



# Atlanta Woman's Club



Member, Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC)  
General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC)

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## November 2016 Issue

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“Always Honor the Past but Continue to Build for the Future”

On November 11th our club will celebrate its 121st anniversary which is extraordinary! Throughout the past few years, I constantly wonder what our past presidents and club members would think if they could see us now? From the moment we become members, our Atlanta Woman's Club history is such an integral part of us, thanks to the women who came before us. They not only laid a firm foundation that we were able to build upon, but also provided us with the tools to impact our future. The Wimbish House is a perfect example. As members, we will never take this for granted... we are forever grateful to them and we will continue to move forward and progress with positive change. Our Club will always honor the past while continuing to build for the future.

How do we honor the past? We honor our past and our past presidents by continuing their legacy. As we walk through the president's hallway and view their photos, we are reminded of the struggles they endured and the sweat equity they put into this club. They are a constant reminder of the huge responsibility we all have as members, to honor our past, our mission, to uphold our AWC legacy and to be charitable in everything we do. We accomplish this goal in various ways...we post quotes from our past presidents on our website for all members to see, we acknowledge the former presidents at every monthly meeting and by visiting Oakland Cemetery which is the resting place of our founder, Rebecca Douglas

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

Lowe and Nellie Peters Black. Just recently Leigh Reynolds submitted a nomination for our founder, Rebecca Douglas Lowe to be accepted to the Georgia Women of Achievement. In March of 2017 we will open our doors for the Phoenix Flies program, to educate the community of our rich history. If you haven't had a chance to participate or attend Phoenix Flies yet, I encourage each of you to do so. You will learn large and small details about the obstacles and struggles some of those ladies went through to get us here.

How do we build the future? We Change for the better: Change does not change tradition. It strengthens it. Like a butterfly we evolve. Change is a challenge and an opportunity but never a threat.

I would like to share a quote that I lean into when I think about how we can further achieve our mission and it is "Don't follow in the footsteps of the ancient masters; seek what they sought." Although we honor the past, we must continue to evolve by reaching inside of ourselves to seek what they sought.

Although our goals and mission have remained the same since our first day on November 11, 1895, I am proud to say that our approach over the years have transformed and evolved over time. I realize that some feel comfortable in doing things the same way as there is structure in that, but I challenge you to seek what our past presidents sought when they first decided to go against the status quo to create our Club. Our North Star is our mission, but expanding on the ways to achieve that mission should continually develop and change for the better.

Please share with me your ideas about how we can grow, evolve or change for the better. I believe new ideas are the lifeblood of any organization, and it's vital to give them a chance. Although not all ideas come to fruition, we should always keep an open mind to the fact that resistance does not need to kill new ideas but it can, in fact, be the starting point for a discussion about how to progress forward.

As always I look forward to seeing all of you on November 14th as we will have the great pleasure of hearing our State President, Ida Dorvee as our Speaker.

Happy Anniversary to The Atlanta Woman's Club!  
Cimi Douglass  
President, GFWC Atlanta Woman's Club



## CONSERVATION

Conservation Chair Karen Johnson attended LEADS on August 19, 2016 and Institute in Athens, Ga. on August 20, 2016. Other CSP members attending Institute and the Conservation Workshop at Institute were Penny Blackford, Page Henry, Judine Heard, Judy Reece, Connie Morris and Judith Behrens. Highlights of the Conservation Workshop were: State Chair Cindy Tisdale and Co-chair Catherine Douds, presented many great ideas such as planting Pollinator Gardens, for bees and butterflies, planting Milkweed for Monarch Butterflies, reading to school children about Conservation, and a quiz on how long it takes glass, nylon, plastic bottles, magazines, Styrofoam, disposable diapers, aluminum cans, and pop can holders to decompose. This year Conservation CSP has partnered with Captain Planet to plant milkweed in Captain Planet supported school gardens and we are pursuing information about plantings in public lands.



The Conservation CSP continued to be busy “snipping blooms” each week this summer in the World Peace Rose Garden at the MLK Jr. Historic National Park and preparing the annual entry in the Atlanta Botanical Gardens Scarecrow event. Special thanks go to: Penny Blackford, Karen Bacheller, Karen Johnson, Page Henry, Catherine Moore and Azam Zedah whom created our “Spirit of Diversity” scarecrow at Page Henry’s club house, to Anita Jansen who crocheted the GFWC logo “Unity in Diversity” sash, and to Billie Harris and her husband

who transported our scarecrow to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens where she is displayed in the Children’s Garden through October 31<sup>st</sup>. Penny Blackford, Karen Johnson, Azam Zedah, Lexa King, Catherine Smith, and Karen Bacheller visited as a group on October 21, 2016 and other members are encouraged to attend throughout October.

In addition to maintaining the World Peace Rose Garden, and Milkweed plantings, other upcoming Conservation CSP plans are to partner with Historic Oakland Cemetery to beautify the historic African American part of the Cemetery which includes the graves of many slaves, possibly to restore Rebecca Lowe’s grave site, to conduct a second Conservation Youth Leadership Conference, and to beautify the National Park Service owned historic homes that accompany the MLK Jr. National Historic site. Please contact Karen Johnson or Penny Blackford if you are interested in being a part of any of these projects or have other conservation related projects you’d like us to consider.

### **The Haven Zoo - Britton Rogers, Conservation Committee Member**

Britton Rogers, Social Media Chair, is friends with Johnie Sue and has been working with The Haven Zoo since June 2016: The Haven Zoo, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization

## CONSERVATION CONT'D

founded by Johnie Sue Thurman, and is located in the greater Atlanta area. Our mission is to establish a permanent, loving home to displaced exotic animals where they will be provided with a diverse diet, an educational habitat, and daily enrichment activities. The Haven Zoo will promote public awareness of conservation issues and animal welfare as well as develop and implement an international survival plan for endangered/critically endangered species. The Haven Zoo's founder and CEO, Johnie Sue Thurman, has been working with exotic animals for over fourteen years in the Atlanta area as well as volunteering and interning at private zoos for ten years. Johnie Sue earned her Master's degree in Anthropology from Georgia State University in 2014, where she focused on human and primate interactions in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She received an international affiliation with the Federal University of Brazil to complete her thesis and post-thesis research in Rio de Janeiro.

The Haven Zoo is very excited to be hosting our first fundraising gala on December 4, 2016 at the Clarkston Community Center. The fundraiser will feature a silent auction, entertainment, animal encounters, dining, and family-friendly activities. Tickets are available at [thehavenzoo.org/events](http://thehavenzoo.org/events). All proceeds will go directly towards land acquisition so we can begin rescuing exotic animals. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

## EDUCATION

Education has been busy and having fun! Genevieve Piturro with the Pajama Program came to Atlanta to visit with Thomasville Heights. Before she arrived Pajama's and Books were sent for the School. While Genevieve was there she got to see the children in their PJ's and read to them. The Pajama Program is opening a reading center in Atlanta. The Pajama Program brings Pajamas and books for children to have a new pair of Pajama's and a bedtime story. This helps the children to wake up with a smile.

We are also working with Dr Vincent Marsh (Dentist) with providing toothbrushes and tooth paste for the children for Trunk or Treat.

Thomasville Heights Elementary has a new Principle Ms. Jones and new staff. The building has seen some renovation and a fence added so the children can go outside. We are working with the school and Community to assist. We have met with Leslie Grant (Atlanta School Board) to get HOBY in Carver High school.

We will have Ms. Shirley Franklin Speaking at our December Luncheon. I will be asking members to bring items for that Luncheon.

Donna Foland, Education CSP Chair  
donna@dgfprop.com

## PUBLIC ISSUES

Many thanks to Jodee Gonzales, Janecia Heard, Judine Heard, Tracy Willis and Lexa King for volunteering at the Candler Park Tour of Homes last month. We helped the historic Candler Park neighborhood raise almost \$7000.

Hopefully, you will remember to vote on Nov.8<sup>th</sup>. If you volunteered at voter registration, a polling station or by driving voters to a polling station, please let me know by dropping me a line at [beth.jetha@gmail.com](mailto:beth.jetha@gmail.com) You may also call me and let me know by phone at 770.331.0933.

This Veterans Day, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, a number of restaurants and retail establishments are offering freebies to veterans and active duty military. Among the restaurants offering free meals are IHOP, Applebee's and Chili's. Great Clips will offer free haircuts to veterans. Lowe's and other retailers are offering sales discounts. Most of these businesses will require valid proof of military service, so phone them before showing up. For more information, check out the website: <http://militarybenefits.info/miscellaneous-discounts-veterans-day-deals-veterans>

Watch your e-mail Inbox and please read the weekly AWC announcement, the newsletter and/or sign up sheets at Club general meetings for volunteer opportunities. Coming up:

December Client Holiday Lunch, Georgia Justice Project—This event is held on a Saturday in December, sometimes coinciding with the Macy's Christmas Parade on Peachtree street, at a church near Wimbish House. The Georgia Justice Project needs volunteers to set up, take down, supervise arts/crafts for children, and plate up lunch for almost 200 attendees.

The Atlanta Beltline Bus Tour—Date is yet to be determined. Transportation and urban revitalization are serious policy matters which will come up during the upcoming 2017 mayoral race. Our members need to familiarize ourselves with the 20-year Beltline Project and think about its impact on our city and our community.

Beth Jetha, Public Issues CSP Chair

[beth.jetha@gmail.com](mailto:beth.jetha@gmail.com)

## ESO BOOK CLUB

Representatives from The Atlanta Woman's Club will be attending The Milton Literacy Festival Saturday November 12th on the invitation by author Kimberly Brock.

For January The GFWC Atlanta Woman's Club book club is reading Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly. More details to come.

Melodie Rogers, ESO Book Club

## HOME LIFE

On October 19, two ladies from AWC volunteered at the Atlanta Community Food Bank. The time was spent wrapping the Food Drive Barrels, which will be used for food collection all over the city. On November 16, Home Life will assist with the H.E.A.T. annual meeting. We will provide centerpieces and handle the registration of guests. Ann W. Cramer will be the speaker. H.E.A.T. stands for Heating Energy Assistance Team and provides assistance with heating to low income people in need. There is a need for one more volunteer.

Connie Morris, Home Life CSP Chair

[momconnie@bellsouth.net](mailto:momconnie@bellsouth.net)

### **Anita Jansen, Home Life Committee Member - Jewels for Jewels/Gifts for Gents**

Home Life is collecting new or gently used jewelry and other small gifts that delight for AG Rhodes Health and Rehabilitation Center (350 Blvd SE, Atlanta, GA 30312) for men and women. The items will be distributed on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3pm.

Please contact Anita Jansen at [anitaewjansen@gmail.com](mailto:anitaewjansen@gmail.com) with any questions.

## INTERNATIONAL

International would like to thank everyone for their UNICEF contributions and food donations for World Food Day. We sent 78 pounds of food to the Atlanta Food Bank plus a check from the Club for \$500. Club members also contributed a total of \$241.25 in our UNICEF boxes. We will be sending a supplemental check in November to UNICEF. Thank you for being so generous.

Club members enjoyed hearing Kate Herndon speak about the Heifer program, everyone had a better understanding of how the concept of Heifer actually works. We gave \$250 to Heifer for a water buffalo. Thank you for all of your support to International. In February we will have a hands on activity, stay tuned!

Pat Walsh, International CSP Chair

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Johanna Bunch

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## GFWC/GFWC GA SPECIAL PROJECT: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Saturday, October 22, six ladies from the AWC volunteered for Jazzin' for Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (GCADV) Special Fundraising Event held at The Solarium in Decatur. About 175 people were in attendance and all funds raised support the work of the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence. This opportunity for AWC volunteers to serve at this fundraising event allowed us to engage with the communities, partners of GCADV, and GCADV's allies and be one of the catalyst for change in the lives of domestic violence victims.

Page Henry, GFWC/GFWC GA Special Project  
page.henry@harrynorman.com

## ARTS

On Monday, Oct. 24th, the Arts CSP volunteered with drawchange, a local non-profit organization dedicated to using art therapy for children in shelters, at a local children's shelter. These sessions provide hope, and help the children cope with their everyday life. Billie Harris assisted the children as they created their art projects during the session which is provided and facilitated by drawchange. The children were extremely creative and the experience was rewarding for everyone. Volunteer date and time will change for the months of November and December. On **Tuesday, Nov. 29th from 4p-5:30pm** AWC Arts CSP will return with



drawchange, to the shelter. Our regularly scheduled days and time will resume in January. It's all about the journey through their art projects, not the outcome. An art background is not required to volunteer. The only requirements are care and encouragement. If this project is of interest to you, please contact me via email to schedule the month you'd like to volunteer. Only 3 volunteer spaces are available for AWC per month.

The Arts CSP volunteered at the Callanwolde's Fine Arts Center "Halloween Night on Callanwolde Mountain" on Friday, Oct. 28th. Member Catherine Smith came dressed as a 10ft tall giraffe and assisted outside at in the gardens passing out treats to the children. Her costume won Best Homemade Costume in the Country in 2012 on the Today Show.

## ARTS CONT'D

This year Arts will be returning to Callanwolde Fine Arts Center as volunteers for their “Christmas at Callanwolde” event. Volunteers are needed for November 28th thru December 13th. Shifts are 10:30a-2:30p and 2:30p-6p. There will be a sign up sheet with all of the details about this event at the Nov. 14th meeting.

As Arts begin to “rock and roll” there will be a meeting of all of the members who signed up for Arts on **Thurs., Nov. 17th at 6:30pm**. Location details will follow soon. Please save the date. This meeting will cover important info on forthcoming projects and volunteer opportunities.

If there are any members who are interested in becoming part of the Arts CSP please let me know at our Nov. 14th meeting. There will be a sign up sheet for drawchange, Callanwolde, and for members who are interested in joining the Arts CSP on the back table. I'd love to have you join me in making a difference in the lives of others through the amazing world of Art!

Billie Harris, Art CSP Chair

hawcinc@live.com



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