1150 Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30309 Telephone 404-870-8833 Website: www.atlwc.org Editor: Billie Harris

General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC)

December 2019 Issue

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Holiday season is here. I hope all of you have happy, healthy and safe holidays. The holidays are busy and fun and time to visit with family and friends and to eat foods that you usually do not partake off. Many invitations to parties make your life hectic but very enjoyable. It is always exciting to see friends that you do not see often. Shopping is also a component of happenings over the holidays. Shop safely and responsibly. It is a time that unscrupulous persons are watching for opportunities to take your property from you. Be safe.

Remember those persons who are less fortunate than you. Donations are welcomed for persons at the Atlanta Union Mission especially for the women's and children's shelter "My Sisters House" and also for Toys for Tots which distributes gifts to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts. Another service that I recently became more aware of when Catherine Smith, Judine Heard and I attended the HEAT Board Meeting, was that HEAT provides Heating Energy Assistance to needed Georgians. HEAT operates statewide and is available to qualified households regardless of energy used - gas or electricity, oil, wood, or coal. The AWC through Home Life CSP donated. You can donate at heatga.org/donate. It is very important to help keep persons warm in winter and cool in the summer.

Attendance at book club on November 20th was exceptional. Thanks to Page Henry for preparing tasty food and providing a lovely place to meet the author Tina Clark. Tina answered questions about her experiences growing up in a small Mississippi town with a colorful family's actions during years of racial unrest due to segregation. Conversation with the author over the book was enlightening and reinforced the events in the book. Added note: The author stated that writing the book resulted in the town's people in this small town being angry at her.

I want to recognize Melody Rogers and Britton Rogers for overseeing the book club and selecting books with Georgia authors and always

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

having authors attend the book club meeting. Great Job Melody and Britton.

We continue to work on the seven initiatives: 1) MLK Projects, 2) Women in the Military 3) Donations to million-dollar cub 4) Legislative Action 5) planting trees on Arbor Day 6) donations of shoes and 7) Dr. Seuss books. Continue donations as we are nearing the goals for each initiative.

Thanks to all CSP chairs, elected officers and committee chairs for your volunteer philanthropic activities this year.

Best wishes for the holidays. I look forward to seeing all of you on December 10th at the Holiday Party for AWC Members at the Commerce Club at 191 Peachtree Street/49th floor with a beautiful view of Atlanta.

Dates to remember:

December Meeting - December 9th

AWC Jingle & Mingle Holiday Party - Tuesday, December 10th (Deadline for ticket purchase is Wednesday, December 4th)

GFWC Georgia Convention - April 17-19, 2020 @ Unicoi State Park and Lodge in Helen, Georgia

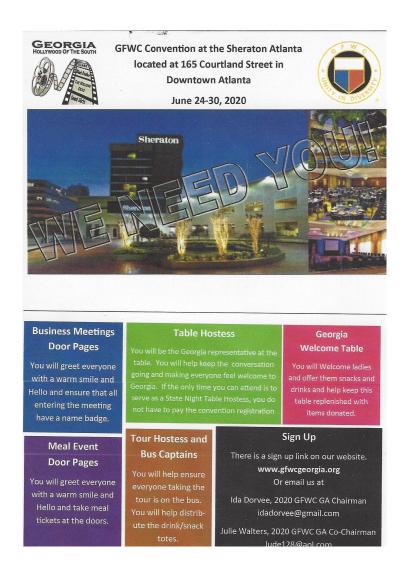
GFWC Convention hosted by GFWC Georgia – June 26-30, 2020 in Atlanta - You can sign-up to volunteer at:

http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event? oeidk=a07egi0z999268301db&llr=lmygcp9ab

Myra Carmon, AWC President 2018-2020



GFWC INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PUBLIC SAFETY REMINDER: The Wimbish House is a weapons-free facility.

As a privately-owned property, The Wimbish House is allowed to opt out of Georgia's Safe Carry Protection Act and clear notices to that effect are posted on site and included in our event contracts. Anyone – member, visitor or guest – in possession of a weapon of any kind will be asked to leave the premises, subject to arrest for criminal trespass. The only exception is paid security staff while on duty.

Ladies, please <u>do not ever</u> bring weapons of any kind to The Wimbish House premises. If you usually carry a weapon, it should be left at home or secured in your vehicle before you enter the property. The police will be called any time this policy is violated, and this policy will be equally enforced.

Thank you for your cooperation and compliance.

MEMBERSHIP

Happy Holidays everyone! The countdown has begun! In the flash of an eye it will be 2020! I hope we can all take time to relax (a little) and enjoy!

Please don't forget that our club dues are due by February 15, 2020 in order for you to remain on our new roster and many thanks, however to those of you who have already paid! Your promptness is much appreciated. (The amount due this year will be \$75.00, and also includes a new name tag.)

I want to introduce to you our newest members, Shena and Cydnie, who joined us in November bringing our total membership to 118 for 2019! Please take a moment and introduce yourself to these wonderful ladies at the next meeting, and help make them feel welcomed.



My name is Cydnie Catheryn Cole. I am a 20-year-old Film Student studying at Georgia State University in Downtown Atlanta. I was born in Rockdale, Georgia. I have 3 siblings (2 sisters & 1 brother) and 2 loving parents. My family and I reside in Stone Mountain, Georgia. My dream job is to produce feature films that inspire a whole generation to be more loving & accepting of one another's differences. I enjoy driving in the North Georgia Mountains with my friends & meditation. I am more than honored to be considered a member of this organization, and I am over the moon excited to help make a change in our community and eventually the world.

Cydnie Cole



"Bright, helpful and outgoing with a quick wit," are the words that are often used to describe Shena Crawford. Shena is a graduate of Kennesaw State University and holds a B.S. in Communications. She is the owner of Atlanta Bath Company, an organic and natu-ral bath and body company that takes the boring out of body care. As an avid traveler, she has been to almost every state in the Unit-ed States and over 15 countries. She thoroughly enjoys exploring other cultures and connecting with people from different walks of life. Although sometimes she's quite shy, she blossoms when pre-sented with the opportunity to speak to people in a crowded room. Always willing to help others in need, she is always looking for opportunities to volunteer and help.

Shena Crawford

MEMBERSHIP CONT'D

Please note address correction in your directory for Leigh Reynolds: 416 Lakeshore Drive NE Atlanta, GA 30307

Happy Holidays to all and to all... a Happy New Year! See you at the Wimbish House and hopefully at the holiday party at the Commerce Club!

Warm wishes, Jo Dee

Jo Dee Gonzalez, Membership Chair, 1st Vice President

WOMENS HISTORY

Atlanta resident Janice McDonald has published a new book this past September entitled Residents of Oakland Cemetery and includes a full page portrait of Rebecca Douglas Lowe on page 57. She is credited with helping to form and lead the Atlanta Woman's Club. The digitized copy of the AWC portrait was used for inclusion in the book. Lollie Belle Wylie is also included on page 115. The book is available at the Oakland Cemetery gift shop and the Atlanta History Center.

Woman in History Spotlight -Mary Ellen "Nellie" Peters Black

Nellie Peters Black was born February 1851. She was the eldest of nine children. After graduating from a Pennsylvania finishing school she joined her family in their philanthropic and charitable endeavors. She was devoutly religious and a staunch Episcopalian, she taught Sunday school and organized the city's first mission. At age 26 she married George Robinson Black, a congressman from Screen County. They had three children before George died in 1886.

Nellie belonged to numerous civic and social organizations, including Every Saturday Club, Pioneer Club of Atlanta, Colonial Dames, Daughters of the American Revolution and United Daughters of the Confederacy. She held various positions of leadership in the Women's Auxiliaries of the Episcopal Dioceses of Georgia and Atlanta. Through her membership in the Atlanta Woman's Club, Atlanta Federation of Woman's Club and the Georgia Federation of Women's Club Nellie focused on social and municipal engineering. She served on the founding board of the King's Daughters Hospital, the first free hospital in Atlanta and the executive committee of the Woman's Building at the 1895 Cotton States and International Exposition.

Among her many accomplishments and increasing educational opportunities she lobbied the state legislature for compulsory education laws and the admittance of women in to the University of Georgia and the Georgia Bar. She served as the president of Atlanta Free Kindergarten Association for twenty years and helped in establishing many kindergartens throughout the city. She persuaded the public school system in Atlanta to incorporate kindergarten into their schools in 1919.

WOMENS HISTORY

During her three terms as president of the GFWC she supported U.S. President Woodrow Wilson's thrift and conservation campaigns. In her official capacity as a representative for the U.S. Department of Conservation during World War I (1917-1918) she organized canned food drives to benefit military hospitals. She also served as president of the Conference of Southern Woman, director of the School Garden Army of Georgia, and honorary chair of the Georgia Division of the Women's Council of National Defense.

When the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs decided to honor a former member on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee, Nellie Black was their obvious choice!

Upon her death in 1919, at the age of 68, the Atlanta Journal called her "one of the leading women of the South" and wrote "Her name was a synonym for charity, for gentleness of spirit, for love of humanity, for constructive citizenship. No man or woman in the last century has exerted a stronger influence for the uplift and advancement of the state".

For her instinctive desire to serve, for her many good works, and for leading other women in the direction of such constructive citizenship, she was selected for inclusion in the 1998 Georgia Woman of Achievement.

Sources: Find a Grave AJC Encyclopedia Wikipedia

Written by Barbara Washburn

Leigh Reynolds, Women's History Chair

CONSERVATION



This is the seventh year that the Conservation Community Service Program (CSP) has created an entry for the annual Atlanta Botanical Gardens' (ABG) scarecrow contest. Past entries beginning in 2013 were: *Emily Black & Student* for her contribution to kindergarten education, *Alice in Wonderland*, the *Volunteer Spirit*, the *Spirit of Diversity*, *Emoji Halloween* and the *Peaceable Plane* ending in 2018. In September of 2019, the Conservation Scarecrow Committee met at the Wimbish House three times to construct this year's Scarecrow entry called *Cats in the Catacomb*.

This year's committee members were Catherine Smith, Azam Zadeh, Elvina Berry, Sara June McDavid, Maria Krane, Page Henry, Karen Johnson, Pat Walsh,

CONSERVATION CONT'D

Billie Harris and Penny Blackford. In addition to her artistic talents Catherine donated the skeleton, day of the dead attire, articles for the day of the dead alter, and spooky fencing. Azam, professional artist, painted the cats in the catacomb picture that stood behind the skeleton as well as painting the scarecrows face and the cat face for alter. Karen painted the cat faces that were attached to the Azam's painting. Maria provided cat picture for alter and painted the day of the dead sign written in Spanish. Sara June and Maria provided ears, and tail, for the skeleton. Elvina and Penny provided bases to support painting and scarecrow. Billie Harris



and her husband Flavius transported the scarecrow to ABG as they have done faithfully for the past 5 years and Penny Blackford collected scarecrow from garden after the event ended.

Kudos go to Azam, Catherine, Karen, Page, Elvina, Sara and June for the construction of the entry and thanks to all the committee for their time, creative ideas, purchasing of materials and good humor.

Great fun was had by all that were able to visit the Scarecrow in the Garden on October 17, 2019. It was such a lovely day, the weather was perfect, the scarecrows so creative, the plants so colorful and the plant sculptures were magnificent. Persons attending were Lexa King, Jennie Lobato, Catherine Smith and her lovely daughter Isabella, Page Henry, Sara June McDavid, Aleta Yates & Penny Blackford. Although *Cats in the Catacomb* did not receive a reward, she was well placed close to the entrance of the garden near the Pegasus sculpture and admired by many. Some members even commented that this year's entry was the best so far.

What will next year's entry be? Want to join in the fun and help create 2020's Scarecrow? Contact Page Henry, Conservation chair.

Written by Penny Blackford









Page Henry, Conservation CSP Chair

PUBLIC ISSUES

Celebrate the holidays with Public Issues CSP partners

Many of the organizations that AWC supports through its Public Issues CSP are sponsoring holiday events that will leave you feeling both festive and fulfilled. Here are a few to check out:

Midtown Bright Holiday Mixer

For the first time, Midtown Alliance is hosting a holiday event as part of its Mix-It-U p Midtown networking event series, where you can meet others who live and work in Midtown, get info on current happenings, and celebrate opening night of the new *Midtown Bright* lighting project on Peachtree. Rain or shine, with door prizes and free Southern Pedaler rides to tour the lighting displays. Advance tickets are \$10 for Midtown Alliance members (AWC's membership grants membership rates to all AWC members); \$20 for non-members. If available, tickets at the door are \$25. Hors d'oeuvres and one complimentary drink per ticket. All ticket proceeds benefit Atlanta Children's Shelter. Tickets and details at https://www.midtownatl.com/do/mix-it-up-midtown-celebrates-midtown-bright-at-livingston

Livingston Restaurant + Bar, 659 Peachtree Street Thursday, December 5, 5:30 -- 7:30 pm

Holiday Tour of Eternal Homes at Oakland Cemetery's Victorian Holiday

Get the spirit of the season! This 75-minute walking tour led by a Victorian guide takes you behind-the-stones into several mausoleums, which feature holiday décor by local designers and artists, and fills you in on the stories of the Oakland residents buried within. Tours start every 15 minutes, beginning at 10 am. The last tour starts at 3 pm. **Advance ticket sales only**: Adults \$18; children (6-17) and seniors (65+) \$14; Historic Oakland Foundation members \$10. Select tour time at ticket purchase. To purchase tickets or for details on all the day's Victorian events, plus accessibility, weather policies and parking, see https://oaklandcemetery.com/events/.

Oakland Cemetery, 248 Oakland Avenue SE

Saturday, December 14, 10 am – 4 pm

Georgia Justice Project: annual holiday client party

Volunteers are needed to help set up, serve and tidy up this festive holiday lunch (and enjoy a yummy lunch ourselves), help out with Santa family photos, and other fun holiday duties! This is one of long-running annual projects for GJP, one of our favorite organizations — it's always a big time. To volunteer, sign up at the December meeting or email lisa@nolossforwords.com.

First Presbyterian Church, 1328 Peachtree Street Saturday, December 14, 11 am – 2:30 pm

Candlelight Nights at Atlanta History Center

Stroll through beautifully decorated candlelit gardens and historic houses and experience holiday traditions of the past at either of Atlanta History Center's two *Candlelight Nights*, featuring a local craft and artisans Christmas Market; music, interpreters, storytellers and other special activities. Holiday treats and libations are also available for purchase. Tickets are \$15 for History

PUBLIC ISSUES

Center members; \$10 for children; and \$20 for non-members. Purchase at https://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/programs/candlelight-nights-9.

Atlanta History Center, 130 West Paces Ferry Road NW Friday, December 13 & Friday, December 20, 5:30 – 9:30 pm

Year-End Giving

As you plan your holiday giving, please consider financial support for any of the worthy organizations that partner with our Public Issues CSP, including:

Center for Civil & Human Rights https://www.civilandhumanrights.org/

Georgia Budget & Policy Institute https://gbpi.org/

Georgia Justice Project https://www.gip.org/

Historic Oakland Foundation https://oaklandcemetery.com

Women Veterans Interactive http://womenveteransinteractive.org/

Midtown Alliance https://www.midtownatl.com/

WABE 90.1 FM https://www.wabe.org/
youthSpark https://youth-spark.org/

These groups do amazing work in our community and any or all would greatly appreciate your donations.

Lisa Banes, Public Issues CSP Chair

ARTS

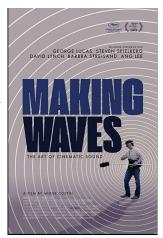
Every 3rd Friday of the month from 9:15a-11:00a, the Arts CSP will volunteer with drawchange at a local school specifically started for homeless children. We will assist kindergarten children with their art therapy projects by encouraging them to be creative, being a listening ear, re-iterating the importance of "Please" and "Thank You", as well as other positive behavior. No art experience required. Please join us!



The Arts CSP will visit Kennestone Hospital Cancer Center (340 Kennestone Hospital Blvd., Marietta, GA) on **Thursday, Dec. 12th @ 12noon** to view the exhibit of the artwork of AWC member and Home Life CSP Chair, Catherine Smith. Catherine will be joining us as well to answer any questions and talk about her artwork. We do hope you join us in supporting our talented club member and the amazing way she contributes to the world of Art. Her exhibit will be on display in the lobby until Dec. 20th. Feel free to visit the exhibit at your convenience as well. We will have lunch afterwards at a local eatery.

ARTS CONT'D

On **Friday, Dec. 13th**, the Plaza Theatre (1049 Ponce de Leon Ave NE, Atlanta, GA) will debut "Making Waves: The Art of Cinematic Sound" produced by AWC member Karen Johnson. The film is an exploration of the history and emotional power of cinema sound, as revealed by legendary sound designers and visionaries via interviews, clips from movies, and a look at their actual process of creation and discovery. The film has received 4 nominations ranging from the American Film Festival, Cannes Film Festival, and Critics Choice Documentary Awards. Parking for the theatre is free in the lot, as well as free overflow parking located at the Druid Hills Presbyterian Church across the street. Tickets are \$13 (\$11 for students and military), and can be purchased at the box office or online at www.plazaatlanta.com. Please visit the website for show times.





CALLING ALL CREATIVES!!! The Arts CSP is encouraging all members who have completed a work of art between January 1st and December 31st, 2019 to enter your piece(s) into the GFWC Membership Art Contest. You can submit art work for the following categories: Photography, Writing, and Membership Craft (stitchery, sewing, knitting, crocheting, hand and machine quilting, nature crafts (using objects found in nature), jewelry, painting, and miscellaneous (pottery, basket weaving

and other things outside of the mentioned categories). Submissions are encouraged to be submitted to Billie Harris or Jo Dee Gonzales by January 15th, 2020. We can't wait to see all of the amazing entries!

*If you have any questions about any of the upcoming volunteer opportunities and events, would like more info, or would like to sign up, please contact Billie Harris via email at hawcinc@live.com or via phone at 678-617-8511.

Billie Harris, Arts CSP Chair

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