



June 2023 Newsletter



Please Join Buckhead Heritage!

Membership in Buckhead Heritage allows us to offer programming at no charge. Recent programs have received tremendous reviews and have been very well attended. As you review the upcoming programs below, please consider joining us by [clicking here](#) or using the QR Code below.

Ivan Allen, IV, Membership Committee Chair



Speaker Series: John Pruitt

Thursday, June 15, 7 p.m. Free

Cathedral of Saint Philip Gould Room

John Pruitt will talk about his debut novel *Tell it True*. In the opening pages of his book, an African American serviceman is gunned down on a rural Georgia road in July 1964. This shocking murder ensnares a wide range of characters including the journalists who cover it, the lawmen who must solve it, the civil rights leaders who capitalize upon it, the politicians who exploit it, and the Atlanta magnate who fears its impact on the New South image he desperately wants to protect.

John Pruitt began his journalism career in 1964 as a television reporter-cameraman and eventually rose to top anchor at WSB-TV in Atlanta, Georgia. For a half-century he covered the civil rights movement, Georgia politics, and the major news figures of the day. His reporting has been honored with multiple awards including induction into the Atlanta Press Club and Georgia Association of Broadcasters Halls of Fame.

[Register](#)



Speaker Series: Robert Ratonyi

Thursday, July 20, 7 p.m. Free

Cathedral of Saint Philip Gould Room

Robert Ratonyi will talk about his experience as a childhood Holocaust survivor. Born in Budapest, Hungary in 1938, Robert's early childhood was scarred by fear, upheaval and loss. He was six-years old when forced to wear a yellow star and face the terrors of war and ghetto life without his parents, both of whom were deported.

Robert grew up under the communist dictatorship. He was a freshman at the Technical University of Budapest when he was caught up in the bloody uprising against the Communist regime in October, 1956. He managed to escape to Austria following the uprising, and eventually ended up as an immigrant, first in Montreal, Canada where he learned English, restarted his life and education, and then in the US. He has a Bachelor and a Master degree in engineering from MIT. He also received a business degree from Drexel University. Robert became an American citizen in 1969 and enjoyed a successful business career. He and his wife Eva, who is also a Holocaust survivor, have two children.

As a survivor of the Holocaust, he is a regular speaker on behalf of The Breman Holocaust Museum and the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust.

His book, *From Darkness Into Light – My Journey Through Nazism, Fascism and Communism to Freedom* was published in 2022. The story you will hear at the lecture is based on the first chapter of his book.

If you have already registered and will not be able to attend, please let Richard Waterhouse know at rwaterhouse@buckheadheritage.com as soon as possible. The attendance for the program is almost full and we want to have seats for everyone.

Register



Speaker Series: Don Rooney

Thursday, August 17, 2023, 7 p.m. Free

Cathedral of Saint Philip Gould Room

Don Rooney, who co-authored the book *Lost Atlanta* with Michael Rose and Paul Crater, looks at the cherished places of the city that time, tragedy, and progress have swept aside. In addition to demolished treasures, *Lost*

Atlanta also investigates buildings and cityscapes that have changed function, design, style, or form.

Don Rooney is former Director of Exhibitions of the Atlanta History Center. He is currently National Register Specialist of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

[Register](#)



[AJC Article about Piney Grove Cemetery](#)

On Sunday, May 21, 2023, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution ran an article about Piney Grove Cemetery. Buckhead Heritage Board Emeritus Member Tamara Bazzle and Executive Director Richard Waterhouse were quoted in the article. [Click here](#) to view the article. Please consider joining the Piney Grove Cemetery Facebook page by [clicking here](#) so you will know what is happening with the preservation of the cemetery. To make a donation, please [click here](#). Photo is by Bre Johnson.



Atlanta History Center Juneteenth Celebration

Since 2013, Atlanta History Center has hosted an annual Juneteenth commemoration that connects visitors to this essential moment in national history.

Join them on June 18 as they celebrate Juneteenth 2023 (and Father's Day) by honoring the history of Black genealogy and agricultural practices. This year's event promises to be a truly immersive experience featuring live music, powerful storytelling, interactive crafts, and delicious food.

Their workshops and talks will provide valuable insights into the history of Juneteenth and offer tips on how to research your family tree and preserve family artifacts. Two highlights include:

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Bagley Park Pop-Up Exhibition: Artifacts on Bagley Park and Elon Osby's grandfather, William Bagley. The exhibition will be on display from June 18 to July 8.

12:30 to 1:30 p.m. - Elon will be participating on the discussion panel of Forsyth County Descendants as well as Patrick Phillips, author of *Blood at the Root*.

For further information about the celebration and to register, please [click here](#).



Executive Director's Report

We so appreciate your support as a member and as a participant of our programs and services.

I hope you all had the chance to attend Dan Chapman's presentation in May about his new book *A Road Running Southward: Following John Muir's Journey through and Endangered Land*. We had 53 participants attend the program.

I hope you will have a chance to attend John Pruitt's lecture about his book *Tell It True*. Combining the book club with the Speaker Series has been very successful. It allows many more people to be part of the discussion. If you have suggestions of programs for us, let me know.

It is also very exciting to see all the changes that are happening with Piney Grove Cemetery. I hope you will consider joining their Facebook page.

Once again, thank you for your support of Buckhead Heritage. We are very lucky to have you involved.

Take care, Richard Waterhouse

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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