



## April 2024 Newsletter



**Garden Party  
The Wilen's  
Sunday, May 19, 2024**

## 4 to 7 p.m.

Come join Buckhead Heritage for our third Garden Party that is located off Woodward Way. The property is an oasis all to itself. A beautiful house, pool area, and English garden make this space stunning. Wander the paths that surround the breathtaking property. The original part of the house was built in 1926 and was the home and studio of well-known Georgia artist Comer Jennings who created stunning portraits of Jimmy Carter, Robert Woodruff, and numerous Buckhead families and their children.

Buckhead Heritage has Patron and Host Committee Sponsorship opportunities available.

Patrons and Host Committee Members will receive 2 complimentary tickets, an unlimited number of guests at the member rate, name recognition on the website, monthly e-newsletter, and the email invitation.

- Patron \$750.00
- Host Committee Member \$500.00

To become a Patron, please click [here](#).

To become a Host Committee Member, please click [here](#).

**Deadline for being listed as a sponsor on the email invitation is April 12, 2024.**

Single Tickets are:

Member (\$150.00) ([Purchase tickets](#))

Non-member (\$175.00) ([Purchase tickets](#))

Corporate Sponsorships are also available. For further information, please contact Richard Waterhouse at (404) 467-9447 or [rwaterhouse@buckheadheritage.com](mailto:rwaterhouse@buckheadheritage.com).

Rain date of the Garden Party will be Sunday, June 16, 2024.

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**Speaker Series: Thomas D. Hills**  
**Thursday, April 18, 2024, 7 p.m., Free**  
**Cathedral of Saint Philip Gould Room**

Our April Speaker will be Thomas D. Hills, a participant in State of Georgia governance and close observer of politics.

He witnessed the transition in early 2000's from Democratic control of Governor's office and both houses of the state legislature for 130 years until Sonny Perdue was elected Governor in 2002 and the political layout of Georgia changed "literally " overnight. He set out to inculcate "bureaucracy with a business brain" into state government. Who were the "players" in that transition, what was "changed" and what was sustained? Many of the decisions made in the Perdue administration laid the foundation for some of the political changes and differences in the priorities of state government over the next several years and up to the current days.

Mr. Hills is a Native Atlantan. He was born at Piedmont Hospital and has been a resident of Buckhead for all of his adult life. He was Former Atlanta City President of Wachovia Bank – worked with that bank and predecessor (First Atlanta) for 36 years. He was the CFO State of Georgia 2003-2010 and State of Georgia Treasurer from 2010 -2011. He is active on many community boards. He has a BA

and MA in History and J.D. from Emory Law School. He is author of *Red State Rising – Triumph of the Republican Party in Georgia* that was published in 2009.

**[Register](#)**

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**Speaker Series: *Bobby Jones Then & Now:  
The Evolution of Atlanta Memorial Park***

**Thursday, May 16, 7 p.m., Free**

**Cathedral of Saint Philip Child Hall**

Marty Elgison, the President and Founder of the Bobby Jones Golf Course Foundation, Catherine Spillman, the Executive Director of the Atlanta Memorial Park Conservancy, and Pete Pellegrini, the Senior Project Manager with the PATH Foundation, will discuss how the legacy of one of the most influential figures in golf, a historic flood and the Beltline converged to transform Buckhead's oldest park.

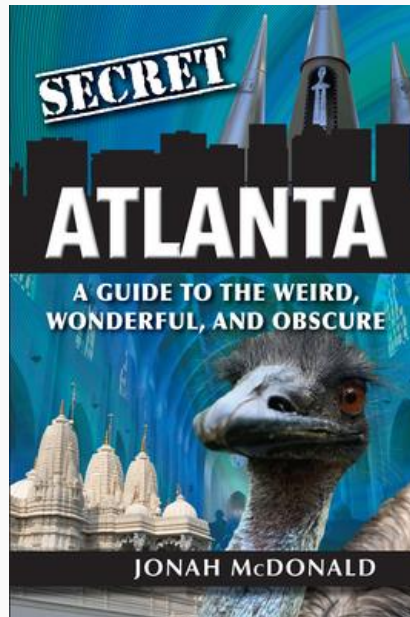
For generations of residents, Atlanta Memorial Park was known for its ramshackle public golf course and the Bitsy Grant Tennis Center. While Chastain Park and Piedmont Park became Crown Jewels in the city's park system, it was overlooked and neglected.

The once-in-a-generation flood in 2009 was one of the factors that led to the creation of the Atlanta Memorial Park Conservancy, which drafted the first Master Plan in the park's history. The PATH Foundation built the Northwest BeltLine Connector trail around the golf course, featuring bridges, a canopied boardwalk, and a spur trail to Tanyard Park and Ardmore Park. It has become one of the region's most popular pedestrian and biking paths. The Bobby Jones Golf Course Foundation launched the ambitious plan to build a revolutionary reversible golf course designed by Bob Cupp. Home to the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame and Boone's Restaurant, the renovated golf course, and state-of-the-art practice facilities are in high demand seven days a week.

The result is a resurgence of the 90-plus-year-old, 200-acre park. Hear the story of its past, its present, and its future.

**[Register](#)**

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## **Speaker Series: *Secret Atlanta: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure***

**Thursday, June 20, 7 p.m., Free  
Cathedral of Saint Philip Gould Room**

Back by popular demand, Jonah McDonald will talk about his book *Secret Atlanta: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure*. Beyond standard Atlanta tourist attractions, visitors and natives alike will find a city full of secrets - in history, art, culture, nature, and places that are just plain weird. Tour the most hidden spots in the metro, or see the famous sites through a new lens. Jonah will have signed copies of the book available for sale.

**[Register](#)**

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## Oral History Interview With Alan Elsas

Andrea Bennett, volunteer for Buckhead Heritage, shadowed James Ottley conducting the oral history interview of Alan Elsas, a native Atlantan hailing from Buckhead. Judith Vanderver, not pictured, also shadowed as part of training to become an oral history interviewer for Buckhead Heritage. Also present, Sue VerHoef, not pictured, Director of Oral History and Genealogy at Atlanta History Center.

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## Executive Director's Report

I am excited to be speaking to the Trinity Presbyterian Church's Men's Club on April 19 about *Buckhead Heritage: Past, Present, and Future*. If you have a group or organization you would like me to speak to, please let me know.

We had a great turnout for our Atlanta Preservation Center's Phoenix Flies Peachtree Heights East Tour. Twenty one folks joined us and we had some great discussion about Atlanta history. Our tours are always listed on the APC's walking tours website if you want to join us in the future.

One thing that always amazes me about Buckhead is how many hidden gems there are. For example, Sara Butler, who spoke to us last January about her book *Fortune and Folly: The Weird and Wonderful Life of the South's Most Eccentric Millionaire, Caleb*, and I went on a Cathedral of Saint Philip's stained glass tour with Dean Sam Candler. The detail in the stained glass and the stories Dean Candler told about the history of the church were fascinating. One of the stained glass windows even has a buck head in it. I have included a picture of one of the stained glass windows below.

Take care,

Richard Waterhouse





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## To Join or Renew Buckhead Heritage Membership

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

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