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General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC)

President's Message

(2012 President's report submitted to GFWC Georgia) In November 1895 when Rebecca Douglas Lowe was elected as the first President of the Atlanta Woman's Club, she stated that "The object of the Club is threefold: social, literary, and humanitarian. We wish to bring all of the earnest minded, capable women of Atlanta in a union of common fellowship. There are many women here of fine ability whom it (the Club) will develop and who in turn will develop it." With these words in mind the members of the AWC decided to seek out these women of the city and its environs to encourage them to join our fellowship in order to make them aware of our club's enormous effect on our community, our state and the world at large.

Increasing our membership was a priority for our club. Submitting an ad to the local newspaper as they did in 1895 would not get the same effect that it did then. Knowing that we wanted women of all ages, all walks of life and all professions as our members, we chose to embrace social media.

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 Hanson, new member of AWC

Speaker Spotlight

We plan to have a very exciting meeting on March 11th! In celebration of Women's History Month, we have invited a very special speaker to our event, a young lady who is definitely making history!



Melissa Wyllie serves as President of Historic Nashville, Inc., and is a preservationist devoted to saving the historic places that make Nashville unique. Melissa will share best practices on engaging the community and organizing events.

Melissa is also President and Founder of Found Feather Communications. She spent the last decade leading communications for a variety of organizations: public and private, health care and nonprofits, managing artists and serving as editorial support and marketing lead for authors and publishing companies. She has walked on both the corporate and consultant side of the line.

Prior to launching Found Feather, Melissa served as Media Relations Director for a publicly-traded health care company. Her experience also includes leading marketing and public relations for a high-growth restaurant management company. She has managed million dollar corporate events, wrangled VIPs like Rudy Giuliani and Newt Gingrich, led PR and marketing for a new reality TV show and picked up an International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Silver Quill Award for her internal communications campaign during a corporate merger. In her tenure as Media Relations Director she successfully increased national media coverage by over 200 percent in three years.

Melissa is a graduate from the University of Alabama and is proud to have served as editor-in-chief of the University's award-winning paper: *The Crimson White*. Melissa is an enthusiastic cook, writer of fiction and aficionado of all things literary. She and her husband live in Nashville with their daughters Magnolia and Arabella.

President's message continued...

We started a Facebook page, and encouraged our members at every meeting to visit and comment. We are also on LinkedIn and Twitter. Most of our potential members come from our website so we have revamped that and a new, more dynamic web site will be introduced in a few weeks. Each month we host several guests and vote in one to three new members.

The monthly meetings are key to retention. Here they learn that the volunteer opportunities are abundant. They rock babies at Genesis: A New Life or sew little dresses for Africa or they can clean up parks and roadways. beautify AWC members dictionaries to the local elementary school, pack backpacks for children going back to school or they can pack boxes for Operation Christmas Child. They lace up their shoes and walk with other for Easter Seals, the Atlanta Food Bank Hunger Walk, Breast Cancer or March of Dimes. In addition to that, they donate their shoes to Soles-4-Soles, their jackets and gloves to the Faith Mission, collect food for the hungry, beverage tops for Ronald McDonald House, watches for the American Mural Project, phones for victims of domestic violence, ties for the women in Haiti to create sustainable business, and eyeglasses redistribution to the needy. They also collect toilet paper, used medicine and vitamin containers for the American Humane Society and veterinary use. AWC Members educate themselves and learn about the Georgia Justice Project which is devoted to eliminating injustice in the criminal justice system as well as baking cookies, paint faces, take photographs or create videos at their "Back to School" event in July. They enjoy shopping for gifts, wrapping presents, serving food, cleaning up or helping with the nativity play at Georgia Justice Project's Christmas Party. AWC Members learn about bullying in schools through speakers like Sarah Knight from the Anti-Prejudice Consortium, in addition to learning about public issues important to our community, especially during an election year, from speakers representing various civic organizations. Our members learn about our association and support for Tallulah Falls School from President Peevy who is invited every year to speak to us. They also learn about our strong affiliation with the General Federation of Women's Clubs and GFWC Georgia when we invite our State President to address our members and guests.

In addition to the many literary and humanitarian projects stated, it is imperative to include the social aspects. This year I appointed a Social Outreach Chair whose job is to create social activities that support our projects. As a result we have attended plays and movies for Arts. We have toured Oakland Cemetery, Atlanta Botanical Gardens and The Municipal Market (founded by AWC) for Conservation. We have had group dinners and a New Member Receptions to support Membership, and formed a Book Club to support ESO. Our Annual Holiday Party features a Silent Auction to benefit one of our Community Service Projects. This year our proceeds will benefit *Hope for Our Heroes* and our Annual Membership Tea honors and contributes scholarships to students in a local high school within our community.

Our new members are always excited to learn that they can be involved in deciding where the AWC will donate the proceeds from our event sales. In addition to the many organizations already mentioned, we donate to Operation Smile, Heifer International, Camp Toccoa, as well as PETA to support the humane treatment of animals. We donate to the Atlanta Community Food Bank, American Red Cross, Veterans Affairs and Habitat for Humanity. Where there is a need, we will find a way to support it.

For those members that cannot make all the monthly meetings, our newsletter keeps them informed of our projects and events. It educates them about advocacy, regional issues, important civic dates and history. It is emailed to them a week before our meeting with reminders and information about our speakers.

In summary, the AWC increased its Membership this year by almost 35%. We participated in more than 100 programs and donated more than \$200,000 to projects. Our diverse group of members is diligent, dedicated and determined to make our community, state and world a better place for all. I am proud to serve as their President and look forward to our continued growth and advancement in 2013.

See you all at the March 11th meeting. P.S. Bring that crossword puzzle with ya (see the Women's History Month section!)

Karen Clydesdale, President GFWC Atlanta Woman's Club

AWC Celebrates National Wear Red Day

Since the first National Wear Red Day 10 years ago, tremendous strides have been made in the fight against heart disease in women, including:

- 21% fewer women dying from heart disease
- 23% more women aware that it's their #1 health threat

But the fight is far from over as still hundreds of thousands of women AND men die each year. It's time to stand stronger, speak louder, and join in the fight. On February 11, members of AWC did just that -dressed in red, they showed their support for this great cause.



Photo above - Tallulah Falls School Students with Karen Clydesdale, AWC President, Miss Lucy in the center, President Larry Peevy and Ms. Dinah Peevy – courtesy of Chaundra Luckett, Social Outreach.



Mr. Larry Peevy, Tallulah Falls School was our special guest speaker at last month's meeting.

Conservation Community Service Program News

By Penny Blackford

Southeastern Flower Show

As was announced at our last meeting, the Southeastern Horticultural Society (SHS) will be holding the 25th Silver Anniversary



2013 Southeastern Flower Show. The theme is "What's Old is New Again," and will feature antiques, magnificent gardens, guest speakers, cooking demonstrations and kids activities. The event will take place on March 15, 16, and 17 at the Cobb Galleria Centre, 2 Galleria Parkway Southeast, Atlanta, GA 30339.

- All Accesses tickets which give unlimited daily access are \$45
- Advanced Adult tickets are \$18 (available till 3/13/2913)
- Twilight tickets are \$16 (for entry after 4 PM Friday or Saturday)
- Child Grades 1-12 are \$9
- GROUP TICKETS FOR 15 or more at one time are \$17.00

If you are interested in going as part of the AWC GROUP on Friday, March 15 at 11AM, please let me know.

Tickets can be purchased online at http://southeasternflowershow.eventbrite.com/.

Directions and parking info can be obtained at 770-989-5095. Speaker schedule information will be posted on their website at http://www.sehort.org/flower-show/.

Other Upcoming Events

- 1) Free Flowers from the City of Atlanta Greenhouse to beautify Atlanta neighborhoods. Contact Mr. Eric Boswell, 1115 Bankhead Hwy NW at 404 205-3039 or 404 658-7919 or email elboswell@AtlantaGa.Gov.
- 2) Dead Tree Removal in City of Atlanta right of ways. Contact City of Atlanta Parks Customer Service at 404 817-6813 or email parkscustomerservice@AtlantaGa.Gov



March is National Women's History Month, By Karen Clydesdale

American women join with women around the world every year on March 8th to honor the struggles and triumphs of great women of the past as well as those of present day. This actually started 100 years ago at a gathering of women in Copenhagen, Denmark. These women represented 17 different countries. In the late 1960's this celebration of women was brought to the United States and as a result, March became National Women's History Month.

Strength and inspiration can be learned from those who came before us as well as the amazing women working among us today. As we read our own history book, A Light on Peachtree: The History of the Atlanta Woman's Club, we learn so much about our heritage from which we can draw pride, comfort and vision. Each month I include a quote from our book on our agenda to remind us of the legacy of these courageous women.

Did you know that Juliette Gordon Lowe, founder of the Girl Scouts, was a tomboy who shunned the traditional roll defined for women, and that Margaret Mitchell was considered a suffragette of sorts? Stories saluting famous women whose life's details may not be known are being featured on Georgia Public Broadcasting all month long. As you know the ladies of the GFWC Atlanta Woman's Club will be recognizing and celebrating the historic achievements of those women who came before us with our Phoenix Flies program. Libraries. schools and community organizations are being encouraged to focus their efforts this month on the achievements, leadership and courage of those women who helped build America. If we want young girls today to benefit from the courage and wisdom of the women who came before them, then we need to share their stories to inspire them to create their own history. Understanding the true history of our country and our women will help us comprehend and work towards solving the needs of the future.

Women's History RAFFLE AERT!! Complete the women's history crossword puzzle and bring it to our March meeting and be entered into raffles for some fun prizes!

Arts Community News

By Carrie Montagna, Interim Arts Chair



First, we want to send our prayers to our Arts Committee Chair Beth Jetha. Beth is taking some time off from the Club to be with her parents who are ill. We wish her a safe return.

Member Art Contest

The deadline of February 1st, 2013 has come and gone, and now our members are crossing their fingers! Our Club has entries in the Poetry, Short Story and Photography categories of the GFWC Member Art Competition. Carrie Montagna, Pat Walsh and Beth Jetha each submitted a poem; Betty Daniels turned in a short story; Pat Walsh submitted an entry for the Photography-Still Life Category. All artwork was made in 2012 and none of the creators of the entries are professional writers or photographers. In the Craftwork section of the Contest, Pat Walsh has a quilting entry and Dinah Peevy submitted a fiber art work.

Several programs are already well underway in 2013 to support the arts in our communities: Downtown Arts Walk, and Atlanta Symphony Showcase House. The Arts Committee will also be awarding their annual arts scholarships to local high school students in March.

Phoenix Flies is also on our event calendar for March. On Tuesday March 12 and March 19, the Wimbish House will be on tour as part of this program. We will have members dressed in period costume from early 1900 to present day. Scripts will be provided to the members. If you are interested in helping out with this project please contact Karen Clydesdale.

It will be a busy Spring for this committee so if you'd like to join us, please contact Carrie Montagna.

Go, Bookworms, Go!

By Melody Rogers



Our first book club meeting was a huge success! On February 18th, several members gathered at an AWC member's home to review and discuss <u>Praying for Sheetrock</u> by Melissa Fay Greene. A finalist for the 1991 National Book Award and a New York Times Notable book, <u>Praying for Sheetrock</u> is the story of McIntosh County, a small, isolated, and lovely place on the flowery coast of Georgia -- and a county where, in the 1970s, the white sheriff still wielded all the power, controlling everything and everybody. Somehow the sweeping changes of the civil rights movement managed to bypass McIntosh entirely. It took one uneducated, unemployed black man, Thurnell Alston, to challenge the sheriff and his courthouse gang--and to change the way of life in this community forever.

We look forward to the next book club meeting! Contact Melody Rogers if you would like to join!



Members join together to read a classic.



Cat, Dog, or Warrior Princess? AWC To Host Yoga Classes

Believe it or not, these are all names of yoga stretches! Come participate in a class that leaves you feeling relaxed, refreshed, and peaceful. Experience yoga breathing and stretching and feel the wonderful difference yoga makes in your life with the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual benefits long associated with the practice of yoga: stress reduction, greater flexibility, strength, balance, deeper relaxation, yet a heightened awareness and increased ability to focus and concentrate. All levels are welcome, with a special welcome to beginners.

Please join our Yoga Classes for AWC Members and their Guests at the Wimbish House following AWC General Meetings.

<u>Time & Dates</u>: March 11, May 13, and June 10 from 1:15-2:00 pm

Cost: No charge

<u>Instructor</u>: Karen M. Thomson, Ph.D., a certified and registered yoga teacher, RYT 200, holds certification as an Advanced Yoga Teacher, with special training & certification at the Sivananda Yoga Center in the Bahamas. Teaching yoga as a graduate student at Georgia State University, she has taught yoga to hundreds of students for over 30 years through Continuing Education at Kennesaw State University, onsite corporate programs for employees, retreats, workshops, and in her own studio, The Buckhead Yoga Room located in her home.

Bring workout clothes to AWC to change into immediately following our luncheon meeting. Bring your yoga mat or you may borrow one from the instructor.

From the Nominating Committee

There are currently two openings on the Board of Trustees for the term June 2013-June 2015. Current trustees Judine Heard and Donna Foland have graciously agreed to being nominated for this next term.

Judine Heard has been a member of The Atlanta Woman's Club since 2005. Since joining, she has worked on several community service projects and is presently on the Board of Trustees and Chair of AWC's Home Life Community Service Program. Professionally, Judine has been a loan officer of a major bank, Vice President and Manager of a local community bank, and has owned numerous businesses. In addition, she currently does workshops on financial literacy. She considers it a

privilege to serve and is very conscious of the membership in making all decisions.

Donna Foland has been an active member of AWC since joining in 2009. She has served on the Board of Trustees for the past two years while also serving as Chair of the Education Community Service Program for the past four years. Upon joining, she helped with public relations and publicity for AWC. Professionally, Donna started in 1993 DGF Properties, an Asset Management and Property Tax Appeal business. She has been a member of CREW Atlanta for six years, is on the Bettie Brand Advisory Board of the YWCA, has also served on the Advisory Board for the Anti-Prejudice Consortium and Embracing Differences, and enjoys her volunteer service.

Interested in nominating someone for the two open positions on the Board of Trustees? Contact a member of the Nominating Committee:

Betty Daniels Chaundra Luckett Karen Thomson Rita McGregor Melissa Oellerich Judith Behrens Ashley Hall Karen Johnson bdaniels30@att.net bnttbell@yahoo.com kmthomson@bellsouth.net rtmcg23@gmail.com msoellerich@gmail.com judithmbehrens@gmail.com ahall@tutucachoo.com goodmoviesent@aol.com



Atlanta Beltline: "Now Atlanta is Turning Old Tracks Green," says NY Times

By Lisa Banes

The Atlanta Beltline was featured in the February 15th issue of *The New York Times*, which noted the completion of the two-mile corridor known as The Eastside Trail and described it as "one of the first legs of an ambitious proposal that has been in the works since the early 2000s — to transform 22 miles of vine-covered railroad into parks, housing and public transit around Atlanta."

According to the article, which was written by the Times' Robbie Brown, "60 acres of parks have been built and five miles paved for bike baths in the past five years. Thousands of people walk and bike along the Eastside Trail, which runs from the city's largest park to the historically black and rapidly gentrifying Old Fourth Ward neighborhood, where the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was born and lived."

When completed, the Beltline will link 45 neighborhoods within a two to four mile radius of downtown and increase the amount of park space in the city by 40 percent. Christopher B. Leinberger, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution who specializes in urban redevelopment, called The Beltline's potential "one of the most important transportation projects of the 21st century."

Is anyone interested in attending an organized bus tour of The Beltline? If we can get 30 participants, we can arrange a free tour for our group. Bus tours take 3 hours (usually 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.) and provide the only current public access to several sites. If you're interested, please email lisabanes@nolossforwords.com and let me know which days and times are best for you.

GJP Grass Roots Justice Awards

The Georgia Justice Project's Grass Roots Justice Awards will be held on Thursday, April 11th at Greystone Hall at Piedmont Park. Honorees are Teri P. McClure, general counsel at UPS, and Governor Nathan Deal and the Special Council on Criminal Justice Reform. Details on tickets, reservations and participation will be available soon. For ongoing updates, see gip.org.

Wish we'd thought of this...

A jewelry designer in Connecticut named Jessica Mindich has come up with an insightful way to transform dangerous guns and bullets into beautiful jewelry that makes an important social statement. Jewelry for a Cause repurposes firearms seized by police or obtained through buyback programs, using the metal from the guns and bullet casings to hand-make striking cuff and bangle bracelets with the gun's serial number etched into the surface. Called the Caliber Collection, which refers to both the caliber of a gun and how the caliber of a city is raised when illegal guns are taken off its streets,

the bracelets are available in several unisex sizes in brass or steel. Prices start at \$150 and a portion of the proceeds will fund future Gun Buyback Amnesty programs. Shop at calibercollection.com.

Home Life Community Service Program News By Judine Heard, Chair

GENESIS A new life.

Genesis – A New Life

Don't forget that the second Tuesday of each month we volunteer at Genesis from 10:00 to Noon.

If you are interested in joining us, please call Judine at 404-768-8376. A binder will be placed at the front desk specifically for the Atlanta Woman's Club members to sign-in. For more information on Genesis go to: http://www.genesisanewlife.org/.

American Diabetes: March 23rd is American Diabetes Alert Day and the following is a summary of some of the points to remember: diabetes is a complex group of diseases with a variety of causes. Scientist believes genes and environmental factors interact to cause diabetes in most cases. People with diabetes have a high blood sugar also called hyperglycemia. Diabetes develops when the body doesn't make enough insulin or is not able to use insulin effectively or both. Two main types of diabetes are type1 and type 2 diabetes. Gestational diabetes is a third form that develops only during pregnancy. For more information contact: American Association of Educators: 1-800-338-3663 or www.diabeteseducator.org

American Diabetes Association/Atlanta, Georgia: 404 320 7100; 225 Peachtree St. N.E. Suite 550 Atlanta, Ga. 30303

Special Project: 2013 United Way Shoebox Project: Homeless women and children need your help. Create personal care packages by donating a decorated shoebox filled with toiletries. Non-profits homeless women and children shelter apply to United Way participate in the project. Shoeboxes will be distributed to homeless women and children on Mother's Day. Please bring your boxes to the March 1 or April meeting. Any decorated shoe box is appropriate but make sure your box can be opened for safety inspections.*

Suggested items: travel size shampoo; deodorant; travel size soap; toothbrush and toothpaste; travel size lotion; hair comb/brush; sun protector; lip balm; adhesive bandages; hand dowels; antibiotic ointment; socks; tampons; panty liners; travel size water bottles; rain ponchos; resealable zipper storage bags; prepaid phone cards. Please no medicine, food, sewing kits used or opened items.

<u>Hunger Walk</u>: Take the next step against hunger and join the Wimbish Walkers for annual Hunger Walk/Run on Sunday, March 10 at Turner Field. The Atlanta Woman's Club donations will go to Atlanta Community Food Bank.

Whether you donate or not make plans to spend the afternoon with other members and their families. This is a wonderful time to get to know each other while supporting an important cause. The event opens at Noon and the fun run/walk starts at 2:00.

If you are joining us we will meet at the Team Tent in the Green Lot no later than 1:45. While it can become quite noisy, I'll keep my phone on in the event you need to find the group (404-768-8376).

<u>Home Life CSP Meeting</u>: There will be a meeting in the Sun Room following the general meeting on March 11. Make plans to attend and discuss activities.

*Source: United Way Atlanta.



GFWC, GFWC Georgia, and AWC's Important Links!

Here are a few links we think you may be interested in. Feel free to click on the links and "Like" Facebook pages, sign up for newsletters, and read additional information about GFWC and GFWC Georgia's new initiatives on a National level and on a State level.

Our Facebook page is growing every day, Chaundra Luckett, our Social Outreach Chair posts new photos and inspirational quotes every week. Please "Like" our page, you'll be glad you did!!

AWC's Facebook Page:

http://www.facebook.com/TheAtlantaWomansClubEst 1895

AWC's LinkedIN Page:

http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Atlanta-Womans-Club-4384622/about

GFWC Georgia's Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/GaFWC

GFWC's Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/GFWCMembers

To receive the GFWC's's **News & Notes Weekly Bulletins**, please sign up at: www.gfwc.org/gfwc/Join Our Mailing List.asp

New Membership News

By Cimi Douglass

Ladies, it is my pleasure to introduce and welcome our first new member of the year, Ms. Alexandra Hanson.

Alex has attended two meetings, and simply loved meeting some of you during her visits with us. Upon approval of her membership, I asked Alex if she would write a brief bio for posting in our newsletter so all of you are able to learn a little more about her.



"As a Georgia native, I have always been familiar with the Atlanta Woman's Club. I admire their contributions to the community and truly enjoy their kind, generous nature. I grew up in Johns Creek, Georgia and graduated from Georgia State University with a degree in accounting and hospitality this past

May. I currently reside in Midtown and work for my family's company, POC Ventures, in Alpharetta, GA. Last year I was diagnosed with stage three brain cancer and spent nine months going through chemotherapy and radiation at Emory Hospital. I received so much love and support from those in the Atlanta community and I am so appreciative to now have the opportunity to give back through the efforts of the Atlanta Woman's Club."

Ladies - if you have a moment at the March meeting, please find Alex and give her a warm AWC welcome. She is a wonderful addition to the Club!

We look forward to seeing all of you on March 11th, as well as welcoming new members and guests at our meetings throughout the entire year. If anyone has any questions, needs additional information about joining our club, or would like Membership to reach out to a potential member, please contact me at cimi.douglass@gmail.com.

Tallulah Falls School News

By Lucy Willard, Tallulah Falls School Committee Chair



A tour of the school is being organized for March 8th. If you have interest in visiting the school during that time with AWC members, please talk with Mrs. Lucy Willard.

Tallulah Falls School is also proud to announce that one of their students, Young Jun Yi, has been named the STAR student for Habersham County. Young Jun had the highest SAT score of all of the Habersham Co high school seniors. Seniors from the four high schools in Habersham Co competed for this award.

Many activities are already underway at the school to get students engaged in conservation, preservation, physical endurance, and team work. Please see the last page of our newsletter for some beautiful photos.



GFWC Georgia Annual District Meeting

You're Invited to the GFWC Annual District Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 21st Time: 9:30 a.m. – Refreshments

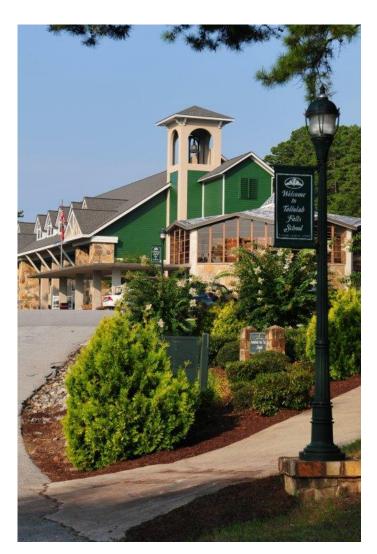
10:00 a.m. – Meeting Begins

Where: The Wimbish House

If you would like to attend please mail your check for \$18.00 by March 13 to:

Ruth Yurchuck 986 Arlington Drive Tucker GA 30084

Members are also asked to bring any of the following for the Humane Society: Cat Litter (non clumping clay type,) 2 cup stainless steel dog bowls, Laundry detergent (that fights odor and germs), plastic grocery bags, newspaper, empty paper towel and toilet paper rolls, pet shampoo and old bath linens (bath, hand towels and wash cloths). This is for the District President's Project, North Fulton/ Mansell Humane Society.



The new library has been completed at the school. The old library, pictured, will be gutted in preparation of its conversion into the new school entrance/lobby.



Students take advantage of the available resources in the area. Pictured are one of the classes learning how to handle a water craft on the still waters of Tallulah Lake, located directly behind the school.



Members of the Tallulah Falls School
Juniorettes, one the State Federation's high
school clubs, has adopted the White family
cemetery on Tallulah Falls campus.
Juniorette members regularly trim limbs,
pull weeds and rake leaves to maintain this
cemetery. Pictured are members cleaning
the cemetery.

ATLANTA WOMAN'S CLUB ROSTER OF OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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Cimi Douglass, 1st Vice President
Dinah Peevy, 2nd Vice President
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Judine Heard (Interim) Bridge
Barbara Culmer-Ilaw, Budget
Sarah Helen Killgore, Historian/ Women's History
Betty Daniels, Nominating Committee
Lisa Banes, Logo, Website & Social Media, Marketing
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Lucy Willard, Tallulah Falls School

Atlanta Woman's Club 1150 Peachtree Street Atlanta, GA 30309

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