



January 2026 Newsletter



HOLIDAY GATHERING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

We appreciate everyone's support of another very successful Holiday Gathering. 138 people attended the event and we raised \$39,000.00. The Fowlers' house was very festive and the food and refreshments made it extra special.



2025 BELLE TURNER LYNCH PRESERVATION AWARD

This year's award winners were Gloria and Walter Cheatham and David Mitchell.

Walter and Gloria Cheatham, residents of Tuxedo Park, led the years-long effort to successfully have the Tuxedo Park Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The history of the neighborhood is fascinating. The earlier historic homes, many designed by prominent Georgia architects, represent most of the 20th-century Revival styles, while the later homes exemplify mid-century house types.

David Yoakley Mitchell, Executive Director of the Atlanta Preservation Center, worked closely with the Cheathams for many months to

ensure that the Tuxedo Park Historic District was successfully listed on the National Register of Historic Places. David has been at the helm of APC since 2020 and has reinvigorated the organization by raising awareness of the city's identity and history. He is also leading the effort to have the Chastain Arts Center landmarked, which will protect it in perpetuity.



2025 BOB HELGET VOLUNTEER AWARD

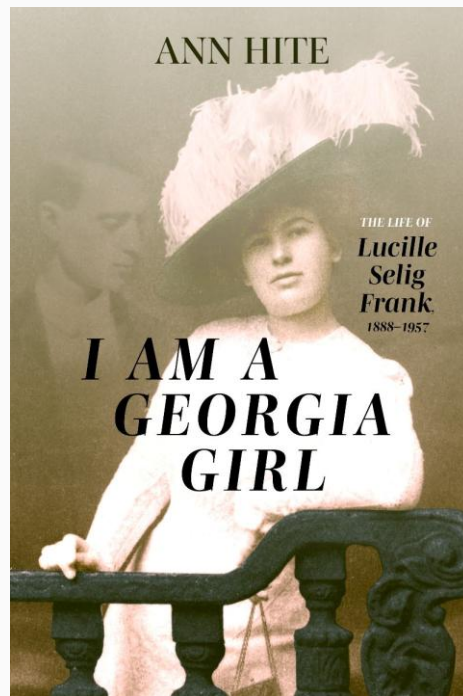
This year's award winner was John Beach. He launched the Tree Project, a personal interest he developed outside the organization and later brought in and promoted during his presidency. The project enabled the public to identify older trees that may date back to the 1821 survey of Buckhead. He also created the Historic Treasures Survey Mapping database, which displays all of Buckhead's historic resources on a map and allows visitors to update information and nominate new locations.



Service Project on MLK Holiday at Mount Olive Cemetery

Monday, January 19, 2026, 1 - 3 P.M.

Please join Buckhead Heritage and our partners, Atlanta International School (AIS), for a clean up day at Mt. Olive Cemetery, adjacent to Historic Bagley Park on Pharr Road in Buckhead. We will join students in raking and bagging leaves in this historic cemetery. Elon Osby, whose grandparents and other family members are buried there, will give a history of the cemetery and the community. The event will begin at 1 p.m. on Monday, January 19, 2026. Please bring a rake and gardening gloves. Bags and water will be provided. If you can attend or have any questions, please contact Tamara Bazzle, tabazzle@gmail.com or Richard Waterhouse at rwaterhouse@buckheadheritage.com.



**Speaker Series: Ann Hite Will Discuss her
New Book, *I Am A Georgia Girl: The Life of
Lucille Selig Frank, 1888-1957* and
McCracken Poston, Jr. will
Moderate the Program**

Thursday, January 22, 2026, 7 p.m., Free

Cathedral of Saint Philip Gould Room

Twenty-five-year-old Lucille Selig Frank's whole life changed on April 26, 1913, as the Confederate Memorial Parade marched through Atlanta, Georgia. Lucille was attending the opera matinee with her mother. Her husband, Leo Frank, sat in his office in the National Pencil Company, where he was superintendent, working on a financial report. The brutal murder of fourteen-year-old Mary Phagan, an employee of Leo's, took place in the pencil factory that day. Lucille's husband would

be the last known person to see Mary alive. While much has been written about Mary Phagan's murder and Leo Frank's subsequent trial over the past 115 years, very little has given voice to Lucille Selig Frank and other women connected to the horrific events that took place between 1913-1915. Lucille was part of a mission to make Governor John Slaton aware of the antisemitism being shown to Leo during his arrest and trial. She paid a heavy price for her courage.

Books will be for sale and Ann can sign them after the program.

Register



From the New Board President

Buckhead Heritage has the wind at its sails. For the first time in our 20-year history, more than 500 of you are members. That level of support — along with strong fundraising — puts us on solid financial footing for the foreseeable future. Our historic cemetery and oral history initiatives are thriving, and the organization is healthy and growing.

The year ahead brings exciting possibilities, including the potential opportunity to manage the Little White House across from E. Rivers Elementary School, known to many as Mrs. Bloodworth's kindergarten. Designed in 1911 by Carrère and Hastings, the building originally served as the sales office for Eretus Rivers' Peachtree Heights Development Co. While we are still in the early stages, we are hopeful.

Our monthly programs continue to be a highlight, with several strong offerings on the horizon. We hope you will join us for these free educational and fellowship opportunities on the third Thursday of each month at the Cathedral of St. Philip.

Continuity and leadership remain hallmarks of Buckhead Heritage. Longtime board member and Oral History Committee chair Judith Vanderver has graciously agreed to serve as vice president of the board, and Richard Waterhouse will continue as our capable and beloved executive director. We are deeply grateful to Ivan Allen and the board for their steady guidance over the past two years.

This year, we are also launching our Historic House Program under the leadership of former board president Charlotte Margolin. More details soon.

Finally, we need volunteers. If you would like to become more involved, please let Richard or me know.

I am at your service and proud to lead Buckhead Heritage over the next two years.

Thornton Kennedy

Board Chair, Buckhead Heritage



**Speaker Series: Caroline Eubanks Discussing
her Book *A Boozy History of Atlanta: People,
Places &
Drinks that Made a City***

**Thursday, February 19, 2026, 7 p.m., Free
Cathedral of Saint Philip Gould Room**

Join author Caroline Eubanks on a behind-the-scenes look at the people, places and drinks behind the city. Even when it was still called Terminus, Atlanta was earning a raucous reputation as a hub for hard-drinking railroad workers. The first mayor, a saloon owner from the appropriately named Free and Rowdy Party, only cemented the town's party credentials. What followed was more than a century of moonshiners, dollar bill-covered dives, exotic dancers, speakeasies and underground taverns, wild parties on both land and water and, of course, drinks.

[Register](#)



Executive Director's Report

As you can see from above, we had a very successful Holiday Gathering. Thank you to these volunteers who assisted me with the set up of the event: Beckie Amos, Barbara Bazzel, Eleanor Baughman, and Caleb Brown.

The next 2 programs just look outstanding. I remember when we started doing programs, we were lucky if we had 10 people show it. Now, for each program, we have 50+ participants. We are still looking for programs from June to November. Please let me know if you have any suggestions.

I hope you have heard that our 2026 Garden Party will be at the stunning home of Frances and Robin Loudermilk, Villa Juanita, Sunday, May 17th, 4 to 6:30 p.m. More information will follow.

Take care,

Richard Waterhouse

To Join or Renew Buckhead Heritage Membership

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

Buckhead Heritage Mission Statement

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.

2026 Board & Staff

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Judith Vanderver - Vice President
Frank W. Virgin - Secretary
Michael Armstrong - Treasurer
Ivan Allen, IV - Past President

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John Beach
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Executive Director

Richard Waterhouse

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