



September 2022 Newsletter

President's Letter

Our summer programs have been outstanding and Matt Norman's talk about the love that he and his wife, English, have poured into the Meredith House kept the momentum going. Over 50 attendees were spellbound by the stories of preservation and the lives of the previous homeowners. If you were unable to attend, please [click here](#) to learn more about the fascinating history of this home.

If you know of a home, building or garden that you would like to suggest for upcoming events, please let me know. You may reach out to me or Richard Waterhouse, executive director of Buckhead Heritage. 404-429-9956 rwaterhouse@buckheadheritage.com or charlotte@peachtreehillspc.com. I look forward to hearing from you or seeing you at our next event.

We are now accepting nominations for **The Belle Turner Lynch Buckhead Preservation of the Year Award.**

The Belle Turner Lynch Preservation Award is bestowed on distinguished individuals, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and corporations whose skill and determination have given new meaning to their communities through preservation of their architectural and cultural heritage. These efforts include citizen attempts to save and maintain important landmarks; companies and craftsmen whose work restores the richness of the past; the vision of public officials who support preservation projects and legislation in their communities; and educators and journalists who help Americans understand the value of preservation.

The award will be announced at our Holiday Party in December 2022. More details to come soon. - Charlotte Margolin



Harmony Grove Cemetery, Buckhead.

A Journey of Passion

When Richard Waterhouse, the Executive Director of Buckhead Heritage since 2017, isn't managing the organization's administration, planning programs, leading our book group, or handling a myriad of details, his focus is often on his other passion, exploring Victorian gravestone symbolism. His interest began in 2000, when he created a Victorian Symbolism Walking Tour for Oakland Cemetery. In 2010, he published a book, *Victorian Symbols of Oakland: A Guide to the Many Sacred Symbols of Atlanta Atlanta's Oldest Public Cemetery*. A longtime guide at Oakland, Richard still leads about six of these tours each year.

Richard's love of art began long before he earned his degree in American Art from Centre College, Danville, KY. After several positions in arts management, Richard served as the Director/Curator of the Cahoon Museum of American Art in Cotuit, Massachusetts on Cape Cod. While there, he and Caleb Brown, his partner, created a walking tour of the Sandwich Old Town Cemetery, founded in 1637, where the remains of eleven American Revolutionary War soldiers are buried. Early colonial gravestone symbols he identified there included the weeping willow, the Greek urn, and the skull-and-bones motifs.

At the Cahoon Museum of American Art, Richard offered a four-part series on gravestone symbolism, as well as a presentation sponsored by the Newnan Carnegie Library Foundation titled *The Power of*

Christian Symbolism in Victorian Cemeteries. He has written articles for the Association for Gravestone Studies Quarterly, including one on symbols of children's gravestones and another on symbols of the Non-Catholic Cemetery in Rome, Italy, as well as a blog on gravestone symbolism for Woolsey Church Cemetery, Woolsey, GA.

Since 2006, Richard has written the Waterhouse Symbolism e-newsletter, circulated to about 600 readers through the United States and Europe. Themes that he has covered include flowers, hands, nautical, passage of time, patriotism, trees, saints, and water. If you are interested in receiving this free newsletter, please email Richard at rwsymbolism@gmail.com.

Richard has consulted at over 50 historic cemeteries throughout the country, including over ten in Georgia, many in Atlanta and Macon's Rose Hill Cemetery. He has also consulted in Alabama, Washington, D.C., Virginia, Massachusetts, New York, Colorado, and Rome, Italy.



Whispering Pines Demolished

Buckhead Heritage is saddened to share that Whispering Pines, has been demolished. We earlier reported that the beautiful 1928 home on the corner of Northside Drive and West Paces Ferry Road, was to be demolished in what started as an infill development. However, it now remains to be seen what the eventual outcome will be to this piece of property where the graceful Pringle and Smith home stood for almost 100 years.

Originally Whispering Pines and another nearby property were owned by the Macallan Group which was to develop a new residential subdivision. Neighborhood groups and preservationists (with input from Buckhead Heritage) had negotiated with the developer to reduce the density and, it was hoped, to find a way to save the mansion.

Nevertheless, Macallan applied to the city for a demolition permit but once the demolition began, city records showed that Macallan had sold both properties on August 8 to an Athens-based liability company called Westlake WPF Holding.

The neighbors and other who love this City and Buckhead realize what a loss this is for the entire City of Atlanta. Across Atlanta tearing down important and beautiful structures and landmarks has been and continues to be an issue. Several Buckhead neighborhoods have been split in the past on creating preservation districts that might help protect their neighborhoods. Buckhead Heritage provides programming to help the community better understand preservation options and is developing a survey for residents asking how the public now feels about preservation. When you receive a survey link, please respond, and share it with your neighbors. We will develop programming based on answers to the survey.

Buckhead Heritage strives to enhance the quality of life in Buckhead by identifying, preserving, and promoting its historic resources. We endeavor to foster a conscious respect within the community for its rich and diverse history, ensuring that Buckhead's historic resources are accommodated in future growth and secured for the benefit of the community.



Photo by Charlotte Margolin

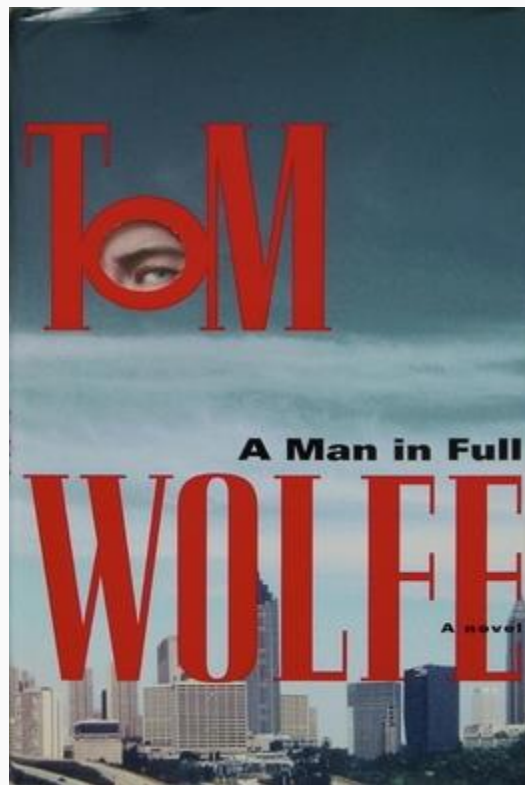
Peachtree Heights East Movers, Shakers, and Heartbreakers Walking Tour

Saturday, September 10, 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. If you are interested in creating a walking tour for your Buckhead historic neighborhood, please contact Richard as well.



**Book Club Meeting: *A Man in Full* by
Tom Wolfe, Wednesday, September 21, 6:30 p.m., Free**

John and Ann Beach will discuss Tom Wolfe's *A Man in Full* as it approaches its 25th anniversary. How has Wolfe's quintessential Atlanta book set in Buckhead fared over the years, and is it more or

less relevant today? Who were our real-life neighbors the author modeled characters like Charles Croker and Roger Too White after in the book? How did Wolfe choose to portray Buckhead homes, streets and people? Knowing now what the author wrote, would he be welcomed back to Buckhead again? Location of the event will be provided when the email confirmation is sent out two days before the event.

Register by [clicking here](#)



Events at New Hope AME Church

It was great to see Buckhead Heritage board members and members at the rededication of the cemetery at New Hope A.M.E. Church on Saturday, August 27.

Pastor Richards thanked Buckhead Heritage for our work and support

and recognized other engaged churches in the community. Ivan Allen was the Board Member Coordinate for the project. I thanked over 50 generous donors who gave over \$33,000 for the project included extensive landscaping, repairing, and cleaning of grave markers and the identification of more than 600 graves, of which 379 are marked. Perimeter fencing has been completed and looks great as it defines the cemetery property which continues to undergo improvement from volunteers. Under the direction of Ashley Shares, Oakland Cemetery's Director of Preservation, over 20 gravestones have been restored.

For further information about this project, please contact Buckhead Heritage executive director Richard Waterhouse at (404) 467-9447 or rwaterhouse@buckheadheritage.com. - Charlotte Margolin



First Lady Sandra Deal Remembered

Buckhead Heritage supporter and history author Sandra Deal passed away this August. Several members asked me why there was a uniformed Georgia State Patrolman standing discretely listening to our sold out 2018 Spotswood Hall program on artist Athos Menaboni. I discretely explained that Governor Deal's wife Sandra was attending, and the gentleman was her "escort". Sandra later showed us a collection of the artist's works when she hosted a Buckhead Heritage Patrons event at the Governor's Mansion. Sandra spent about 2 hours talking to our group about art, furnishings and history, including stories from her book about the mansion. Members found her very passionate and knowledgeable. - *John Beach*



Charlie Loudermilk: Work hard. Dream big 1927-2022

We want to note the passing of Charlie Loudermilk, 95, last month. He launched his Aaron Rents business with \$500 in 1955, and its headquarters on the corner of East Paces Ferry was one of the first named business buildings in Buckhead.

According to *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Loudermilk, then 10, and a young buddy sold bottled Cokes outside the Buckhead Theater. After years of living his mantra—“Work hard, dream big”—he was able to purchase and refurbish the rundown theater into a popular venue for entertainment. How fitting that the property across from the theater—at the intersection of Peachtree, Roswell and West Paces Ferry roads—formerly known as Triangle Park, was renamed Charlie Loudermilk Park in honor of his civic contributions. In 2013, the park was redeveloped and landscaped into a welcoming green space. Buckhead Heritage installed two signs in the park that incorporate the history of the property.

To Join or Renew Buckhead Heritage Membership

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

2022 Board & Staff

Officers

Charlotte Margolin - President
Fay Pearce, Jr. - Vice President
Frank W. Virgin - Secretary
Michael Armstrong - Treasurer
John Beach - Past President

Board of Directors

Ivan Allen IV
Beckie Amos
Carol C. Grady
Chris Hastings
Christy Morris
Elon Butts Osby
Susan Soper
Elizabeth Morgan
Spiegel
Joe Thomas
Judith Vanderver

Emeritus Board

Tamara A. Bazzle
Wright Mitchell

Advisory Board

Mera Cardenas
Edward L.
Daugherty, FASLA
Wright Marshall
Frances H.
Westbrook

Executive Director

Richard
Waterhouse
