



# Atlanta Woman's Club



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

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## March 2023 Issue

We are having such an incredible early Spring! Remember that it's a great time to volunteer before we all slow down for summer.

Our elected Nominating Committee has been hard at work and getting candidates for the 2 spots of new Board of Trustee members. The elected two will have a two year term of helping us maintain our beautiful Wimbish House. The Board of Trustees duties are in our Bylaws. You can find our bylaws under the "members" area of our website.

I loved our representation at our last meeting of members wearing red for Women's Heart Awareness month! It was great having two of our oldest members present, Mrs. Lucy Willard and Sandra McNeil.

"Where flowers bloom so does hope." -Lady Bird Johnson



**Connie Morris, AWC President 2022-2024**



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## MEMBERSHIP

### New Member ELISHEVA RAY

We had the pleasure of voting into membership a prospective member, Elisheva Ray, at the February Executive Meeting. She was a visitor of Jennie Lobato and is very excited about the prospect of becoming a member. She is interested in working with Arts and Culture, Civic Engagement & Outreach and Health & Wellness. She is willing to Assist with Special Events and be a Greeter at Meetings. Her email address is [elisheva.ray365@gmail.com](mailto:elisheva.ray365@gmail.com). Her phone number is 404-437-0536. Please reach out to her and make her feel welcomed. CSPs should contact her regarding your meetings and projects. She is sponsored by Jennie Lobato and endorsed by Peggy Pruett and Jo Dee Gonzalez.



Throughout the course of Elisheva's life, no matter the twist, turns, and curb balls that life throws at her, she remains constant in her pursuit to be a better version of herself than who she was yesterday. This includes, building her relationship with God, improving her health and wellness, practicing self-love, dancing like nobody's watching, developing her writing, being of service, nurturing important relationships, and continuing to grow as a mother to her teenage son. Elisheva currently attends Kennesaw State University. She is finishing up her bachelor's degree in Public Relations.

### MRS. LUCY WILLARD HONORED WITH EMERITUS STATUS

We were very pleased to vote in the Executive meeting to honor Mrs. Lucy with the Emeritus Status of membership. The motion presented by Peggy Pruett was as follows: In honor of Mrs. Lucy Willard's 39 years of devotion, generosity and service to the Atlanta Woman's Club and GaFWC, I move that we name her as Emeritus Member. The motion was seconded and passed. She was also recognized for her upcoming birthday.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Thanks to everyone who got your membership renewal dues in on time and your Conflict of Interest Forms filled out. If you did not fill out your COI form (you know who you are) you may pull up your January 26 email from me and print it off, scan or take a picture and email to me. You may also see me at the March meeting to fill out a form but we will not have a membership table set up for this purpose. Looking forward to a wonderful coming year of productive CSP work and fellowship with fellow members.

**Peggy Pruett, 1st Vice President, Membership Chair**

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE: BOARD OF TRUSTEES CANDIDATE BIOS

GFWC

# *Atlanta Woman's Club*



Est. 1895

The nominating committee is happy to report that we have 5 candidates who have consented to run for the two open Board of Trustees positions. The Committee confirmed that all nominees are in good standing and members of our Club for at least two years in addition to the qualifications set forth in AWC's Bylaws Article VI.

The candidates personally provided the following biographies (listed in alphabetical order).

### **Aimee Berry**

As a proud Georgia native, I was thrilled to join the Atlanta Woman's Club in 2018. Raised in the suburbs, my husband Richard and I now enjoy in town living and we love to explore Atlanta's cultural scene such as The Alliance Theater, Actors Express, the Beltline, Botanical Gardens, and The Fox Theatre.

Since joining the Atlanta Woman's Club, I have volunteered with several CSP events. I have planted trees with Trees Atlanta, collected goods for the Humane Society, donated supplies to local underserved schools, and I have also served as a Snippet at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Center where we tend the rose garden. Additionally, as an avid reader, it has been a great pleasure to be a faithful member of the Book Club.

I have served on the Alumni Board of Directors for Woodward Academy. I was involved in a project to increase alumni involvement in various campus programs. My activities included fundraising, attendance at planning sessions and communicating the institution's ambitious goals to donors. As a result of our efforts, we had great success in increasing alumni engagement and raising funds for the Capital Campaign.

I work as a designer for Limitless Renovations, a residential remodeling firm. I took the initiative to set up a volunteer group within the company called Limitless Volunteers. I plan, oversee, facilitate, and staff all volunteer opportunities for the company. We have planted trees with Trees Atlanta, donated backpacks full of school supplies to a local school and collected Christmas gifts for underprivileged children.

I also run my own interior design business: Always Aimée. I have cultivated many clients and I work with them to bring joy into their homes.

My professional and volunteer experiences prepare me to execute my duties as a member of the Board of Trustees for the care of The Wimbish House and its facilities. I am honored to be nominated for this position.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE CONT'D

### **Donna Foland:**

#### Occupation:

CEO, dgf Properties, Inc., a successful property asset and estate management company that I founded in 1993 in Midtown Atlanta.  
30+year Midtown property owner

#### Current AWC positions

Trustee

co-chair, Board of Trustees

chair, BOT property committee, with a focus on issues that affect or potentially affect The Wimbish House and its operations, including property assessment; property tax negotiations and compliance; city licensing and compliance requirements; water, sanitation, parking and public safety concerns; development and construction trends in surrounding areas; and networking with city administrators, elected officials and community professionals on behalf of AWC/The Wimbish House (examples include leveraging my professional network and personal access to develop a fiduciary relationship with Cadence Bank, negotiate reduced parking rates with lot owners, and immediately resolve a drainage/flooding issue on Peachtree Street to avoid potential damage to AWC property.)

active member since 2008

#### Past AWC positions:

Trustee

Bot co-chair

BOT advisor

Parliamentarian

Chair, Education CSP

Chair, Publicity Committee

BOT representative, Midtown Alliance

BOT Liaison, City of Atlanta

BOT Liaison, Atlanta City County

#### Other professional and civic positions

Member, Tallulah Falls School Board of Trustees

### **Ann Hazzard:**

Ann Hazzard is a psychologist who was a faculty member at Emory University School of Medicine for 35 years. In addition, she was the managing partner for Peachtree Psychological Consultants, a private practice group. Ann has also been a Board member for several nonprofit agencies (Georgia Council on Child Abuse, Kidscope, Kate's Club). Through these roles, she has developed expertise in budget development and oversight, personnel management, and event planning.

As the principal investigator for several large grants, managing business partner, and non-profit Board member, Ann managed or oversaw large budgets. She selected and supervised employees and hundreds of psychology and pediatric residents. In addition, twice she chaired the Planning Committee for the Annual Convention of the Georgia Psychological Association.

Ann's varied experiences have prepared her to carry out the duties of an AWC Board of Trustees member.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE CONT'D

### **Page Henry**

Page Penry is the President of Henry Holding Group, Inc affiliated with Harry Norman Realtors. She has been a professional real estate agent for over 20 years and her focus is marketing and selling luxury properties in Metro Atlanta. She was a recipient of Harry Norman Realtors President's Award for Professionalism, Community Service, Leadership, and Integrity. Her team has sold more than 200 million dollars' worth of properties and is ranked in the top 10 percent for the Harry Norman Luxury market. In addition, her team assisted the Consul General of India in their acquisition of the Current Atlanta Consulate.

Outside of her professional life, she has been an active member of the Atlanta Woman's Club for 13 years. She served two terms (4yrs) on the **Board of Trustees** as Assistant Treasurer, as her first leadership role within the Atlanta Woman's Club. She is well aware of what is involved as a BOT trustee.

She served 2 terms (4yrs) as Chair of the Conservation/Environment CSP. Before working in that role, she served 1 term (2) yrs as Co-Chair of the Conservation/Environment CSP. Prior to this position, she served one term (2yrs) as the Chair for Domestic Violence, the GFWC GA President's Special Project. As a result of this position, she was asked and served for 2yrs on the Committee for the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence along with other Top Atlanta Female Business Leaders.

In addition, she has worked with an outreach mission program for underprivileged children in Estonia, for the past 20 years and is currently serving on an advisory committee for the Baltic Methodist Seminary in Tallin, Estonia.

She studied marketing at Kennesaw State University. Before that she studied Textiles and Marketing at Guilford College. She graduated from Bauder College with a degree in Textiles and Fashion Design in Atlanta.

### **Yolanda Johnson**

Yolanda resides in the southwest Atlanta neighborhood of Adams Park, and is active locally and throughout Fulton County in many ways. She serves as treasurer for her neighborhood association and has been a member of the Atlanta Woman's Club (AWC) since 2019. In 2022 she was asked and agreed to chair the Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Project (CSP). Within the Club, Yolanda has demonstrated her commitment to our community, and her ability to work hard for our neighbors and citizens throughout the state.

Ms. Johnson has a background in Journalism and is also a licensed attorney. She has worked for both public and private organizations for the benefit of children, families, and the community.

She has held positions as prosecutor for DeKalb County Georgia, and Senior Counsel for the Georgia Department of Corrections.

Yolanda Johnson spent nearly a decade as an elected member of the Atlanta Board of Education serving from 2006 to 2014. As a school board member, she saw firsthand the challenges teachers and school systems face in their efforts to educate all children with resources that are constantly shrinking. As a lawyer, she understands how we can educate parents to be the first and best advo-

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE CONT'D

cates for their children by simply knowing their rights and the rights of their children. Once Yolanda left the school board, she began training parents and working directly with students to achieve the best education possible for any given child.

Currently, Yolanda is the Director of Court and Family Services for the Fulton County Juvenile Court. In this capacity, she oversees Education Advocates, a juvenile mediation program, Guardians ad Litem and a Citizen's Review Panel.

She hopes to continue to do work that has a positive impact on society. In her spare time, she likes to read, dance and exercise.

On behalf of the nominating committee, we would like to thank the members of the Atlanta Woman's Club for their participation in this process, please know that we will vote on the above referenced candidates at the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Cimi Douglass, Chair, Nominating Committee  
Billie Harris, Nominating Committee Member  
Page Henry, Nominating Committee Member  
Barbara Washburn, Nominating Committee Member  
Melissa Bernadel, Parliamentarian  
Jennie Lobato, Nominating Committee Alternate  
Ursula Reynolds, Nominating Committee Alternate

## THANK YOU FROM MYRA CARMON

Dear Atlanta Womans Club Members and Staff,

The Carmon and Lunceford families thank you for the many expressions of sympathy since the death of Wesley Lunceford (my son-in-law). Wesley was the husband of Belinda Lunceford (my daughter) and wonderful father to their three daughters. AWC member's expressions of sympathy included attending the service, sending many cards, calls, and meals. Thanks for everything and we appreciate you including our families in your prayers during this difficult time.

Thanks,

Myra Carmon

## Lake Charlotte Nature Preserve

One of the reasons I love to participate in Community Service Program activities is that I get to learn about and participate in things I may never have done otherwise. Being introduced to Lake Charlotte Nature Preserve on an early, wet and windy Saturday morning on February 17, 2023, from 9-12 PM is a prime example.

According to an article by John Ruch, Saporta Reports, this roughly 216-acre acquisition in Southeast Atlanta was approved by the City of Atlanta in April 2020 as a cornerstone of the South River Forest, a vision of 3,500 acres of interconnected green spaces in DeKalb County. The Conservation Fund a nonprofit championed and helped the city to make the purchase. Stacy Funderburke, Conservation Fund, spokesperson said, "It speaks for itself, once you set foot on the site, it is one of the most spectacular forests in the city of Atlanta." Ironically, the City, acquired the property through a pioneering use of its tree fund, which developers and property owners pay into when they cut down trees. This was the first time the tree recompense fund was used to protect existing trees rather than planting new trees. This property is also nearby the former Atlanta Prison Farm that is planned to be redeveloped into the controversial Public Safety Training Center or "cop city."

In another article by Thomas Wheatley, of Axios, the Nature Preserve opened to the public, after months of clean up, in November 2021. This magnificent woodland matters because it's part of a big vision picture to create a massive forest park long the South River. It is centered on the now drained Lake Charlotte, off I-285 and Moreland Ave, and is one of the largest mature forests that is home to shagbark hickories, white oaks and several towering beech trees. The thick tree canopy, tree stumps, and drained lakebed help sustain the forest ecosystem for deer, frogs, butterflies and other beautiful wild flora and fauna.

The main gate entrance to the preserve and is hiking trails is located on Forrest Park Road, (nearest GPS address is 2830 Forrest Park Rd, SE, Atlanta Ga, 30054). Roughly on quarter of a mile after entering the main entrance and through the woods, you'll notice small stone walls. The walls plus some foundations, clumps of daffodils, and a lone stone chimney are remnants of the old lodges that stood on the property starting back in the twenties. I mention this specific place because I had the privilege of planting four types of trees (gum, mockernut, hickory and persimmon) in this lovely area along with 15 or so other Trees Atlanta volunteers on Friday, February 17, 2023. I am happy to report that the rain did stop, the ground was soft to dig, and the sun did come out. What a magnificent testament to nature this place is and may the vision that preserved this forest from becoming a landfill or used for other industrial development never die.



Photo: Thomas Wheatley/Axios

After months of cleanup and groundwork, the [Lake Charlotte Nature Preserve](#) in southeast Atlanta is open to the public.

ENVIRONMENT CONT'D





## ENVIRONMENT CONT'D



Submitted by Penny Blackford

**Meher Stevie, Chair**

**Judine Heard, Co-Chair**

## EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES

Education and Libraries CSP celebrated *Library Lovers Month* by providing snacks for library staff members at the Peachtree Branch and Ponce Branch of the Atlanta Fulton County Library System as well as the Central Library downtown which has over 75 employees in the building. The staff at these libraries were very appreciative.

The CSP will be volunteering, cleaning books at Children Read on March 25th at 10:00a.m. We are also providing volunteers to read to the Pre-K class (4-5 year olds) at Huntley Hills Elementary, a DeKalb County school, located in Chamblee. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Sara June McDavid. Several members of the CSP have signed up as volunteers to read scholarship applications for the Jeannette Rankin Foundation. They will complete an online training webinar in March and will read applications later in the spring.

**Sara June McDavid, Chair**

**Maria Krane Co-Chair**

## LEADS/LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

**“A good leader inspires people to have confidence in the leader. A great leader inspires people to have confidence in themselves.” —Eleanor Roosevelt**

Join other members of Atlanta Woman's Club Leadership Academy for its first virtual class for the year on Saturday, March 25th, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The topic will be "Leadership Manners and Etiquette Ethical Conduct/Character."

The academy is free and open to all members, but you must register in advance. Please register by March 17th, 2023. You will receive the virtual invitation by March 20th, 2023.

[Application \(weebly.com\)](http://www.gfwc-ga-awc-leadershipacademy.weebly.com/application.html) (hold CTRL and click to open link)

OR

Copy & Paste the following in your browser:

[www.gfwc-ga-awc-leadershipacademy.weebly.com/application.html](http://www.gfwc-ga-awc-leadershipacademy.weebly.com/application.html)

Submitted by Judine Heard

**Myra Carmon, Chair**

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Hope you will support our Domestic Violence Project, **The Women’s Resource Center to End Domestic Violence**. The center strives to meet needs of a diverse community of battered women and their children. It is also an LGBTQ affirming agency “services are provided to all people”.

More information about the organization, as well as their Amazon Wish List can be found on their website at [www.wredv.org](http://www.wredv.org) (hold CTRL and click to open link)

Please take a look at this list and support these efforts. If you choose to send a donation, you can send directly to them via Amazon (please let me know the send date and amount) or you can send to me and I will deliver the donations. For any questions contact me at 404-918-6331 or via email at [bwashburn41@gmail.com](mailto:bwashburn41@gmail.com).

**Barbara Washburn  
275 13th St NE  
Unit 409  
Atlanta 30309**

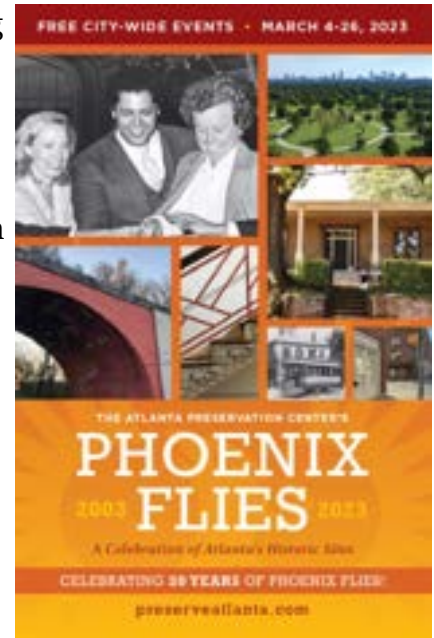
**Barbara Washburn, Chair**

## PHOENIX FLIES

For many years AWC has supported and participated in celebrating Atlanta's Historic Sites by opening the Wimbish House as part of the Phoenix Flies tour. The tour is part of the mission of the Atlanta Preservation Center. This three week event focuses on: "Atlanta's historic built environment of buildings, landscapes, and neighborhoods is an integral part of the City's culture and economy. The Phoenix Flies Celebration provides an opportunity to learn about, celebrate, and strengthen these assets to the benefit of all."

The participants this year are Connie Morris, Amanda Vincent, Sara June McDavid, Jennifer Spivey, Page Henry, Amanda Robinson, Jennifer Quinn, Penny Blackford, Kathy Wilde, Jo Dee Gonzales, Carla Williams, Sue Rohan, Catherine Smith and committee chairperson Lynn Brentnall.

**Lynn Brentnall, Chair**



## ARTS AND CULTURE

Jo Dee Gonzalez, Arts & Culture co-chair bought Muslin & black paint and delivered it to Midtown High School for the Art & Drama Departments to use. AWC is donating \$1500.00 to Midtown High Schools Art Department to purchase supplies.

AWC is having an outing to Midtown High Schools production of "CHICAGO" on March 17th at 7:00pm. Deadline to sign up is March 5, 2023. Please email Jennifer Quinn at [jennquinn100@gmail.com](mailto:jennquinn100@gmail.com) for more information.

AWC is donating \$1500.00 to the Atlanta Artists Center to help fund their activities & classes the Center offers and the Gallery.

AWC will be having an outing to Callanwolde to the Spring Concert Series featuring Ruby Velle & the Soulphonics on April 28th at 7:30. Purchase your tickets at Eventbrite. Prices vary.

Drawchange has weekly volunteer opportunities helping unhoused children participate in a 1-hr art therapy session. Please email Jennie Lobato at [jennielobato@drawchange.org](mailto:jennielobato@drawchange.org)

AWC collects art supplies for Hope Hill Elementary school and other deserving Atlanta Public Schools. Please let Jennifer Quinn know if you have a donation.

**Jennifer Quinn, Chair**

**Jo Dee Gonzalez Co-Chair**

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

### 2023 YouthSpark Valentine's Day Event

In February 2023, AWC created a Valentine celebration with decorations, gift bags, and a cookie decorating station for 50 teenage clients of YouthSpark, a not-for-profit counseling center for kids caught up in the Fulton County Juvenile Justice System. Many of these kids have been victims of sex abuse and human trafficking. The idea was to shower them with unconditional love and joy, and that is exactly what our members did.

It was an all-hands-on deck affair that began after the February 13th, 2023, meeting. From brand new members such as Christian Horlbeck, who just joined the organization to Connie Morris and Lisa Barnes who were part of the club when YouthSpark was much smaller and known as an affiliate to the Juvenile Court in Fulton County. Over four days, club ladies decorated and transformed the space into a colorful, festive space.



Big thanks to Atlanta Woman's Club for donations of 100 + pounds of sweet confection. The total club donation to YouthSpark this term was \$2,247 and another \$105 directly from members. There were 16 volunteers who donated 33 hours of their time to this project.

**Yolanda Johnson, Chair**

**Janecia Heard, Co-Chair**

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

## Officers

Connie Morris, President  
Peggy Pruett, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (Membership Chair)  
Darlene Kimes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (Dean of CSPs)  
Gretchen Butler, Treasurer  
Shena Crawford, Assistant Treasurer  
Pat Walsh, Recording Secretary  
Sandie Clendon, Corresponding Secretary  
Melissa Bernadel, Parliamentarian

## Board of Trustees

Karen Clydesdale, Chair (2021-2023)  
Donna Foland, Co-Chair (2021-2023)  
Connie Morris, AWC President (2022-2024)  
Peggy Pruett, 1st Vice President (2022-2024)  
Gretchen Butler, Treasurer (2022-2024)  
Shena Crawford, Asst. Treasurer (2022-2024)  
Jo Dee Gonzalez, BOT Trustee (2022-2024)  
Judine Heard, BOT Trustee (2022-2024)  
Britton Rogers, BOT Trustee (2021-2023)  
Lisa Banes, Former BOT Chair  
Karen Bacheller, Former BOT Chair  
Karen McDonald, Former BOT Chair  
Myra Carmon, Former BOT Chair

## Community Service Program Chairs

Darlene Kimes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President & Dean of Community Service Programs  
Jennifer Quinn, Chair/Jo Dee Gonzalez Co-Chair, Arts & Culture  
Sara June McDavid, Chair/Maria Krane Co-Chair, Education and Libraries  
Yolanda Johnson, Chair/Janecia Heard, Co-Chair, Civic Engagement and Outreach  
Isabel Urrutia, Chair/Sandy Day Co-Chair, Health and Wellness  
Meher Stevie, Chair/Judine Heard, Co-Chair, Environment

## Committee Chairs

Sara June McDavid, Women's History  
Barbara Washburn, Domestic Violence  
Lucy Willard, Tallulah Falls School  
Jo Dee Gonzalez, 1734 Society  
Lisa Banes, A Seeded Event/Fundraising  
Myra Carmon, LEADS  
Penny Blackford, ESO Book Club  
TBD, Peachtree Women's Writers Alliance  
Cimi Douglass and Judy Reece, Website  
Judy Reece, Member Events/Communications/Weekly Bulletin  
Billie Harris, Newsletter Editor  
Ursula Reynolds, Social Media