



# Atlanta Woman's Club



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

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Editor: Billie Harris

## September 2020 Issue

Welcome back to the Atlanta Woman's Club everyone! It has only been a few months since we last saw each other in June (via Zoom), but it seems so much longer than that! Or does it? I know that days often blend together along with the weeks, and it is sometimes difficult to keep it all straight!

At any rate, I hope everyone has enjoyed these past months and is happy, healthy, and now ready to jump in "feet first".

I have been working with the ladies of this administration for only a few months so far, but I can tell you that despite the pandemic around us, their enthusiasm and eagerness is amazing. I feel that we are all so lucky to have each other!!

Zooming has become the "new normal" for meetings these days (hello sweatpants!), and it seems to be working beautifully.

I would like to send a special thank you to Penny Blackford, our 2<sup>nd</sup> vp and Dean of CSPs, who took on the responsibility of revising and updating the AWC Guidebook (with the assistance of other CSP chairs and former/current committee chairs) which was quite a challenge! The fruits of her labor can be seen on the AWC website, so please check it out when you have a moment, or a question!

Don't forget to read the Weekly Update that comes out every Monday for upcoming events, notices and general information relating to that week, thanks to Judy Reece, Communications Chair. Contact Judy if you would like to publish anything.

And once again, a big thank you to Myra Carmon, past President, for her help in providing a very smooth transition from one administration to the other, while handing over the red gavel.

I am honored to have been elected to this position and am looking forward to what lies ahead for all of us! Hopefully it will not be too long before we can finally meet face to face, as that personal interaction is by far the best kind!

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

I hope to see you all at the next General membership meeting on September 14, via Zoom, hosted by the Civic Engagement CSP (Darlene Kimes, Chair; Amber Hahn, Co-Chair). The speaker will be Dr. Gayla Keesee of the League of Women Voters of Georgia (LWVGA). See more information regarding the presentation below. Many thanks to Darlene and Amber for arranging this program.

Stay safe everyone!

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



## AWC COVID-19 RELIEF FUND

In light of the current public health crisis, AWC designated \$20,000 of our annual budget to aid nonprofit organizations that have been adversely affected by COVID-19. In June, a committee was convened consisting of the AWC Club President, AWC Treasurer, outgoing AWC 1st VP (in charge of CSPs) and the AWC Seeded Event Chair. A list of close to 50 organizations that AWC has served and supported in the last two years through CSPs and Seeded Events was compiled, and in mid July, those organizations were invited to apply for funding. 15 applications were received, and the committee will score them and announce funding decisions by August 31st. Almost every applicant replied indicating how much the opportunity meant to them and how grateful they were for the ongoing support of AWC.

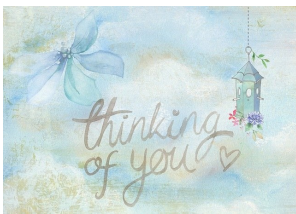
**Gretchen E. Butler, Treasurer**  
**[gretchenebutler@gmail.com](mailto:gretchenebutler@gmail.com)**

## JOYS AND CONCERNS



### **Birthdays**

Jenny Ham, September 15th  
Tonya Watson, September 19th



Our member Sandra McNeil fractured her hip and is in the hospital. She is doing well, however she cannot have visitors due to the virus. She can receive cards! She would love to hear from all of us. Let's send her some kindness and let her know that everyone is thinking about her

Her hospital address for cards and notes is:

Sandra B. McNeil  
Budd Terrace  
1833 Clifton Rd. NE  
Room #619  
Atlanta, GA 30329

Her direct phone line for her room is 404-638-2619

Our condolences to Jenny Ham. Her husband of 26 years passed away on May 21st. Please be sure to keep her in our thoughts.



## HONORING OUR 40YR GFWC MEMBERS

### Daisy Luckey Aukerman



Daisy S. Aukerman is the only member in the Atlanta Woman's Club 125-year history to have served 3 terms as AWC's President: 1984-1986, March 1989-May 1990, and 2004-2006. She has given generously of her time as a leader and her talents as a pianist. A statuesque beauty who worked as a model in her younger years, Daisy is richly blessed with warmth, elegance, intelligence, sensitivity, and sense of decorum clearly evident whether she was behind the podium or interacting with a club member or friend. Because of these qualities, her dedication to the Club, her gracious presence, and her knowledge of AWC's triumphs as well as its challenges, members often sought her wise counsel.

Daisy was AWC's President in 1990 during a particularly difficult time in the Club's history when the Club suffered 2 burglaries and the first of 2 fires that severely damaged the Wimbish House. After surviving the 2nd disastrous fire in 2000 and undergoing significant renovations, the Club benefitted from Daisy's 3rd term as President in 2004-2006.

Experiencing an especially stressful time in 2009, the Club made great progress thereafter in decorative and maintenance upgrades and saw membership increase as the Wimbish House became a highly desirable venue for weddings and other special events. The Atlanta Woman's Club necessarily operates as a team of diverse, highly skilled and talented women working together to better the lives of people, women and children in particular. Daisy is one of our longstanding treasures. Having experienced many Club triumphs and challenges during her history at AWC, she said to me with obvious delight and pride in 2017, "The Club—the Wimbish House—has never looked better, been better than it is now!"

Daisy is greatly appreciated, too, by Club members for her beautiful piano music which greeted members for many years as they descended the ballroom stairs for monthly luncheon meetings. An accomplished pianist, she played the piano often at Club special events, including Spring Teas and Holiday Parties.

In "A Light on Peachtree: A History of the Atlanta Woman's Club" by Anne B. Jones, Ph.D. (Mercer University Press, 2012, p, 117), Daisy is quoted: "The Atlanta Woman's Club is unique. I give my time to help build a future worthy of the sacrifice of women who had great vision, women who gave their best. I'm glad to be a part of it." We are glad you have been a part of it, too! With much appreciation, we salute and thank you for all that you mean and have given to the Atlanta Woman's Club in your 40-year membership.

**Karen M. McDonald, Ph.D.**

**AWC President 2008-2010, Board of Trustees Chair 2018-2019**

## HONORING OUR 40YR GFWC MEMBERS CONT'D

### Peggy Pruett



Peggy Pruett joined Morrow Junior Woman's Club in 1980 at the age of 32. She served as President for 4 terms scattered throughout the years. The 2nd time she was president, a committee was formed to change the status from Junior to General Club as the majority of the members fit more into the General category. Morrow Civic Woman's Club serving women of all ages in the area was formed.

Peggy, as President, started the MCWC most successful fundraiser that is still happening 20 years later, the Spring Fashion Show. During a Presidency, she planned and executed the 50th anniversary celebration with no work done by any other club members. She wanted the members to enjoy themselves and not have to do any work. It was then that she asked a new member to collaborate and perform with her a commemorative song about the club. The member was given the Collect information, club information and information about our only remaining charter member. The song was sung at the celebration with State officers in attendance and the ladies were asked to perform at convention and then the General President asked them to perform at Nationals. The personal club verses were eliminated and the song you now know as "Spread the Circle Wide" was born.

Peggy was a member of MCWC for 38 years. She has been a member with AWC for the last two years. She now serves on CSP committees and is the Recording Secretary for AWC.

Congratulations on your 40 years as a GFWC member.

### Connie Morris, AWC 1st Vice President

## ARTS AND CULTURE

As we begin a new term, we are reintroducing ourselves as the Arts & Culture Community Service Program (CSP). This revamp definitely provides opportunity to venture into new territory with the organizations and projects that we volunteer with. We are super excited about the next 2 years and can't wait to brainstorm with all of you who would like to join us. There will be a virtual **Arts & Culture meeting** via Zoom on **Wed., Sept. 9th @ 6:30pm**. If you'd like to volunteer with the Arts & Culture CSP, please submit your name, number, and email address to Billie Harris via email at **hawcinc@live.com**. You will receive login info, as well as the agenda for the meeting. Also, be sure to download the **GroupMe App** on your mobile devices, as this will serve as our primary source of sharing information about upcoming volunteer opportunities and projects. Let's get hands-on and make a difference in our community that they can see and feel! Whose down with Arts & Culture?



**Billie Harris, Chair**

**Chloe Feyock, Co-Chair**

**Arts & Culture**



## EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES

We had a wonderful speaker in July, from Southern Education Foundation who shared all the wonderful work their organization has been doing, although like everything else Covid has slowed down their efforts!

In August we had a great brainstorming meeting! And I introduced our co-chair Linda Hirsch, I know she will be a great asset to the committee. We discussed our project plans for the year. We will be exploring giving scholarships to Grady HS, Karen Clydesdale told us that this was done in the past. All members were enthusiastic about this project! Karen, Judy Reese and Ann Hazzard have volunteered to undertake this project, thank you ladies!

We will continue to volunteer with the Pajama Program. We also donated a boxful of new Children's books to them. Hopefully, they will be able to have in person reading events soon. Thank you to all who donated the books!

Speaking of books, our Little Library is installed! This was a project that Gretchen Butler spearheaded last year with the Education CSP. And ladies you collected books! Boxes of them! The Library is installed at Aimee Berry's front yard. Thank you Aimee!

The club collected so many books that we are able to donate a large box to a Battered Woman's Shelter that Peggy Pruett was associated with. Thank you Peggy for telling us about it and delivering! We will be assisting Garden Hills Elementary it is a Title 1 school. They will need help with kindergarten, and possibly other classes. This assistance may be via Zoom, like everything else depends on Covid! They also have become a food distribution center. They anticipate November when things will become normal, whatever the new normal will be!



The African Library Project has agreed to be our speaker in December. Zoom or in person to be determined. Fingers crossed it will be in person! I'm sure we will enjoy hearing about the project. We are exploring working with Everybody Wins, Stem for Girls and Library Project. If interested in joining us, please don't be shy! And make a plan to VOTE!

**Barbara Washburn, Chair, [bwashburn41@gmail.com](mailto:bwashburn41@gmail.com)**

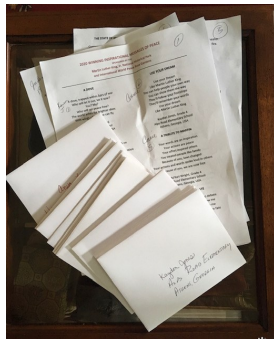
**Linda Hirsch, Co-Chair**

**Education and Libraries**

## ENVIRONMENT

COVID -19 has made it a time of “social distancing” and small gatherings of less than 10 people. It has been said “Necessity is the mother of invention.” TJ David and Sylvia Villalobos, co-founders of the International World Peace Rose Garden (IWPRG) took up the challenge and came up with a creative way to celebrate the 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the “I Have a Dream” International World Peace Rose Garden located at the MLK Jr Historical Park.

Instead of having the families and friends of the winners of the “Message of Peace” poems have a program at the Ebenezer Baptist Church Heritage Sanctuary and unveil the poems in the World Peace rose garden, as has been the case in the past, speakers will make cameo greetings, poems will be read and medallions presented virtually through a video. The goal is to launch the video on the Anniversary of the “I have a Dream Speech,” August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The Environment CSP volunteers, called the “Snippets” aka the MLK Angels, who normally volunteer at the ceremony welcoming and registering the winners as well as providing refreshments, making baskets full of rose petals for the rose toss, and handing out winners prizes, wrote congratulatory notes to the 30 “Messages of Peace” winners this year. The notes will be placed in their winner’s packets and mailed to them. Thanks go to Aimee Berry, Judith Berhens, Elvina Berry-Calland, Kelly & Chloe Feyock, Judine Heard, Karen Johnson, Connie Morris, Ann Valgoi and Carla Williams for writing the notes. Page Henry, Conservation Chair also made a cameo greeting to congratulate the winners that will be featured in the video. What a time was had delivering notes to mailboxes, picking up notes in the rain in parking lots and meeting with Marty Smith, MLK Park Ranger to deliver the notes at the Wimbish House. There were also 60 qualities of Peace messages printed on cards in honor of the celebration.



## ENVIRONMENT CONT'D

In these turbulent times of George Floyd and all the others who have suffered injustice the following Messages of Peace speak eloquently to honor Dr & Mrs. King's legacy and are haunting.

### *GROWING WITH HATE*

Fertilized with hate, there is not debate  
Shameful, you don't even know me  
But society has helped to grow me  
In the face of hate, I choose my own fate  
Love, peace, and faith.

**Emily Gonzalez, Grade 5**

**Hope Hill Elementary**

**Atlanta, GA, USA**

### *THE MESSAGE ABOUT FORGIVENESS*

When you forgive you learn how to...  
Love; Care for others  
Respect one another; Teach one another  
Learn from your mistakes  
Be Helpful... And be supportive  
When you forgive someone  
You are also being forgiven

**Jaila Tisdale, Grade 8**

**Hamilton Elementary School**

**Stockton, California, USA**

May we dedicate our selves to "tame the savageness of man, to make gentle the life of this world."

**-Written by Penny Blackford, Dean of CSP**

**Page Henry, Chair**

**Karen Johnson, Co-Chair**

**Environment CSP**



## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

The Civic Engagement and Outreach CSP will host the speaker for the AWC September 14th, 2020 meeting.

In keeping with the ongoing celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote, the committee is excited to announce that Dr. Gayla Reese with the League of Women Voters of Georgia (LWVGA) will be the guest speaker for the September meeting.



Dr. Keesee serves on the Board of Directors of LWVGA and currently coordinates the LWVGA Women's Suffrage Centennial Task Force. She also serves as Communications and Voter Services Chair for the LWVGA as well as her local Central Savannah River Area League. Dr. Keesee has worn many hats in her career, but they all seem to focus on building partnerships and collaborating with others. She uses her direct-service and advocacy experience to engage volunteer activists and allied partners to help make democracy work. She regularly provides voter engagement training and moderates virtual town halls, community conversations, panel discussions.

She holds a master's degree in Secondary Education with a concentration in English as well as a Doctorate in Educational Technology in Higher Education.

**Darlene Kimes, Chair**

**Amber Hahn, Co-Chair**

**Civic Engagement and Outreach**

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

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Connie Morris, 1st Vice President  
Penny Blackford, 2nd Vice President  
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Gretchen Butler, Treasurer  
Barbara Washburn, Assistant Treasurer  
Sandie Clendon, Corresponding Secretary  
Beth Jetha, Parliamentarian

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Karen Moore McDonald, Past BOT Chair  
Karen Bacheller, Past BOT Chair

### Community Service Program Chairs

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Billie Harris- Chair/Chloe Feyock- Co-Chair, Arts and Culture  
Darlene Kimes- Chair/Amber Hahn- Co-Chair, Civic Engagement and Outreach  
Barbara Washburn– Chair/Linda Hirsch– Co-Chair, Education and Libraries  
Page Henry– Chair/Karen Johnson– Co-Chair, Environment  
Kelly Feyock– Chair/Maria Krane– Co-Chair, Health and Wellness

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Sarah Helen Kilgore, Historian  
Ursula Reynolds, Women's History  
Lucy Willard, Tallulah Falls School  
Myra Carmon, 1734 Society  
TBD, GFWC GA Special Project  
Karen Clydesdale, A Seeded Event/Fundraising  
Judine Heard, LEADS/GFWC GA Environment Co-Chair  
Melodie Rogers, ESO Book Club  
Karen Johnson, 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