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General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC)

## May 2017 Issue

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Spring! I simply love this time of the year! Spring brings new life into the world around us as the trees and flowers begin to bloom. I love waking up to the chirping of the birds in the early morning and am energized and inspired to begin a new season in my life. Spring is a hopeful season as it brings transformation and change as we transform from darkness to light, from cold to warm weather, from grey to vibrant bursts of color. It also brings us new beginnings, and offers us a bright, colorful new look which are hopeful signs that life on this earth renews again and again. We don't and shouldn't remain in any one season or cycle in life indefinitely. How boring would that be? Our seasons change and so should we as we look for opportunities for growth in our own personal lives, possibly adding a bit of color to our wardrobe, stepping out of our comfort zone to learn new things or experience new adventures.

This season our club celebrates new beginnings by welcoming our newly elected Board of Trustee officers, Karen Thomson and Lisa Banes. In March our general membership elected Karen and Lisa to serve another term on the BOT – their willingness to serve, input and guidance is very much appreciated. Thank you to all voting members and thank you Karen and Lisa for agreeing to work with us again.

This season our club embraced growth as we hosted our Annual Membership Spring Tea. Our members definitely added color to their wardrobes as we enjoyed our friendships with old and new friends over a cup of tea in an attempt to grow our Club. I have received notes

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

and emails from guests and members thanking us for our warm hospitality. Our 1st Vice President, Tonya Watson has been a busy little bee answering emails and accepting applications from prospective members.

This season, our CSP Chairs are persistent in providing our members opportunities to experience new adventures by creating service opportunities that are inspiring and rewarding. In late March, early April, we volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House, Hillside Hospital, drawchange, walked in the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence Empowerment Walk on April 30<sup>th</sup>, and last, but certainly not least, attended the GFWC Georgia 2017 Convention at the Atlanta Marriott Century Center April 27th-30th.

In addition to our service opportunities, our Committee Chairs invite you to learn new things as we offer our members educational experiences. This month our wonderful committee chairs are organizing private tours of the African American Grave Sites at Historic Oakland Cemetery, private Tour SCAD's Ivy Hall - Wimbish House's historical neighbor, and a private bus tour of the Atlanta Beltline Project .

As always, our club consistently evolves and changes for the better. At our May meeting we will propose updates to our Bylaws and Budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Please review the attached proposed bylaw changes as we will review them at the meeting.

As you know our mission is to encourage our members to engage in activities that benefit the community, but we also want to inspire all of you to feel hopeful about starting anew; doing something different, making a change, trying again, persisting, and believing something light and colorful is ahead for you!

Spring, a lovely reminder of how beautiful change can be – Enjoy it!

Cimi Douglass The Atlanta Woman's Club President 2016-2018



### ARTS

The Power Lines Exhibit, sponsored by GFWC Atlanta Woman's Club Arts CSP, will be opening with a private reception on **Sunday**, **May 21st from 4-6pm** at the Atlanta Artists Center located at 2979 Grandview Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30305. Members are encouraged to attend this amazing exhibit of artwork from local artists.

Arts CSP will volunteer with drawchange on **Monday**, **May 22nd from 4-5:30pm**. We will be assisting the children at the local shelter with their art therapy projects. 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. There will also be a sign up sheet at our general meeting.

Art is in the air, and art festivals are all around us. Here are a few that are going on this month: Chastain Arts Festival @ Chastain Park

4469 Stella Dr Atlanta, GA 30327 May 6th-7th More info at www.chastainparkartsfestival.com

Decatur Arts Festival in Downtown Decatur May 26th-28th More info at www.decaturartsfestival.com Please support our local art community!

Billie Harris, Art CSP Chair hawcinc@live.com

### PUBLIC ISSUES

The Atlanta Beltline Bus Tour is going to be re-scheduled for June. Please watch the weekly newsletters for confirmation of the date and time. There will be a sign-up sheet at the May general meeting. This tour is free for AWC members; if there are extra seats on the bus, they will be open to friends and family for \$25 each.

The Georgia Justice Project Back to School event will be held on Saturday, July 22 at the Dunbar Recreation Center. Mark your calendars for this fun event. The GJP staff expect 325 adults and 160 children in attendance. Volunteers will be needed to help set up, supervise games, take down tents and help with clean up.

Beth Jetha, Public Issues CSP Chair beth.jetha@gmail.com

## TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL

Lucy Willard, Tallulah Falls School Chair

The students at Tallulah Falls School are nearing summer break. The Upper School Baccalaureate and Graduation service will be held on May 12th from 2p-4p. Middle School Awards Day and Graduation will be held on May 16th from 7p-9p. The students' last day of school is on May 20th. Congratulations to the students of Tallulah Falls School on another successful school year!

## CONSERVATION

### International World Peace Rose Garden at MLK Jr. National Park

The "I have a Dream World Peace Rose Garden," 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be held on Thursday May 11, 2017 from 11:30 AM -2:00 PM at MLK Jr. National Historic Site located at 450 Auburn Ave NE, Atlanta, Ga 30312.

This is an inspirational event where 30 student finalists, from all over the world, read their 35 words or less messages about peace with others or their environment; a remembrance of Martin Luther King, Jr. and/or Coretta Scott King; or the special meaning of the World Peace Rose Garden and unveil their engraved plaques in the World Peace Rose Garden.

This will be third year AWC has had the honor of participating in this wonderful celebration. AWC provides the medallions and refreshments for this event in addition to maintaining the rose garden. Volunteers will be needed again this year. Volunteers assist in the following ways: registering award winners; ushering award winners to the award ceremony held in the historic Ebenezer Church and with refreshments after the unveiling of the award winning plaques.

The Inspirational Messages of Peace Contest was created in 1993 by Sylvia Villalobos and TJ David aka The Rose Man. Students range in age from Kindergarten - 11<sup>th</sup> grades. More than 12,000 students participated in the contest from the Atlanta area & California in the United States, and from India, Gaza, Mexico and China. Contact Karen Johnson GoodmoviesEnt@aol.com or Penny Blackford blackfordp@bellsouth.net to attend and or volunteer.

### The Chattahoochee Nature Center

The Chattahoochee Nature Center is again hosting the annual Butterfly Festival on Saturday June 3 and Sunday, June 4. Conservation volunteers at this event every summer and we always have a lot of fun painting the faces of children who attend the festival. This year we need 6 AWC volunteers to face paint on Sunday June 4 from noon to 5 pm.

The Nature Center will provide us with a light lunch and will have some snacks and water available for all day. Plan to wear cool clothing, and bring sunscreen and a hat. There will be a variety of other activities that day for children to teach them about butterflies and conservation so please tell you friends and family about the event!

Karen Johnson, Conservation CSP Chair goodmoviesent@aol.com

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

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Judine Heard, President's Advisor Sarah Helen Kilgore, Historian Leigh Reynolds, Women's History Lucy Willard, Tallulah Falls School Myra Carmon, 1734 Society/GFWC Liaison Jo Dee Gonzalez, Budget Committee Karen Clydesdale, A Seeded Event/LEADS Melodie Rogers, ESO Book Club

Karen Johnson, Peachtree Women's Writers Alliance
Page Henry, Domestic Violence (GFWC & GFWC GA Special Project)
Rita McGregor, Nominating Committee
Cimi Douglass and Judy Reece, Website
Lisa Banes, Marketing/Public Relations
Judy Reece, Member Events/Communications/Weekly Bulletin/Bridge
Britton Rogers, Social Media
Billie Harris, Newsletter Editor