



Atlanta Woman's Club



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

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May 2022 Issue

Hello Ladies,

This is my final newsletter message to all of you as your president. As cliché as it sounds, it is honestly difficult to believe that 2 years have gone by so quickly and now it is time to turn over the gavel to the new administration. They will be introduced and the newly elected officers will be installed at the next General Membership meeting on May 9. You don't want to miss it and please be sure to register as early this week as possible!

The GFWC Georgia Convention was held during April 21-24 at the Hilton in Peachtree City. Karen Clydesdale, Connie Morris, Cimi Douglass, Darlene Kimes, Myra Carmon, Judine Heard and myself were all there. Mother Nature was kind to us and the weather was absolutely beautiful. I think that "Spring has Sprung", ladies! The winners of the awards were announced throughout the weekend and besides the silver platters and bowls, the certificates were distributed.

We shared a lot of ideas, laughs, and enjoyed new and old friendships. Karen Clydesdale had been asked by Shelby Holland, our state president, to give the Inspiration before the formal dinner on Saturday night, and she did quite an awesome job, making us all proud! The AWC was well represented for sure. I will announce the award winners at the meeting and the silver that we won will be on display in the ballroom, so take a moment and check it out. I hope that next year a few more of you will attend this event, and also the GFWC Georgia Institute (which is usually held in August). I promise you not only a good time, but a weekend filled with many new ideas, thoughts and possibilities for upcoming projects for the club.

Many of us have experienced some fairly rough times as we worked through the pandemic, trying our best to stay healthy and keep our

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

families safe from the virus. Sheltering in place, wearing masks, hand sanitizer everywhere, and social distancing were all new experiences that were not very easy to adjust to. No more going out to dinner at our favorite place or even doing a quick drive thru to pick up a McDonald's Big Mac! Almost everyone had to work from home and school was now in any space available in your house. It was challenging for sure. Virtual learning became the "thing" at home as well as for the AWC. Thanks to this "new" thing called Zoom however, we were able to continue the efforts of the club's non-profit work and still work with the communities around us. Our CSP chairs and committee members got creative, and because of their determination and energy we were still able to thrive as a club, hold meetings, do presentations, meet with our non-profit organizations, etc. Although we could not gather for "hands on" volunteering, it did not stop us from helping out in any way that we could. We awarded scholarships, collected and donated art supplies to schools, prescription bottles for animal shelters, pajamas and books for children in need, and supplies for Ronald McDonald House. We also prepared a hot healthy dinner for families living in a facility that was close to the hospital where a sick family member was staying for an extended length of time, making it difficult for the family to travel back and forth. We had the best time together that afternoon, getting to know one another and struggling with a béchamel sauce that turned out incredibly well in the end!

I am really looking forward to our meeting next week on the 9th, as it will be only the 3rd time since June 2020 when my term began, that we have been able to gather together for the BOT meeting, Executive Board meeting and the Membership meeting!

It has been a great ride but I know it has been difficult for everyone to stay connected and interested as we viewed each other "Brady Bunch" style on the computer monitor! I couldn't be more grateful that you all stuck with us, giving the support and kindness that you provided me.

There are many people that I would like to thank for the success we have enjoyed during 2020-2022, and for the unwavering support I have received. Here we go:

~~ Thank you to the **Board of Trustees**, (led by Karen Clydesdale, our current Chair, and Donna Foland co-chair), for their commitment to the club, their time and their diligence to ensure that the finances and property of the Wimbish House were maintained and used properly and that the house is at all times...ready to sparkle and shine!

~~ Thank you to **Judy Reece** who is our Events and Communication chair, Webmaster, and Bridge Chair and coordinator. Hardworking and patient, her support and laughter has helped me tremendously! I have enjoyed getting to know her kitty as well!

~~ Thank you to all of the **CSP chairs** and **co-chairs** along with the **special committee chairs** and their committee members who graciously did the actual planning and execution of the work in giving back to the communities around us. I thank them for sharing their talents, skills, time and enthusiasm with the AWC.

They include: **Billie Harris (Art CSP and Newsletter)**, **Barbara Washburn**, **Darlene Kimes**, **Kelly Feyock**, **Page Henry**, **Ursula Reynolds**, **Karen Clydesdale**, **Judine Heard**, **Britton Rogers**, **Melodie Rogers (ESO)**, and **Myra Carmon**. And a special thank you to **Marie Krane** as co-chair with Kelly and always being willing to assist! If I have forgotten anyone

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

please forgive me but let me know and I will make it up to you!

~~ Thank you to all of the **officers** who kept us all in line and literally ran the club! We have **Connie Morris** the 1st VP and Membership chair, **Penny Blackford** the 2nd VP and Dean of the CSPs, **Gretchen Butler** the Treasurer, **Barbara Washburn** the Asst. Treasurer, **Peggy Pruett** the Recording Secretary, **Beth Jetha** the Parliamentarian, and **Sandie Clendon** the Corresponding Secretary. Great job ladies!

~~ Thank you to **Karen Chydesdale**, my President Adviser, who has helped me more than I can say with her friendship, support and guidance.

~~ And last but certainly not least, ***I want to thank all of YOU*** – the club members – for truly making this club “click” with your continued support of club projects, the people listed above and for rising to the occasion when called upon! We wouldn’t be here without you. Thank you for sticking to us when we had to Zoom and for supporting the in-person meetings as well.

Since joining the Atlanta Woman’s Club in 2013, serving as your president has been one of the most rewarding and humbling experiences that I have ever undertaken. It has been an honor to represent the Atlanta Woman’s Club for GFWC Georgia and a pleasure to meet so many wonderful and strong women who I hope to get to know better in the future.

~~~ Jo Dee

**Jo Dee Gonzalez, AWC President 2020-2022**



## MEMBERSHIP



### **Jennifer Spivey**

Originally from Peralta, New Mexico, Jennifer moved to Atlanta in high school. She attended Georgia State University and received a Bachelor of Science in Geology. After fifteen years working in the environmental field, she left State of Georgia government to work in the real estate industry as a LEED AP and trainer. Today she is a successful commercial real estate associate specializing in buyer / tenant representation and plans to sit for her broker's license in December.

Jennifer co-manages the Midtown Furkids Adoption Center, with 52 volunteers, the small center is on track to close 200 cat adoptions this year. She's also in the fifth and final year serving as President of the COA at Siena at Renaissance, where she has lived for the past 20 years.

Jennifer is married to my best friend Kirby. They celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary April 6. Kirby is an Auburn and GSU graduate and oversees the History department of a national online education company called Progress Learning.



### **Amanda Robinson**

Amanda Robinson is an Alabama native with a bachelor's degree in psychology from Judson College in Marion, Alabama. It was a career move with the Social Security Administration that brought her from Birmingham to the Atlanta area in 1992. She held several management positions with SSA and with other agencies in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Amanda retired in 2008 as Deputy Regional Administrator with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. From her management experience she will bring strong communication skills and organizational skills to AWC. She currently volunteers with The Extension, a long-term residential recovery program in Marietta, where she served on the board at one time. Amanda is a life member of the NAACP and works as a volunteer with the Cobb County Branch, currently focused on vendor recruitment for this year's Juneteenth celebration. To satisfy her love for Atlanta's history, folklore, and art, and to keep current on local happenings, Amanda works one day a week as a tour guide with Atlanta Sightseeing Bus Tours.

### **Connie Morris, 1st Vice President, Membership**



MLK INTERNATIONAL WORLD PEACE ROSE GARDEN

**YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**  
***The 30th Anniversary Celebration***  
*of the*  
***Martin Luther King, Jr. "I Have a Dream"***  
***World Peace Rose Garden***



**Thursday, May 12, 2022, 12:15 p.m.**

***Heritage Sanctuary, Ebenezer Baptist Church***

*407 Auburn Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30312*

*Followed by unveiling of plaques at:*

***The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park***

*450 Auburn Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30312*

*Winning students will read their Inspirational Messages of Peace  
during the ceremony in the historic church where Martin Luther King, Jr.  
preached, and unveil their engraved plaques in the Garden.*

**SPONSORS:**

*The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park  
International World Peace Rose Gardens*

**CONTACT:**

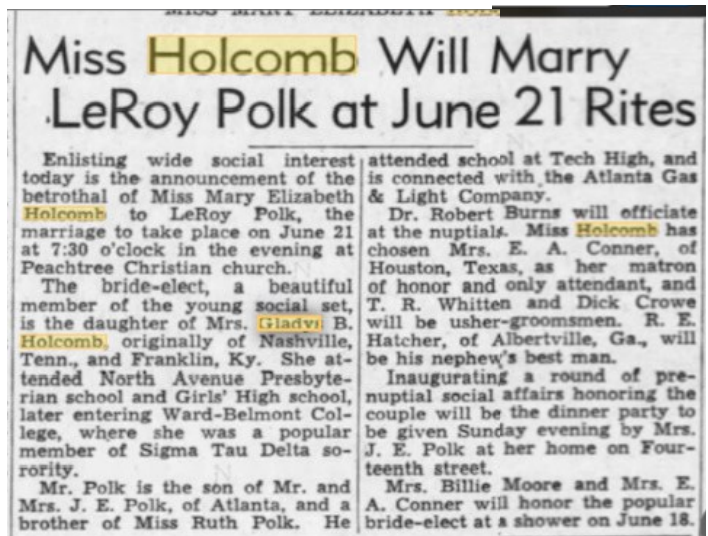
*Mari Hayden: 404.886.6146  
Sylvia Villalobos: 916.395.8303*

## WOMEN'S HISTORY: PHOENIX FLIES

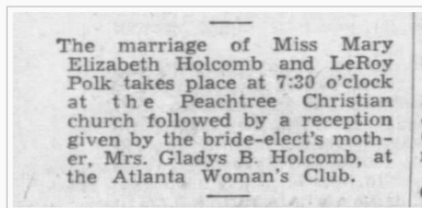


As a continuation of the Women's History Committee Phoenix Flies article last month, the committee will share interesting anecdotes about visitors attending the tours. AWC had 25 visitors to participate in the March 11, 2022, tours. Like in past years, as member docents, dressed in period costume by decade, retold the AWC and Wimbish House history visitors reciprocated with delightful stories of their own. This year was no different. Susan Polk and her brother, LeRoy Polk Jr. came again this year asking where was the "blue room." They believed this room is where their mother lived in the Wimbish House because the reference to the "blue room" was made in a

note that Susan and Leroy's father LeRoy Polk Sr., kept all his life. The note simply said Betty, blue room. Susan and LeRoy think this must have been the note that their father wrote down when he obtained information to call or visit his future bride and Susan and LeRoy's future mother Betty at the Wimbish house. This detail may have been needed to identify which room Betty lived in at the Wimbish House. Although the exact dates are not known Mary Elizabeth "Betty" rented a room in the Wimbish house in the thirties until her wedding on June 21, 1941. According to the AJC article and picture provided by Susan and LeRoy, Betty had both her wedding shower and reception at the Wimbish house.



### The Atlanta Constitution (Atlanta, Georgia) 21 Jun 1941, Sat., Page 11



Mary Elizabeth Holcomb Polk Wedding reception by mother, Gladys B. Holcomb at Atlanta Woman's Club

LeRoy also fondly remembered his paternal grandmother, Mrs. Polk, who owned a boarding house at 63 14<sup>th</sup> Street, mentioning that she frequently went to the Wimbish House to play bridge.

Another serendipitous happening was Liza Dolensky and her friend Bobby Jo who came dressed in vintage clothing circa 1920's. The lovely costumes led to questions and Liza shared that she runs Better Dresses Vintage and The Atlanta Time Travelers. As time travelers, folks dress up to the best of their abilities. Participants buy or sew period correct costumes, but others make do with what they have in their closet or can put together from found items. In setting up the group Liza was adamant that no one would

## WOMEN'S HISTORY: PHOENIX FLIES CONT'D

feel uncomfortable because they do not have this or that historically correct costume. It is all for fun. There are a wide range of members—of all ages, all types. If interested, you can find Time Travelers on Facebook or call Liza at 404 320 9226.

Among other visitors was Lee Cuthbert, representative from the state Department of Economic Development. The department's interest was to scout and out and take pictures of the Wimbish House that may interest Atlanta film makers for future film venues.

In addition to being a fun event Phoenix Flies always brings AWC prospective new members. This year 2 people came to the March General meeting because of their participation in Phoenix Flies.

The Women's History Committee invites you to become involved. If you like dressing up and being part of history as well as making it, please contact Ursula Reynolds at 770 309 1598 so you can become a committee member and part of this fun event next year.

**Written by Penny Blackford**

**Ursula Reynolds, Women's History Chair**

## WIMBISH WEDDING VENDOR SHOWCASE SPRING 2022



May 1, 2022 was our seventh showcase, the first one since 2020! The bi-annual Vendor Showcase was designed and produced to showcase our 'Light on Peachtree' dressed to the nines and to provide prospective couples with a vision of their dream day! Three of our approved caterers set up to show off their most popular items, giving couples a taste of what could be. I then invite one vendor from each possible wedding vendor category to participate. Vendors are all excited to promote themselves and often give discounts to Wimbish couples. It is a great opportunity to get The Wimbish House name out and we are becoming a favorite of all the vendors, referrals are our

life! What sets us apart from big bridal shows is creating an intimate experience so couples can picture themselves having a Wimbish Wedding! The biggest showstopper is Decorator/Florist Jim White Designs! He continues to dream up new and exciting ways to show us off! This most recent gift of decor and design is my favorite! I heard couples comment "This is like an outside garden space but temperature controlled!" (I am definitely using this tagline!) We are looking forward to our Fall Showcase tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Karen Clydesdale, BOT Chair**



## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

### Support for Ronald McDonald House Charities

*The Health and Wellness CSP will be collecting various items to support the Atlanta Ronald McDonald House Charities (ARMHC). As you know, at a McDonald House, families can stay together, interact with other families, enjoy home-cooked meals and receive compassionate hospitality from staff and volunteers just minutes from the hospital where their child is receiving care. The following items are needed—in individual containers if possible:*

- Individual drinks (juice, milk, tea, etc.)
- Breakfast pastries
- Cereal
- Chips
- Coffee creamer
- Cookies
- Fruit cups
- Fruit snacks
- Jerky
- Nuts
- Oatmeal cups
- Paper plates and bowls
- Popcorn
- Ramen noodle cups
- Chef Boyardee cups
- Snack cakes
- Sugar packets
- Trail mix

*Please bring your donations to the Wimbish House before Thursday, May 19, and let me know (Maria Krane at [gauchache@gmail.com](mailto:gauchache@gmail.com)) if you can help deliver donations to the ARMHC (Date and Time TBD). Four volunteers are needed. Thank you!*

**Kelly Feyock, Chair**

**Maria Crane, Co-Chair**

## ENVIRONMENT



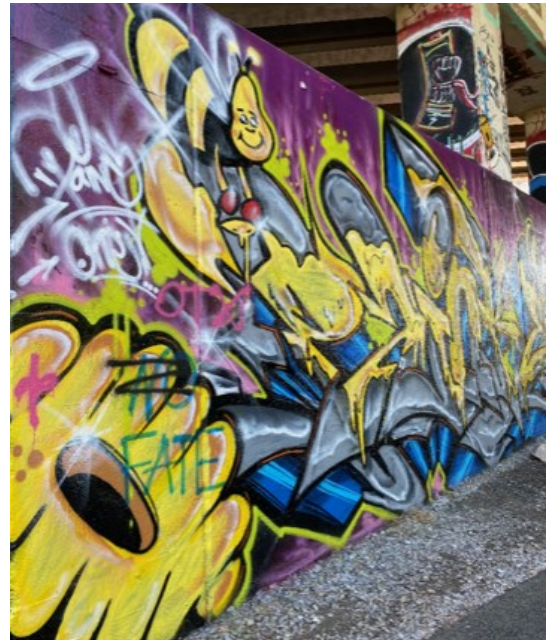
What better way to celebrate EARTH DAY, April 22, 2022, than to take the Atlanta Beltline Arboretum tour with Trees Atlanta volunteer docent Sandy Murray and Vanessa Miot Trees Atlanta staff? Page Henry, Environment CSP chair, Penny Blackford, Isabel Urrutia, and Sheila Payne met at the Beltline in the Highlands behind the now closed Parish restaurant on a lovely sunny morning.



## ENVIRONMENT CONT'D

As we walked toward Ponce City Market we learned many interesting facts; for example about, the white rhino sculpture, other monuments along the way, sassafras trees, tiny doors, graffiti, chimney swift's tower, 33 species of oak sculptures, excelsior trees and the excelsior mill, the old Sears Building which is now Ponce City Market, Ralph McGill, AJC editor & publisher, Jane Fonda, movie star and magnolia trees that live to be 100 years old, just to mention a few.

You may know that sassafras leaves can be made into tea, but did you know the root was used for root beer until it was found that it contained arsenic? Also, the leaves are unique in that they have different leaf configurations on one branch. One participant asked if graffiti was legal on Beltline. The answer was, no but is tolerated on cement



under bridges but that the sidewalks are made of material that graffiti cannot adhere to. Sandy our docent showed us the excelsior tree whose bark was used as packing materials by Sears and told us that the old Masquerade Club, which was recently renovated, was the Excelsior mill. Sandy informed us that when Sears was being renovated to become Ponce De Leon Market, there were 60,000 windows that were hand removed, cleaned, and replaced or restored. As we crossed Ralph McGill Blvd, we were told how Ralph McGill and Mayor Ivan Allan were leading voices for ethnic tolerance in the

South from the 1940s through the sixties and after segregation was outlawed in 1959. Ralph Mc Gill was called "The Conscience of the South and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing that same year. We learned that Jane Fonda's condominium that was on the corner of Freedom Parkway and Ralph McGill sold for \$6,000,000 and that apartments with windows overlooking belt line get higher rents. We saw chimney swift towers that have been erected to provide habitat for these birds who have fewer chimneys to nest in.

For those who have not visited the Beltline recently the views are magnificent, the development is extensive



## ENVIRONMENT CONT'D

with attractive new buildings, a lovely entrance to the Beltline from Ponce City Market, a great Kroger's with scenic patio, in addition to delightful restaurants that face the Beltline.

If you enjoy this type of outing, please join the Environment CSP by contacting Page Henry, Chair at [page.henry@harrynorman.com](mailto:page.henry@harrynorman.com) or 770 366-1747.

**Written by Penny Blackford**

**Page Henry, Chair**

## ARTS & CULTURE

The Arts & Culture CSP will be hosting our 1st **“For The Culture Virtual Cooking Demo”** on **Friday, May 13th @ 7:00p** with local Atlanta Chef DePhon Robinson. We will explore Creole Culture and prepare Jambalaya. This will be a great opportunity to dive into the world of Culinary Arts all while learning more about the art of creole cooking, its origins, influences and techniques. All interested members who would like to join us on this Epicurean adventure should contact Billie Harris via email at [hawcinc@live.com](mailto:hawcinc@live.com) or via phone at 678-617-8511 to register. **Cooking along is**

**optional.** Members are still encouraged to join in to learn more about the creole culture, cooking techniques, and to save the recipe to prepare at later time. The Zoom link and ingredients list along with (optional) suggested wine pairing will be sent on Wednesday, May 11th.



**Arts & Culture is excited to be volunteering with drawchange once again!** Volunteers are needed **every Friday from 3p-4p** at the Atlanta Mission (921 Howell Mill Rd NW) to help the children with their art therapy projects. No art experience required, just a willingness to engage and assist the children by encouraging positive behavior. All volunteers must fill out an application with drawchange, which can be found at [www.drawchange.org](http://www.drawchange.org). Interested members should contact Billie Harris via email at [hawcinc@live.com](mailto:hawcinc@live.com).

**No prior Art experience necessary for many of our projects and volunteer opportunities, just simply a love for the Arts!**

**Billie Harris, CSP Chair**

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

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Barbara Washburn, Assistant Treasurer  
Sandie Clendon, Corresponding Secretary  
Beth Jetha, Parliamentarian

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Ursula Reynolds, Women's History  
Lucy Willard, Tallulah Falls School  
Myra Carmon, 1734 Society  
Karen Clydesdale, GFWC GA President's Special Project/GFWC Signature Project  
Connie Morris, Membership  
Karen Clydesdale, A Seeded Event/Fundraising  
Judine Heard, GFWC GA LEADS/GFWC GA Environment Co-Chair  
TBD, ESO Book Club  
TBD, Peachtree Women's Writers Alliance  
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