



Atlanta Woman's Club



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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Why did we join the Atlanta Woman's Club?

At a Seeded Event Committee meeting with Oakland Cemetery, a member of the Oakland Cemetery group asked members of the Atlanta Woman's Club (AWC), why and how members joined the AWC and how many members had been members for a long time. The answers varied. Some members were introduced by family members and others were guests of friends and eventually joined. AWC members shared that it sometimes took several meetings to have the desire to join. The overriding answer of why members have maintained membership for a long period of time was getting involved.

If you are a new member, please get involved with one of the Community Service Programs (CSPs) – Arts, Conservation, Education, Home Life, International Outreach, Public Issues - or a committee such as the Women's History Committee. There are so many options available to members for avenues to provide philanthropic services in the community.

Members and CSPs have made contributions of time, energy and resources to work on the seven initiatives. Thanks for collecting books, planting trees on Georgia Arbor Day, branding our club by placing GFWC prior to the words "Atlanta Woman's Club," mentoring our members with LEADS programs, participation with shot@life, contacting congressmen on issues identified, and filling UNICEF boxes. Thanks for coming out for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Project as we gathered with our sister clubs at Ronald McDonald House; the contributions were overwhelming. Thanks for participating in many other projects including an active history committee creating bookmarks with quotes from outstanding women in history.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

Therefore, the answer to the member from Oakland Cemetery is that members need to get involved and stay involved.

The Membership Tea is April 14th from 2-4. Invite friends to join us on this day. There is no regular meeting in April.

Myra Carmon, AWC President 2018-2020



MEMBERSHIP

Happy Spring to all! AWC welcomed one new member to the club in March. Aminata Solammon is the new Development Director at the Pajama Program in Atlanta and wants to “serve the community and support opportunities that directly support education and literacy”. Below please find her photo and bio and as always, remember to introduce yourself, and encourage participation in our CSP activities.



As a young child, Atlanta native Aminata Solammon spent summers on her grandmother’s farm in Holmes Chapel, GA with her siblings and cousins. For entertainment, she and her sister would make dolls out of toilet paper rolls and construction paper. The sisters played for hours with the family of dolls and outfitted them with hair and clothes.

Her love for making paper dolls transitioned into a love of fashion and Aminata went on to compete a Fashion Merchandising degree at Bauder College in Atlanta, GA and a Fashion Marketing degree at American Inter-continental University – Atlanta.

After college, she moved to Los Angeles, CA to begin a career as a Fashion Editor for JUMP and MXG magazines. After both magazines folded, Aminata decided to start a career in the retail industry, which lead to a 10-year career as a Recruiter for top retailers including Limited Brands, Hot Topic, J. Crew, The Children’s Place, and Lucky Brand Jeans.

After earning a Master Degree in Industrial Organizational Psychology from Argosy University in 2013, Aminata decided to write and self-published children’s books. Her titles include MiMi & Boppie: Pacifiers Thrown into An Unexpected Situation and Lulu the Tutu. Writing lead her to volunteering at various libraries throughout Atlanta to read and do arts and crafts with children.

After seeing a job posting for a Volunteer Coordinator with Pajama Program Reading Center/Atlanta where she could recruit volunteers to read to children, Aminata jumped on the opportunity. This role combined all her passions into one and she has recently been promoted to Development Manager. Along with her husband Daniel, Aminata is an active parent to her son Elijah and daughter Leilah.

You may recognize the next three wonderful ladies, as they joined the club in September 2018, but were not featured in the Newsletter until now. They have all participated in several activities since joining and we are lucky to call them "members of the AWC"! Below you will find their photos and Bios.



Aimée Berry is a Georgia native, born and raised in metro Atlanta. She and her family recently moved to West End. She loves nothing better than sitting down with a good book and a glass of sweet tea. In her previous job, Aimée flew all over the country as a flight attendant.

Today she is a kitchen and bath designer for a local renovation company. She has been married for 27 years and has 2 grown daughters. Aimée and her husband, Richard, love exploring the city and trying new restaurants. She is so happy to join the Atlanta Woman’s Club and hopes to make new friends and help impact her community for good.

MEMBERSHIP CONT'D



Brittany Clark is a digital and traditional media consultant at Cox Media Group Atlanta. She graduated from Ole Miss with a B.A. in Broadcast Journalism and Public Relations.

She is a passionate about living an active lifestyle and helping others. In her spare time, she works at Pure Barre Brookhaven and enjoys time with friends and family.



At age 21, Alice left Virginia for the first time as an Air Force officer's wife, and for 24 years moved around this great country. While moving some 23 times and meeting thousands of people, she learned about volunteer opportunities that could fill her days and help others. It led to a "career" as a fundraiser for Officer's Wives Club scholarship programs and as a volunteer with the Red Cross and Family Services (a support organization for military families).

After her husband Roger's retirement from the Air Force, she served as a docent at historic Gunston Hall and a board member of the Docents' Association, a board member for the National Symphony Orchestra Women's Committee, and as a member of the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary of Fairfax. Just for fun, Alice volunteered at three Presidential Inaugurations.

A little over two years ago, Roger and Alice moved to Atlanta from Northern Virginia to be closer to their son and daughter-in-law and to become more involved grandparents to their grandson (now seven) and granddaughter (now five). Alice's favorite pastimes are reading and visiting historic homes and museums.

JoDee Gonzales, 1st Vice President, Membership Chair

GFWC GEORGIA'S 2ND ANNUAL DAY OF SERVICE

YOU ARE NEEDED!

Please join your club members for GFWC Georgia's Second Annual Day of Service. This year's theme is "Help a House."

Atlanta Woman's Club members will spend the day cleaning and beautifying the grounds of Lost-n-Found's transitional home.

[Make plans to help on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. We will meet at 1247 Lucile Avenue, S.W., Atlanta, GA 30310.](#) The shelter's address should not be disclosed. It's located in a residential area, meant to blend-in with other houses so the community is not aware that it is transitional housing.

Come dressed to work in the yard. Bring any tools and supplies you have to assist in the clean-up. Sign-up on: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F44A8AB29A4FC1-gfwc>

Judine Heard, GaFWC State Home Life Chair

HOME LIFE

Please bring in the following TRAVEL SIZE items to assemble Hope Bags for HOPE Atlanta to distribute to homeless individuals: socks, chapstick, wet wipes, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, bar soap, shampoo/conditioner

Participate in our yearlong campaign stressing the importance of women's self-breast exams. On the first of every month, post a selfie on social media of yourself feeling your breast with the hashtag #FeelitonTheFirst. Tag three girlfriends and encourage them to do the same and so on. The National Breast Cancer Foundation website has info on performing a BSE correctly and what to look for.

Join the GFWC Georgia Day of Service on April 27 at 9am. We will be beautifying the grounds of Lost N Found Youth home which serves homeless LGBTQ youth. The home is located at 12247 Lucille Ave.

Catherine Smith, Home Life CSP Chair

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP TEA

GFWC AWC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP TEA – April 14, 2019

Spring is fast approaching and that means that soon it will be Tea Time at the Wimbish House.



Mark your calendars. Our annual membership tea will be Sunday April 14th from two to four o'clock in the afternoon. As is tradition, we will be mailing invitations to AWC members and guests; we will also do an online invite.

If you would like to invite a guest or a potential member, please send their postal address or contact information to Judy Reece at events@atlwc.org so that we can extend your guests a special invitation.

Watch for more upcoming information about the tea, RSVP's and needed volunteers.

Judy Reece, Member Events

WOMEN'S HISTORY

Mrs. Derrelle Harsey Sharp, 20th Atlanta Woman's Club President

The Atlanta Woman's Club has long played a pivotal role in many important events in Atlanta's history. The mere existence of a club whose history spans over 100 years speaks volumes to the influence and sustainability of the Club's dedication to its mission. Its presidents with the support of the club membership create the foundation for all that has been and all that is to be. Few presidents, however, have distinguished themselves as markedly as did Mrs. Norman Sharp, The Atlanta Woman's Club's, 20th president who served from 1924-1926 and is regrettably known by too few.

Mrs. Norman Sharp born in 1883 as Derelle E. Harsey made her mark in history at a time when married women were usually identified solely by their husbands' names. As such her accomplishments and accolades on many occasions are masked by her association to her husband's name and not her own. However, her work and its impact upon the Club and the city of Atlanta belie tradition and compel that she be examined as a historical figure beyond her role as wife and mother of two.

It is remarkable that her efforts and influence spanned the spectrum from agricultural commerce upon which Georgia's history is built to the modern transportation symbol of the busiest airport in the world Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. It was she at the helm supported by the Club that made it possible to achieve these important goals.

As such she was the lead in the establishment of the Atlanta Municipal Market (prior known as the tent-housed Sweet Auburn Curb Market) which today remains a bustling source of Georgia-grown produce and Georgia goods in the downtown Atlanta area. The Atlanta Woman's Club wishing to give the curb market a more permanent home raised money for a fireproof brick and concrete building which opened on May 1, 1924. Mrs. Sharp served as committee chair to establish a "brick and mortar" market. Mrs. Sharp was determined to achieve a source of revenue and presumably independence particularly for women in Georgia. The building's cornerstone still bears her name, Derelle, rather than Norman, her husband's name, which is only befitting as she was the one successful in acquiring appropriations from the city of Atlanta for the current market's site.

Sometime after the market was established and amid controversy, then Governor Eugene Talmadge appointed Mrs. Sharp to be the State's Assistant Director to the Bureau of Marketing after he asked the then Director Felix Boswell to resign. Mr. Boswell refused to step down and was fired by the governor. Mrs. Sharp undaunted went on to be a successful influence upon the Bureau's work following her charge to encourage and assist housewives of Georgia in developing and marketing their products. Quite a bit ahead of the time she encouraged women to develop "green products" and to move away from the more pedestrian agricultural produce to the more exotic to increase the market and purchasing interests.

On February 3, 1925 in a carefully orchestrated campaign the Atlanta Aero Club announced that it was supporting the guest for a landing field backed by the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Atlanta Woman's Club. In addition to civic groups and city newspapers becoming restless at Atlanta's lack of progress in building an air field a flurry of interest was spurred by the Atlanta Woman's Club inviting two of the worlds most recognized

WOMEN'S HISTORY CONT'D

pilots Lieutenants Jack Harding and Lowell Thomas, to speak about the potential of the “Air Age” in March 1925. The Club recognizing that Atlanta would be behind other urban areas and would not thrive because of its lack of an airport formed a committee to meet with Mayor Walter Sims (1923-1927). The committee of twenty Atlanta Woman's club members urged he City to purchase a landing field south of Atlanta. Mayor Sims subsequently appointed Atlanta Woman's Club, president, Mrs. Norman Sharp to be a member of the City Landing Field Committee. Mrs. Sharp was later elected first vice president of the Atlanta Chapter of the National Aeronautical Association. Thus, began the chain of events leading to the development of the Atlanta airport, with air service beginning at Candler Field in May 1928. That landing field is now the busiest airport in the world and has led the city to become the vibrant business center that it is.

In addition to these notable accomplishments; she was secretary and treasurer of the Young Matron's Committee of North Avenue Presbyterian Church; a member of the Speaker's Bureau for the French Orphans Relief and as such was considered a major fund raiser; First Vice-President of the Atlanta Federation where she obtained \$3,000 for Tallulah Falls schools (a sum equivalent to almost \$90,000 today); 1925 Georgia representative at The International Prison Congress in London; chair of the special committee looking into establishing psychiatric departments within the prison system; member of the legislative committee for the State Forestry Commission, charter member of the Woman's Board at Oglethorpe University and served as president of the Atlanta Camp Fire Girls.

The Atlanta Woman's Club wishes to salute and thank you Derelle Harsey Sharp by shedding light on your many accomplishments as highlighted in this article.

Synchronicity or a Serendipitous Coincidence?



On March 22, 2019, after this article was written, The Wimbish House participated in Phoenix Flies, an annual event sponsored by the Atlanta Preservation Society. Unexpectedly among the visitors was none other than, Tish Spearman, the great granddaughter of Mrs. Norman Sharp!

Ms. Spearman spoke of her great grandmother during the 1920's decade presentation and had her picture taken in front of her great grandmother's portrait as shown. Believers in Celestine Prophecy, by James Redfield know this visit had personal meaning far beyond mere coincidence and therefore was truly a synchronistical event.



WOMEN'S HISTORY CONT'D

Light on Peachtree, Ann B Jones, p 70

USA Census Report, Marriage Licenses July 19, 1901, Vital Records, In Kenan Research Center, Atlanta History Center

AWC Scrap book, In Kenan Research Center, Atlanta History Center

AWC Scrap book, In Kenan Research Center, Atlanta History Center

A Dream Takes Flight Hartsfield Atlanta, International Airport and Aviation in Atlanta, p 23 In Kenan Research Center, Atlanta History Center

AWC Scrap book, In Kenan Research Center, Atlanta History Center

Leigh Reynolds, Women's History Chair

ARTS

Arts CSP will continue our ongoing volunteer project with drawchange on **Monday, April 15th, from 3:15pm-4:30pm**, which will repeat on every 3rd Monday each month. We will assist children at a local shelter in southwest Atlanta with their art therapy projects. You don't have to be artistic to volunteer, your love and support is all they need. If this project is of interest to you, please contact Billie Harris via email at hawcinc@live.com to volunteer. There will be a sign up sheet at the general meeting.

The Arts CSP is asking for volunteers for the 3rd Annual Arts Egg-Stravaganza on **Saturday, April 20th from 8:30a-11:30a** at Hillside Conant School (690 Courtenay Dr. NE, Atlanta, GA). This is an Atlanta Woman's Club sponsored event and the children at Hillside look forward to this fun filled day of arts & crafts, as well as an egg hunt. Volunteers are needed to assist the children at the art stations, hide eggs in the courtyard, and distribute treats and prizes at the end of the event. The following (individually wrapped) candy donations are also welcomed in addition to volunteering: fruit snacks, Hershey's kisses (no nuts), and Hershey's miniature candy bars. Empty plastic egg donations are also encouraged. You may bring your donations to the Wimbish House on or before **Thursday, April 18th**.

Where "ART" Thou?

Here are more opportunities to support the arts community in Atlanta this month.....

- * SCAD FASH: April 9th @ 5:30pm, Opening Reception "Kaleidoscope Katrantzou"- join designer Mary Katrantzou (Queen of Prints) along with Vogue's Sally Singer for a keynote convo charting Mary's rise to fashion stardom. More info at www.scad.edu/scadstyle2019/events

ARTS CONT'D

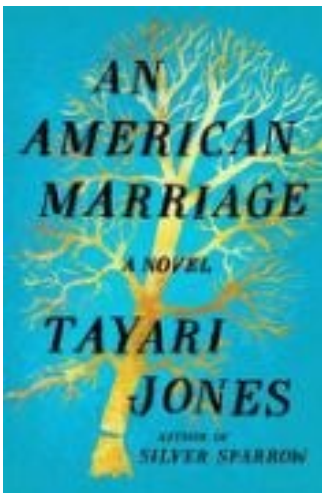
- * 83rd Annual Atlanta Dogwood Festival: April 12th-14th, Virtually every kind of art imaginable is represented at the festival, with a nationally juried Fine Artist Market that includes sculpture, paintings, pottery, jewelry, photography, and much more. More info at www.dogwood.org
- * Synchronicity Theatre: April 11th-May 5th, "The Hero's Wife"- presented by Synchronicity Theatre in a Joint World Premiere with 16th Street Theatre Chicago. A wife tries to connect with her Navy Seal husband. The closer she gets, the more dangerous her husband becomes, but she won't stop until she unearths the secrets of the man she loves and lights his way home. *Mature Audiences. More info at www.synchrotheatre.com



The Atlanta Woman's Club Arts CSP won 2nd Place in the 51 & over member category at the District Meeting held in Cartersville, GA on March 23rd, and would like to thank all of our members that submitted work for the Arts Contest this year. Arts would also like to congratulate the following members on their awards at the District Meeting: Pat Walsh-1st Place in Stitchery, Ann Hazzard- 1st Place in Miscellaneous Art for a Painted Glass Tray and 1st Place in Sketch Art, Catherine Smith- 1st Place in Mixed Media, and Billie Harris-1st Place in Poetry. Now is the time to begin creating work for next year's Art contest. We look forward to your entries next year!

Billie Harris, Arts CSP Chair

ESO BOOK CLUB



Last book club before summer will be Monday May 20th. We are reading an Oprah selected book *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones. Local nationally known best-selling author Tayari Jones will be joining us. Books will be sold at the AWC Tea, Sunday April 14th for \$16.00, cash or check.

Melodie Rogers, ESO Book Club

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