



Atlanta Woman's Club



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A new book entitled *A Light on Peachtree: A History of the Atlanta Woman's Club* documents the role and rise of these “gentlewomen” in the development and identity of Atlanta, ranging from the Club's charter in 1895 through its present-day philanthropic contributions. With a foreword by President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter and an array of historical photographs, the book offers a telling portrait of the importance of female influence in a male-dominated era.

For example, members of the Atlanta Woman's Club were instrumental in establishing many of our city's most significant institutions, including the landing field that became Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Airport and the outdoor produce market that evolved into the Sweet Auburn Curb Market, and most progressive movements, such as compulsory public education, child-labor laws, and a separate juvenile justice court system. At the same time, they cultivated the performing, visual and literary arts, civic involvement, conservation, and community service. The “Light on Peachtree” refers not only to the women's achievements but also to The Wimbish House, the magnificent Midtown mansion that has been the Club's home since 1920. The House is also used as an events venue, and its proceeds help fund the Club's philanthropic activities.

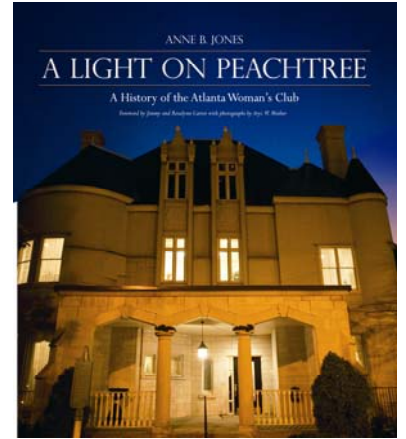
A Light on Peachtree: A History of the Atlanta Woman's Club is being published by Mercer University Press and will be released in March 2012. Copies of the book may be pre-ordered from Mercer University Press and Amazon.com. The book will be introduced and offered for sale at the Atlanta Woman's Club's Annual Spring Tea and Open House (Invitation Only) in April, and author Anne B. Jones and photographer Aryc W. Mosher will be available for signings.

The book's release is especially timely because March is 2012 National Women's History Month, which features *Women's Education—Women's Empowerment* as its theme. Like *A Light on Peachtree*, Women's History Month celebrates the pioneering leadership of women – from different centuries, areas of expertise, cultural backgrounds, and regions of the country –and their impact on the diverse areas of education. 2012 is also the 40th anniversary of the passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the groundbreaking legislation that mandated equal opportunity for females and males in all fields of federally funded public education.

The Atlanta Woman's Club is a non-profit philanthropic organization made up of professional women of all ages, races and religions who share a common goal: to work together to improve our local and global communities, socially, physically, culturally and educationally. The Atlanta Woman's Club owns and operates The Wimbish House, a historic venue in Midtown Atlanta, and funds from its operation are used to support the Club's charitable activities.

An Excerpt of the Foreword by President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter

“The Atlanta Woman’s Club is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-sectarian organization begun in 1895 by resolute women to serve their community, country, and world by generously giving of their time and resources. Driving their dedication was a desire to ameliorate suffering, poverty, injustice, and poor health. Rosalynn and I are pleased to note that the AWC goals are similar to the principles by which our own non-profit organization was started 28 years ago. The Carter Center, in partnership with Emory University, is guided by a commitment to human rights and the alleviation of human suffering. Further, it seeks to prevent and resolve conflicts, enhance freedom and democracy, and improve health. When we were asked to write the Foreword for *A Light on Peachtree: A History of the Atlanta Woman’s Club*, we were honored and excited to participate and recognized the value of this book in enhancing the community’s awareness of the Atlanta Woman’s Club and pride in the outstanding contributions it has made in helping to make Atlanta the successful world-class city it is today.



Many in Atlanta may not realize that our city and the state of Georgia could have faced a very different history had it not been for the successful advocacy and funding of several important projects undertaken by the Atlanta Woman’s Club, most notably with the inception and development of the Atlanta airport. In a meeting initiated by the AWC president in 1925 with the mayor, the Club’s president Mrs. Norman Sharp urged the purchase of a “landing field” south of Atlanta. As a result, the mayor appointed her as a member of the City Landing Field Committee, and she later was elected First Vice President of the Atlanta Chapter of the National Aeronautical Association from which the Atlanta airport evolved. It wasn’t long before all of the states in the South were seeking a way to capitalize on the increasing use of aviation as a principal means to transport people and goods throughout America. Atlanta was first in getting a foothold as a connected city, which allowed us to pull ahead of other large communities. The presence of the “busiest airport in the world,” the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, as it has come to be known now nearly 100 years after that initial meeting, has enabled our vibrant city to attract and keep job-generating businesses like Delta Airlines and Home Depot, while also preserving our life-long relationship with Coca-Cola. How fortunate that Atlanta was able to take this geographic and economic lead, and how fortunate for the impetus and influence of the Atlanta Woman’s Club....”