



# Atlanta Woman's Club



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

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Website: [www.atlwc.org](http://www.atlwc.org)  
Editor: Billie Harris

## October 2023 Issue

Fall has arrived with cooler temperatures. September 23rd was the Fall Equinox this year. At this time the Earth's axis and its orbit are lined up so that both hemispheres get an equal amount of sunlight. Our members that are from South American can enjoy the fact that their families are sharing the same kind of sunlight for a short while! We are represented by members from Columbia, Uruguay, and Brazil.

Judy Reece was voted in as the new Assistant Treasurer for September 2023-May 2024.

Sandra Langford will take the Lead for the Sunday meeting Setup.

We will have a vote on two bylaws at our general meeting on October 9th. The bylaws have been passed at the Board of Trustees and Executive Board meetings. Thanks to Deb Robinson, Chair, Karen Clydesdale, Jo Dee Gonzalez, Jennie Lobato, and Barbara Washburn for serving on the Bylaws Committee. Members will receive the proposed Bylaws via email 10 days before our October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Please read Bylaws and Standing Rules about any function of the AWC you may question. You will find them in the Members area on our website. This is important to be aware before making decisions pertaining to club business and functions.

We are having many planned activities for the fall. New members, take the opportunity to plug into some of these volunteer activities. This is the way to get to know members better and do what the purpose of

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

joining AWC is all about.

GFWC Georgia Northwest District will meet on October 21st at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, 1978 Mt. Vernon Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338. The cost is \$25 for lunch. If you didn't get the call email on September 1st from GFWC Georgia NW District, let me know so I can help you get it. You must register. It's a great way to learn what other clubs are doing, meet really nice ladies, and learn about reporting from the state 2<sup>nd</sup> VP.

The GFWC Great Day of Service is September 30th.

See you October 9<sup>th</sup>!

"I hope I can be the autumn leaf, who looked at the sky and lived. And when it was time to leave, gracefully it knew life was a gift." -Dodinsky

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



## MEMBERSHIP

It was so great to be back at Wimbish House for our September meeting. Many activities have continued over this hot summer but it was nice to see everyone in the same place. Thanks to everyone who invited the TEN first time visitors we had at this meeting. We are looking forward to seeing them and others that you invite at the October meeting. Thanks so much for registering and paying in a timely manner. This makes check-in go much quicker and gives us an accurate number for setup and caterers. Thanks for all those who are willing to sit at the TABLE HOSTESS signs at the meeting. It simply means that you are sure to engage visitors and new members in conversation and make them feel comfortable and welcome.

We were excited to have three new members accepted into AWC this month. Below you will see their bios and contact information. Please engage with these ladies. If you are a CSP or committee Chair in the areas in which they have expressed an interest, please reach out and include them in your next activity or outing.

### SHARMAN EDGE



Phone 202-440-3666  
Email: scedgeg3@gmail.com  
Birthday: August 14  
Interested in ALL CSP's  
Interested in Assisting with Special Events  
Sponsored by: Penny Blackford  
Endorsed by: Connie Morris and Peggy Pruett

Sharman Curry Edge is an Insurance & Risk Management Professional, Mother of 3 grown children and a 4 legged Labradoodle. I spent many years while raising my family volunteering in their schools and attending many football, volleyball and lacrosse games. My Son graduated from West Point and is an Army Officer, my older daughter is working for Teach for America in Baltimore and my youngest is a lacrosse playing Sophomore in college.

While my job has remained in Alexandria, VA, I relocated to GA last year to be closer to my family, who are located throughout the Atlanta Metro. I can honestly say that I enjoy my job (Insurance is really interesting!).

I am an avid reader of all kinds of books, a wannabe Ina Gardner style Baker and an on/off aspirational workout queen (more off than on). My goal is to get to know Atlanta and lending a hand where I can.

## MEMBERSHIP CONT'D

### ALEXA DESTEFANO



Phone: none listed  
Email: alexadestefano@georgiaballet.org  
Birthday: August 1  
Interested in Arts and Culture CSP and Health & Wellness CSP  
Willing to Assist with Special Events  
Sponsored by Peggy Pruett  
Endorsed by Jo Dee Gonzalez and Lisa Banes

Alexa Goldberg started dancing at the age of 3 in Columbus, Ohio. After graduation, Alexa was offered a place as an Apprentice at North Carolina Dance Theater (now Charlotte Ballet) where she performed in many productions such as Peter Pan, Sleeping Beauty and The Nutcracker.

From there, Alexa was hired as a company member at The Georgia Ballet. In her 9 years, she has performed several principal and soloist roles, her favorites being Myrtha in Giselle, Snow Queen in The Nutcracker, and Katrina in Sleepy Hollow. Alexa has also been a guest artist for Springfield Ballet, Columbus City Ballet, Robinson Ballet, Southeast Alabama Dance Company, Dance Canvas, and Watershed Dance Theater, and is now performing regularly as a principal with Ballet, Inc.

Alexa was Assistant School Director at The Georgia Ballet from 2017-2022, School Director from 2022-2023 and is now Executive Director. She looks forward to finding innovative ways to serve the Marietta and Atlanta community through the art of dance. Experience with K-12 teaching of dance. Has taken accounting classes and works regularly with budgets and P&L. Has taken 2 years of courses based in health and nutrition.

### ALVARD MAYILYAN



Phone: 914-960-4502  
Email: alvardmayilyan@gmail.com  
Birthday: July 31  
Interested in Arts & Culture CSP  
Sponsored by Elena Kholodova  
Endorsed by Peggy Pruett and Connie Morris

Alvard Mayilyan, mezzo-soprano, has been praised as “having a voice that rings like the Dudúk” - an ancient woodwind instrument that produces a darkly rich and expressive tone long considered the sound of the Armenian soul and her voice having “a warm vibrant color typical of Armenian voices resembling a rich sparkling red wine”.

## MEMBERSHIP CONT'D

She has joined the Atlanta Opera Chorus since she moved to Atlanta, and she is a staff singer at Peachtree Presbyterian Church. Ms. Mayilyan also has started her private voice studio. She believes that "music education is THE key". Her students are winners of International Competitions.

An expert in Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque music, she has performed in early music concerts all over Europe and in the US. She is dedicated to the music of her native Armenia and is noted for her performances of both sacred and secular selections from this rich cultural heritage. Mrs. Mayilyan holds two master's degrees in French linguistics from the Linguistics University of Yerevan and voice and academic music from Yerevan State Conservatory.

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

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS: SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT



Sarah L. Batts brings more than two decades of experience as a non-profit leader to Shepherd Center. Today, she serves as the senior vice president of the Office of Advancement of Shepherd Center and the executive director of the Shepherd Center Foundation. She is responsible for all brand, strategic partnership, professional education, injury prevention, community relations, fundraising and volunteer endeavors at Shepherd Center.

Before joining Shepherd Center in 2016, Sarah enjoyed an eight year tenure with the Piedmont Healthcare Foundation, where she served in a variety of roles including director of campaigns.

Under Sarah's leadership, Piedmont's philanthropic support realized significant results, including successfully launching the largest campaign in the system's history. In addition, Sarah has also served in a variety of leadership roles with the Emory University School of Medicine and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

Sarah received her bachelor's degree from The University of the South, and then received her master's degree in business administration from Loyola University Chicago. Her dedication to the community extends outside of Shepherd Center, where she serves on a variety of boards. When not working, Sarah volunteers in the community or spends time fly fishing with friends and family.

### **Isabel Urrutia, Chair**

### **Sandy Day, Co-Chair**



### Honeybee Lecture at Trees Atlanta Kendeda House

This year's Autumn Equinox occurred on Saturday September 23rd, 2023 which marks the astronomical end of summer and the beginning of autumn in the northern hemisphere. Now that Fall is officially here, you, like me, may find yourself in a garden state of mind. As I contemplate additions to the garden I search for plants and trees that will attract our dwindling pollinators such as bees, butterflies and some species of hummingbirds.

The lecture I attended by Jimmy Gatts, current president of the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers' Association was very helpful in determining those plants and trees. His informative slide presentation described how pollination occurs, who are the most important pollinators, why pollination is so important, plants and trees that attract pollinators. He also discussed why lawns are harmful to pollinators; how mulch is your friend, can be freely obtained, and where to obtain more information.

A pollinator is anything that helps carry pollen from the male part of the flower (stamen) to the female part of the same or another flower (stigma.) This movement must occur for the plant to become fertilized and to produce fruit, seeds and young plants. Pollinators play a vital role in plant reproduction, making them fundamental to supporting healthy ecosystems. Bees are the most important pollinators. Fertilizing over 110 different crops, (fruit trees to strawberries) other pollinators are butterflies, hummingbirds.

Bees prefer fruit & fruit trees (plumb, peaches, pomegranate, pears, raspberries, blueberries. Butterflies prefer the mighty oak tree and forbs (herbaceous flowering plants that are not grass, sedge or rush). Bottlebrush, smooth sumac, mildewed, witch hazel and mountain mint are host plants for both bees and butterflies. Plants for bees are not good for hummingbirds. They prefer nectar found in tubular flowers suited for their long tongues like bee balm and trumpet creeper.

The reason lawns are not good for pollinators is that they are a "crop" that do not feed pollinators, use 17 million gallons of gasoline, 90 million pounds of fertilizer, 78 million pounds of pesticides and 50-70 % of portable water is lost to evaporation. To counteract this homeowner in Wisconsin, Kentucky and Massachusetts started "NO MOW MAY." Homeowners deliberately neglected to mow their lawns to allow plants like dandelions and clover to bloom for the bees.

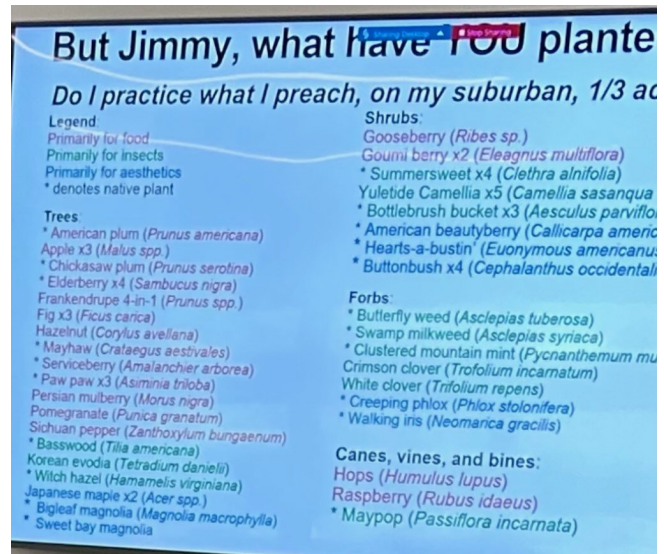


## ENVIRONMENT CONT'D

Mulch is your friend and is vital for trees and plant growth and reduces the amount of watering that needs to be done. Mulch can be obtained free by visiting [getchipdrop.com](http://getchipdrop.com) to sign up for free mulch delivery. Specify no pine and keep in mind that five to six cubic yards of mulch will be delivered. It will be dumped on your lawn, and they will not spread it.

If you need further information on where to purchase these plants which are not normally found at Walmart/Pikes/Home Depot contact [bees@jimmygatt.com](mailto:bees@jimmygatt.com) or GNSPS.org or TNnursery.net.

“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now.” -Chinese proverb



## Atlanta Botanical Gardens Scarecrows in the Garden

### “Trashionista”

We are proud to announce AWC’s Environment CSPs 2023 entry into the ABG’s annual scarecrow contest! Our Entree’s name is TRASHIONISTA and was designed by Catherine Smith and her daughter Bella! TRASHIONISTA is made of all recycled trash and was built with the assistance of Connie Morris, Meher Stevie and her mother Fatima, Judine Heard, Yolanda Johnson, Pat Walsh, Jennifer Spivey, Kourtney Zenovia, Beth Jetha Jeenie Lobato & Penny Blackford! Members can see her in the garden October 6th-31st, 2023. More information will be forthcoming as to when AWC will visit as a group event!



TRASHIONISTA



**Submitted by Penny Blackford**

**Meher Stevie, Chair**

**Judine 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  
Judy Reece, Assistant Treasurer  
Pat Walsh, Recording Secretary  
Sandie Clendon, Corresponding Secretary  
Melissa Bernadel, Parliamentarian

## Board of Trustees

Karen Clydesdale, Chair (2023-2025)  
Yolanda Johnson, Co-Chair (2023-2025)  
Connie Morris, AWC President (2022-2024)  
Peggy Pruett, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (2022-2024)  
Gretchen Butler, Treasurer (2022-2024)  
Judy Reece, Asst. Treasurer (2023-2024)  
Jo Dee Gonzalez, BOT Trustee (2022-2024)  
Judine Heard, BOT Trustee (2022-2024)  
Page Henry, BOT Trustee (2023-2025)  
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  
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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  
Sandra Langford, Member Events / Sunday Setup  
Judy Reece, Communications / Weekly Bulletin  
Billie Harris, Newsletter Editor  
Ursula Reynolds, Social Media