



October 2022 Newsletter

President's Letter

If you look at our website, you will find that part of our work involves cemeteries. Why? In honoring those who have passed, we discover information about people, settlements, architecture, religion, and poetry.

This is the case with Mount Olive Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery. In 2020, Atlanta City Council passed a resolution making Buckhead Heritage caretaker of the Mount Olive Cemetery. As Richard Waterhouse mentions in his Executive Director's Report, we have learned so much from our board member, Elon Butts Osby, and others about the history of the cemetery and the park, formerly known as Macedonia Park, Bagley Park and now Frankie Allen Park. I hope you will join us on Sunday, October 9 at 5:00 PM. [Click here](#) to view the invitation.

Charlotte Margolin



Executive Director's Report

We so appreciate your support of Buckhead Heritage through your membership renewals, sponsors of special events, and attendance at our programs. This summer has been outstanding for programs and your participation numbers show it.

For both programs - *History of Bagley Park and Mount Olive Cemetery: Elon Osby* and *Developer's Trash is Our Treasure: Matt Norman and the Kenneth and Hazel Meredith's House* - we have developed a couple of great collaborations. Because of Elon's amazing presentation, Thornton Kennedy wrote an article for *Northside Neighbor* on Bagley Park which you can view [here](#). Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens saw the article and contacted Camille Love, Executive Director, City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs, about recognizing the cemetery. She reached out to Thornton

who put her in touch with us.

Above, you will see the logistics of the collaboration with Camille Love and I hope you can join us all for the ceremony. One part of the collaboration will be a restoration and cleaning of the monuments in Mount Olive Cemetery by Oakland Cemetery Operations Manager Sean Diaz.

We are also working with the Atlanta Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to clean up the cemetery the day before the ceremony. Elon Osby will explain to the group about the history of Bagley Park and Mount Olive Cemetery.

In Matt's presentation on the Meredith House, he talked about the architect James C. Wise, who designed Matt's house. He mentioned that after World War II, Mr. Wise concentrated on commercial buildings including the Paces Ferry Tower Apartments which have become the Sylvan Hotel located almost at the corner of East Paces Ferry Road and East Shadowlawn Avenue.

After talking with Matt, I reached out to the Sylvan Hotel Public Relations and Marketing Department, about the possibility of he and his wife English, doing a lecture on Mr. Wise at the Sylvan Hotel. We hope to be able to schedule that lecture and possible tour of the building next year.

We are always looking for ideas for programs. If you know of any

landmarks, people, or historic structures that our members and participants might like to attend, let me know and I will present the ideas to the Programs and Events Committee.

I hope many of you had the opportunity to attend the Book Club Meeting at the house of Ann and John Beach when we discussed Tom Wolfe's *A Man in Full*. They both added such a wonderful perspective to a very complex book. If you have suggestions for books to read next year, please be in touch.

We continue to offer the Peachtree Heights East Tour as a collaboration with Atlanta Preservation Center. Several of you have asked if we plan to offer other historic neighborhoods walking tours. We are in beginning discussions with Peachtree Hills and Garden Hills about putting together tours. If you know of other historic neighborhoods' residents that might be interested in putting together walking tours, please put them in touch with me.

Thank you again for your continued support of Buckhead Heritage and please contact me at (404) 467-9447 or rwaterhouse@buckheadheritage.com if you have any questions about the organization.

Take care,

Richard Waterhouse



Honoring those at Mount Olive Cemetery

**Buckhead Library, 269 Buckhead Avenue
Opening Event: Sunday, October 1, 4 - 6 p.m.
Exhibition Dates: October 1 - December 14,
2022**

During Elevate 2022, visual artist and digital media collaborator for the Praise House Project, Kimberly Binns expands on her recent body of work on race and the history of city planning and development, to create a visual arts installation on the story of Bagley Park and those who rest at Mount Olive Cemetery in Buckhead. The exhibition will be on display at the Buckhead Library.

The Bagley family and others settled in the area now known as Buckhead in the 1920's after being forced to leave behind hundreds of acres of inherited and owned land when they were forced to leave Forsyth County. In the 1940s, the Fulton County Commission ruled the land as "underdeveloped" within a "long term initiative" and again forced the families off their land. Today, there is a city park there and all that remains is the small African-American burial grounds of Mount Olive Cemetery in one of the most affluent areas of the city.



Harmony Grove Cemetery Clean-up
Sunday, October 23 2022, 10 a.m. - 12 noon

If you are interested in participating in this cemetery clean-up, please bring garden items: rake, clippers, gloves, and leaf bags. You may also want to bring some bottled water.

Buckhead Heritage's work toward the rehabilitation of Harmony Grove Cemetery, located at the southwest corner of West Paces Ferry and Chatham roads, was awarded the 2009 Preservation Award for Excellence in Rehabilitation by the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information on this cemetery, please go to our website by [clicking here](#).

To register for this clean up, please contact Buckhead Heritage Executive Director Richard Waterhouse at (404) 467-9447 or rwaterhouse@buckheadheritage.com.



**Thursday, November 17, 7 p.m. Free
Cathedral of Saint Philip, Gould Room
Speaker Series: Gordon Mathis**

Gordon Mathis, Galloway School Head of Community Engagement, will talk about the history of the Chattahoochee Brick Company. It was located in North Atlanta, on the banks of the Chattahoochee River. Founded by Atlanta Mayor James W. English in 1878, the company used extensive convict lease labor. It closed in 2011 and the city of Atlanta has just recently purchased the land.

Mr. Mathis has degrees from the University of the South and Georgia State University. He speaks extensively about art exhibitions at the High Museum of Art.

[Register here](#)



Photo by Charlotte Margolin

Peachtree Heights East Movers, Shakers, and Heartbreakers Walking Tour

Saturday, December 3, 2022, 10 a.m.

Buckhead Heritage presents this tour in partnership with Atlanta Preservation Center

Caleb Brown and Richard Waterhouse will offer a fascinating tour of this hidden neighborhood near Peachtree Road and Lindbergh. With approximately 330 homes within this unique neighborhood, houses in Peachtree Heights East include early 20th century American two-story four-square, Craftsman Bungalow, Cape Cod, Tudor Revival, and Ranch to 21st century home styles. We will see examples of several of those on the tour. The mile-and-a-half route tour is hilly and will last about an hour-and-a-half. We will meet at the Duckpond's historical marker and stay on the road during the tour.

To register, please contact Executive Director Richard Waterhouse at rwaterhouse@buckheadheritage.com or (404) 467-9447.



Another House in Peril

3510 West Shadowlawn Avenue

Buckhead Heritage just learned about another house in peril of being demolished. The 81-year old house, is listed as contributing to the Alberta Drive-Mathieson-West Shadowlawn Avenue Historic District, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2015. Peachtree Road United Methodist Church plans to demolish the house for a new parsonage. The back yard, fully overgrown, is one of the few authentic parts of the Buckhead forest still remaining.

John Ruch, in his article *Church Aims to Demolish Historic Buckhead Forest House for New Parsonage* for Buckhead.com, wrote: "the

church claims the house is 'uninhabitable' and can't meet its mother organization's requirements for large parsonages." To read the full article, please [click here](#).



In appreciation of Dr. Mason Lowance (1938 - 2022)

Buckhead Heritage is sad to announce the death of Dr. Mason Lowance. He was a generous supporter of the organization and presented *History of Race Relations in the Jim Crow Era* as part of our Speaker Series in November 2020. Dr. Lowance wrote several books on slavery, and taught Early American Literature, American Romanticism, and American Realism at the University of Massachusetts – Amherst. Dr. Lowance was a native Atlantan who grew up in Buckhead and completed his undergraduate studies at

Princeton University, received a master's degree in English Literature at the University of Oxford in England, and his Ph. D. from Emory University. He and his wife Susan recorded an oral history interview for us May 15, 2015 with Chad Wright and Ivan Allen IV. To read the transcript, [click here](#).

A memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta on Thursday, October 20 at 3 PM. The family will receive friends immediately following the service in the Wirth Room.

To Join or Renew Buckhead Heritage Membership

Go [Here](#) or contact Richard Waterhouse at the office, 404-467-9447 or email rwaterhouse@buckheadheritage.com.

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