



May 2023 Newsletter



Historic Bagley Park Sign

In the summer of 2022, Buckhead Heritage formed a Task Force to explore the renaming of Frankie Allen Park to Historic Bagley Park. Buckhead Heritage was inspired to undertake this effort after hearing a presentation from current Board Member Elon Osby about the African American community that once stood on park land and where her ancestors lived in the early to mid 1900s. The Task Force was successful in lobbying the City of Atlanta to restore the original name of the park and Buckhead Heritage is pleased to announce that the new sign was installed by the City of Atlanta on April 18, 2022.

The Task Force will continue its work by collaborating with Board Member Alec Michaelides, who has designed a Master Plan for Mt. Olive Cemetery, which sits at the entrance to the park. The Task Force is also currently raising funds to create a Master Plan for the entrance to the park that will highlight the history of the Bagley Park community through interpretive signage. Currently, the Task Force is seeking funds to implement these goals.

If you are interested in helping with this important effort, please [click here](#) and go to the Historic Bagley Park donation category.



Harmony Grove Cemetery Cleanup Report

Three cheers for Boy Scout Troop 304, which did a great job of cleaning Harmony Grove Cemetery on April 2! The troop, which is co-led by Wright Mitchell and Justin Jones, were joined by several Chatham Road neighbors and members of Buckhead Heritage. Thanks, too, to Jim Elgar in Mary Norwood's office, who facilitated the removal of the significant number of bags and limbs that were collected.

To learn more about Harmony Grove Cemetery and the important work that Buckhead Heritage has accomplished there, please [click here](#).



Peachtree Heights East Movers, Shakers, and Heartbreakers Walking Tour

Saturday, May 6, 2023, 10 a.m.

**Buckhead Heritage presents this tour in
partnership with Atlanta Preservation Center**

Caleb Brown and Richard Waterhouse offer a fascinating tour of this hidden neighborhood near Peachtree Road and Lindbergh. With approximately 330 homes, Peachtree Heights East includes 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 these on the tour. The mile-and-a-half route 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.



Speaker Series: Dan Chapman

Thursday, May 18, 7 p.m. Free

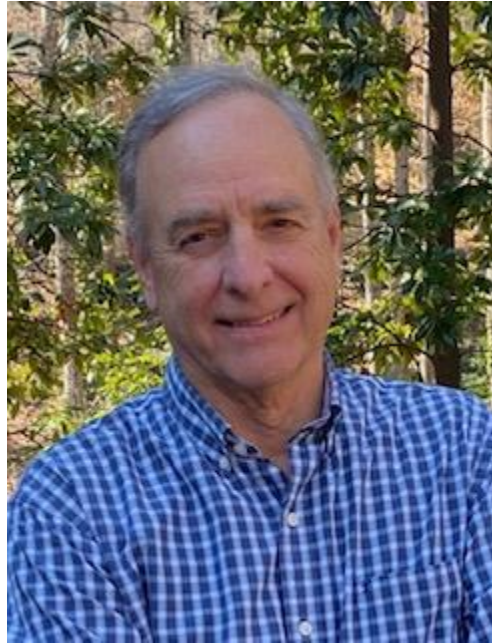
Cathedral of Saint Philip Gould Room

Dan Chapman will talk about his new book *A Road Running Southward: Following John Muir's Journey Through an Endangered Land*.

In 1867, John Muir set out on foot to explore the botanical wonders of the South, keeping a detailed journal of his adventures as he traipsed from Kentucky southward to Florida. One hundred and fifty years later, on a similar whim, veteran Atlanta reporter Dan Chapman, distressed by sprawl-driven environmental ills in a region he loves, recreated Muir's journey to see for himself how nature has fared since Muir's time.

Channeling Muir, he uses humor, keen observation, and a deep love of place to celebrate the South's natural riches. But he laments that a treasured way of life for generations of Southerners is endangered as long-simmering struggles intensify over misused and dwindling resources. Chapman seeks to discover how Southerners might balance surging population growth with protecting the natural beauty Muir found so special. Copies of the book will be for sale at the lecture.

[Register](#)



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](#)



Atlanta Preservation Center's Phoenix Flies Standing Peachtree Program

For the first time since the 1821 Treaty of Indian Springs, which allowed the United States to take more than 4 million acres from the Muskogee including present-day Buckhead, Atlanta welcomed a Muskogee leader back to their native land March 18th.

William Lowe, MBA, Speaker of the Muskogee (Creek) National Council,

represented the people who called Georgia home for thousands of years at the Standing Peachtree / Pakanahuili Forgotten History Event. He was accompanied by authentic drums and song by the Silver Ridge Singers (pictured).

Kathy Sharp has produced the event for nine years as part of Phoenix Flies on behalf of AtlantasUpperWestSide.com and Groundwork Atlanta as well as Riverwalk Atlanta.

Several Buckhead Heritage board members attended the event, including President Charlotte Margolin.

Article by Thornton Kennedy



Executive Director's Report

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

Caleb and I gave a mini-tour of Peachtree Heights East at the Duck Pond for the North Druid Hills Garden Club a couple weeks ago. The group asked some great questions and were very engaged. If you would like a private tour for your group, let us know. Weekends work best for us but we could possibly do a weekday depending on our schedule.

I had the honor of driving by Mount Olive Cemetery on my way back from lunch and seeing the Parks and Recreation Department putting up the Historic Bagley Park sign. Wright Mitchell covered the placement of the sign in his article at the beginning of the newsletter.

Because many people wanted to hear our book club discussions, we have combined our book club discussions and our speaker series. A couple of great discussions are coming up: Dan Chapman talking about his book *A Road Running Southward: Following John Muir's Journey Through an Endangered Land* and John Pruitt talking about his book *Tell it True*. I hope you will register for both.

I hope many of you heard Jim Morgens' presentation on the Beltline. He talked about the Atlanta BeltLine being a 22-mile open and planned loop of multi-use trail and light rail transit system on a former railway corridor around the core of Atlanta, Georgia. The International Real Estate Federation recognized the Atlanta BeltLine as the best environmental rehabilitation project in the world during its 2014 World Conference focused on Building Humanity, awarding it the Prix d'Excellence Award. Please [click here](#) to access his PowerPoint presentation.

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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