



February 2026 Newsletter



**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. Books will be for sale for \$25.00 check or cash.

Register



Speaker Series: *Julie Coco Discussing GDOT's Handbook to Aid in the Identification and Evaluation of the Historic Significance of Georgia's Burial Grounds*

**Thursday, March 26, 2026, 7 p.m., Free
Cathedral of Saint Philip Gould Room**

Although we choose to mourn our dead in differing manners, all human cultures share a desire to handle death and the bodies of those who have died in what they consider to be a respectful, culturally appropriate manner. Many factors influence these choices, such as religion, politics, environment, history, and ethnicity. Each choice has the potential to provide a window into the wider values of a society or culture. All of Georgia's cemeteries contain stories, and each is a special place to those whose loved ones are buried there. However, not every cemetery is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) identified the need to create a context and handbook for the cultural resource preservation professional to aid in the identification and evaluation of the historic significance of Georgia's burial grounds for the NRHP. Written by New South Associates, Inc. under contract with GDOT, this context aids state and federal agencies in fulfilling the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) by establishing a framework for determining how a Georgia cemetery may rise to a level of significance to be considered NRHP eligible. While written for cultural resource professionals, the handbook serves the additional purpose of helping anyone interested in Georgia's cemeteries understand their development, composition, and the important role they have played, and continue to contribute to, Georgia's history and culture.

Julie Coco serves as New South Associates' Director of History and was one of the authors of the cemetery context. Ms. Coco has experience in ethnoarchaeology, ethnohistory, tribal consultation, cultural anthropology, historic archaeology, training, preservation planning, Section 106, HABS/HAER documentation, cemetery studies, museum exhibit design, and public history.

Register



Speaker Series: Mary Ilonah will focus on “The Herndon Family Legacy: Building Institutions and Men Before the Civil Rights Movement.”

**Thursday, April 23, 2026, 7 p.m., Free
Cathedral of Saint Philip Gould Room**

This talk will explore how the Herndon family’s visionary work in business, education, and community development helped shape the social and economic foundations that later sustained the Civil Rights Movement in Atlanta and beyond. Drawing from archival materials and museum interpretation at the Herndon Home Museum, Mary will highlight how Alonzo, Adrienne, Jessie, and Norris Herndon’s leadership and philanthropy nurtured generations of Black excellence, dignity, and self-determination. May Ilonah is Museum's Operations Manager at the Historic Herndon Home Museum in Atlanta.

Register



Honoring the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Buckhead community came together for an afternoon of service at the Mount Olive Cemetery to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Alongside students, families and teachers from Atlanta International School (AIS), volunteers spent the afternoon raking and preserving this sacred space in Historic Bagley Park. We appreciated board member Elon Osby sharing the powerful history of the cemetery and the community where her grandparents and family members are laid to rest.

Since 2006, Buckhead Heritage has been dedicated to protecting our neighborhood's historic resources. Events like today remind us that preservation isn't just about old buildings — it's about honoring the stories and legacies of the people who shaped Buckhead.

A huge thank you to everyone who brought their rakes, gloves, and energy to help us maintain this important piece of Atlanta's heritage. Buckhead Heritage Board Members joining the volunteers included Thornton Kennedy, Elon Osby, Ivan Allen, Judith Vanderver, Tamara Bazzle, Fay Pearce, and Frank Virgin.



Executive Director's Report

As you can see, Buckhead Heritage has many activities happening right now and in the future:

In March, we will be part of the Atlanta Preservation Center's extraordinary Phoenix Flies when we offer the Peachtree Heights East Walking Tour twice. Details will follow in the March newsletter.

The next 3 programs just look outstanding. For our January program, when Anne Hite discussed her book about Lucy Selig Frank, we had 110 attendees and we relocated the talk to Child Hall.

If you are not a member of Buckhead Heritage, we hope you will join. Our membership goal for 2026 is 50 new members and in January, we already have 7. Please reach out to me if you need further information about our membership program.

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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