interest in our group and also in learning how we could possibly collaborate in conjunction with EPA’s efforts to raise environmental awareness. Perhaps we could participate on clean up days, projects or have an opportunity to attend events that they sponsor. Education is foremost the first step in learning how each of us can take responsibility and raise the awareness of others as it relates to conservation of our natural resources and protection of our environment. I urge you to please take a moment to visit the EPA’s website at <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/index.htm>. I am sure that you will save this to your favorites list as I have because there is a wealth of information

*“Perhaps we could participate on clean up days...”*



that you can certainly refer back to from time to time.

There you will be enlightened as to what we can personally do, no matter how small, to make a positive impact. Also you will learn some interesting facts about Resource Conservation and the types of waste, such as hazardous waste and non-hazardous waste. Please see Betsy Vogel or me after our November meeting should you have an interest in joining our group or just sharing your thoughts and ideas!

*“Each year, Americans generate millions of tons of waste in our homes and communities.”*

### To All Department Chairmen:

Please bring a copy of your reports to be attached to the minutes. We are trying to follow a format suggested by GAFWC at Convention.

Thank you,

*Pat Walsh*

*Recording Secretary*

Bridge Club meets at 10 a. m. on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Monday. We welcome all new members to come join us for a friendly bridge game and lunch.



## Education Department

By Ruth Yurchuck,  
Chairman

On September 18, 2008, the Education Department sponsored Barbara Culmer-Illaw and Claudia Turner as our representatives to the 40th anniversary luncheon of **Literacy Action**. The theme of the gathering was *Writers for Readers*. We have worked with Literacy Action in the past, and will continue to support its efforts to improve literacy in the city of Atlanta. (Please read Barbara's report on the right.)

**National Family Literacy Day** is officially celebrated on **November 1**. It is very important to build awareness of the significance of families working together for a better educated tomorrow.

We still need volunteers to help the Media Specialist at C.W. Hill. Specifically, if you can contribute at least one hour between 10:30 to 1:10, or after 1:40 pm, this would be a great help. Please call Ruth at 770 934 1536 for further information.



*We still need volunteers to help at C W Hill Elementary School—Please call Ruth at 770 934 1536*

## Literacy Action

By Barbara Culmer-Illaw

“To be illiterate in America--or anywhere for that matter--is to be unsafe, uncomfortable, and unprotected.” *James Earl Jones, Actor*

At a luncheon on September 18, **Literacy Action** celebrated 40 years of working to eliminate illiteracy in Atlanta. There are important facts that we as Club members need to know:

- more than 800,00 adults in metro Atlanta are functionally illiterate and cost \$2.6 billion annually in lost wages and productivity

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## *President's Message* – continued from page 1

like a 19<sup>th</sup> century European opera house. Opening as a night club in the summer of 2007 and hosting many special events and celebrities since then, **Opera** in July 2008 was named in the *AJC* as “the best Dance Club in Atlanta, (!)” an accolade definitely representing an expansion upon the use of the original auditorium.

The word “literary,” too, brings to mind that a knowledge of the written word is essential for one to be educated, and in 1895, when the early founders were beginning their woman's club work, being literate was not an option for many children. Essentially, education and, thus, literacy were restricted to economically and socially privileged children. That the founders chose to give AWC a literary purpose can be seen as a call for literacy, so that AWC members were asked to be responsible for spreading the enthusiasm

for literacy and for education, a call wonderfully illustrated in the founding of **Tallulah Falls School** in 1909 in the small Appalachian town in north Georgia where educational opportunities were virtually non-existent at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

I'll save thoughts on TFS for the *December Newsletter* in which I will discuss the “humanitarian” part of AWC's purpose. Certainly, all three of our stated purposes merge beautifully in our work with Tallulah Falls School, as well as in the philanthropic work of AWC's six departments.

*Karen M. Thomson,  
President,  
Atlanta Woman's Club, 2008-2010*

## Membership Update

By Ellen Hicks  
Chairman  
Membership Department

As of October 13, 2008, the Atlanta Woman's Club has 68 members. On that date, the Executive Board approved for membership, effective January 1, 2009, the following individual. Please drop her a note or give her a call and welcome her to our Club.

Dr. Regina Merriwether  
352 Sundown Way, Stone Mountain, GA 30087  
770-498-9471 (home)  
770-771-1218 (cell)  
678-676-1123 (work)  
Birthday: October 14  
Interested in Arts and Education  
Sponsored by Judine Heard  
Endorsed by Reba Morrison and Renee Sanders

Next month we will consider applications for more new members. Remember **your dues for January 1 through December 31, 2009 are now due and payable**. The cost is \$55. Please do **NOT** give your dues to Lucy, Phyllis or Karen. Give them to me or mail them to me at: Ellen Hicks, 230 Rhodes Drive, Marietta, GA 30068.

Thank you for continuing to bring in new members.

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Remember to make your reservations for our **Holiday Party on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.** Tickets are \$25 per person. Black tie optional. Call Reba Morrison at 404 633 8604

*Note from Betty Daniels* – continued from page 1

other contributions they want to make before the end of the year. It is not too early to be thinking about their year-end reports.

Our club still makes a difference in our communities with our generous contributions. We are grateful that our rentals allow us to make financial contributions without our members needing to have fund raising projects during the year. We do have a special club.

*Betty Daniels,  
Second Vice President & Dean of Departments*

*Literacy Action* – continued from page 3

- communities with low literacy levels incur higher health care costs, have elevated welfare rolls, and an under-skilled labor pool
- unfortunately, illiteracy is often perpetuated generation after generation
- 60% of Literacy Action students are under the age of 35, and 90% live at or below the poverty level. More than 40% are the primary caregivers to at least one child; approximately 60% of these caregivers are women
- For as little as \$200, the Atlanta Woman's Club can support a Literacy Action student for one academic year by providing books and materials.

Because literacy is a major GaFWC focus in Education, we hope to follow through with financial support for Literacy Action. And please keep recording the books you have read in 2008. The lists will be collected in December and reported as part of our Education in the Community report.

*"To be illiterate in America—or anywhere for that matter—is to be unsafe, uncomfortable, and unprotected." James Earl Jones, Actor*

Meeting: November 11, 2008

Each month, the General Meeting is sponsored by a department of the Atlanta Woman's Club. If you missed last month's meeting, the International Affairs Department hosted Mrs. Carolyn Young, who spoke about her world travels with her husband, Ambassador Andrew Young.

This month, we celebrate the birthday of the Atlanta Woman's Club with our guest speaker, Cheryl Miller, Fifth District President of the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs.

Reminders:

- Pay your \$55 membership dues (for 2009) to Ellen Hicks (see page 4)
- Bring your Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes to the meeting. The AWC will pay for shipping the shoe boxes. See below for more information about the OCC Shoe Box.

## Operation Christmas Child: Donate a Shoe Box

By Beth Jetha for International Affairs Dept.

The Atlanta Woman's Club collects and donates shoe boxes prepared by its members each year for *Samaritan's Purse*, an international relief organization. These boxes are sent to children of various ages all over the world. Your goal is to offer a bit of cheer and joy to a child with the gifts you enclose in the shoe boxes.

To make a Christmas Shoe Box, first, decide on the child's gender and age range for your box. Age ranges suggested are: 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14. Using an empty, clean shoe box, fill it with toys and goodies that will appeal to the age range you've selected.

These items may include: small toys, school supplies, wash cloths, toothbrushes, stickers & sticker books, combs, hair barrettes, hair bands, small musical instruments, coloring books, writing pads, t-shirts, shorts. If you are packing 4 or more boxes, you may find it helpful to check out items sold at Big Lots, Tuesday Morning or other



*Fill your shoe box with toys that will appeal to the age range of child you have selected.*

discount stores. Also, check out the party favors section of your local drug or department store for toys that are sold in multiple packs. It is recommended that you send solar-powered electronics when you can; otherwise, remember to include working batteries. It is entirely possible that your box may end up with a child who does not have access to *any* batteries so, be practical when considering your choices.

**DO NOT SEND** these items: used or broken objects, food, candy, medication, vitamins, war-related toys (like weaponry or toy soldiers), liquids, lotions, breakable objects, or aerosol-propelled containers.

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*"Your goal is to offer a bit of cheer and joy to a child with the gifts you enclose in the shoe boxes."*

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Beth Jetha

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*O C C Shoe Boxes* from page 5

Put a rubber band around the completed shoe box. Label the shoe box with the gender and age range for the box. **Bring your boxes to the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting and the Club will cover the \$7 shipping for each of the boxes.**

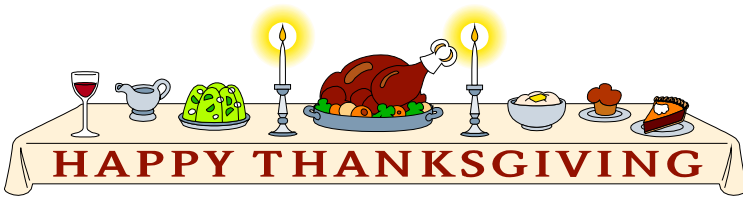
If you miss the drop off at our Club, you will have to take your boxes directly to the designated sites around the Atlanta area. Enter your zip code at the website, [http://www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/OCC/Drop\\_Off\\_Locations/](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/OCC/Drop_Off_Locations/) to find out the nearest drop off site to you. You will also have to include a \$7 check for each box made out to Samaritan's Purse to cover the shipping & handling costs.

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*Missed an issue of the AWC Newsletter? Visit our website: [www.atlwc.com](http://www.atlwc.com) and under "Announcements", click on "Access Newsletter Archive"*

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Collection week for the Shoe Boxes is **Nov. 17 - 24**. If you miss the last drop off date, the website also has instructions for mailing your shoe box to an address in North Carolina. Please notify Patricia Walsh, chairman of the International Affairs department if you are dropping off a shoe box on your own; you may be eligible for reimbursement by our Club for the \$7 per box that you send. If you have questions, call Pat at 770 642 0230.



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