



## April 2026 Newsletter



### **2026 House and Garden Party**

#### **Villa Juanita**

**Sunday, May 17, 4 to 6:30 p.m.**

Please join us for our 2026 House and Garden Party. We will carry on our tradition of cocktails, buffet, and music in the home and garden of

Frances and Robin Loudermilk, Villa Juanita, West Paces Ferry Road.

The grandeur of Villa Juanita began with the roaring '20s when Conkey P. Whitehead purchased this land for his new bride, Julia Murphy. The Whitehead family had made their fortune by obtaining exclusive rights to bottle and sell Coca Cola in 1889. They built Villa Juanita in 1922 to host their active social life.

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 17, 2026.**

Single Tickets are:

Member (\$175.00) ([Purchase tickets](#))

Non-member (\$200.00) ([Purchase tickets](#))

Corporate Sponsorships are also available. For further information, please contact Thornton Kennedy at [thornton@prsouth.net](mailto:thornton@prsouth.net).

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**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. Mary Ilonah is Museum's Operations Manager at the Historic Herndon Home Museum in Atlanta.

**[Register](#)**



**Speaker Series: Filmmaker Lance Russell, creator of the *Stories of Atlanta* YouTube channel, reveals new dimensions of a city many think they already know.**

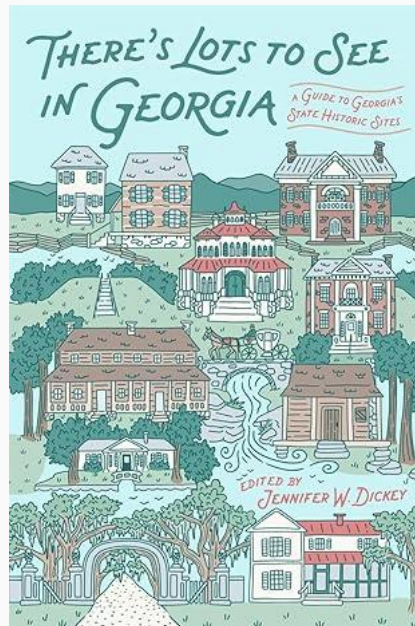
**Thursday, May 28, 7p.m., Free  
Cathedral of Saint Philip Child Hall**

Atlanta's history is often told through a familiar set of names, events, and landmarks, yet the city's past extends far beyond William Sherman, Scarlett O'Hara, Coca-Cola, and a really busy airport. In a visually immersive presentation, Lance draws from the extensive archive of his *Stories of Atlanta* videos to veer off the beaten path and explore the surprising, quirky, and often overlooked moments tucked into Atlanta's forgotten corners.

You may know Atlanta's story, but do you know the rest of the story?

## Register

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### **Speaker Series: Jennifer W. Dickey discussing her book, *There is A Lot to See in Georgia***

**Thursday, June 18, 7 p.m., Free  
Cathedral of Saint Philip Gould Room**

*There's Lots to See in Georgia* provides a history of the Peach State's historic sites, including a brief history of each site, the process by which the sites were preserved and restored and became part of the state historic site system, and information to guide visitors as they tour each site.

Jennifer W. Dickey is a professor of history and the coordinator of the

museums and the history and public programs at Kennesaw State University. Previously the campus preservationist at Berry College, she continues to serve as a preservation consultant.

## **Register**

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## **FOND FAREWELL TO OUR ORAL HISTORY ASSISTANT GEORGE S. DRAKOS**

Buckhead Heritage hired George S. Drakos in 2024 to help the Oral History Project Committee with the logistics of oral history interviews. George is an Emory student and has been working on his Bachelor of Arts in History & Economics, Minor in Political Science. He will graduate this May and he is attending Boston University School of Law in the fall.

Some of his accomplishments were transcribing the oral history interviews of Mary Virginia Davis, Alana Shepherd, Ivan Allen IV, Alan Elsas, Jim Groton, and Andrew Benator. George also performed all video editing of the oral histories for publication to our YouTube channel and handled uploading our new content.

Thank you to the George M. Brown Trust Fund of Atlanta and an anonymous donor for making the funds available so we could hire George.

In 2009, Buckhead Heritage began recording oral history interviews in an effort to preserve personal recollections of the community's history and evolution. With over 50 to date, we continue to record stories of Buckhead told by those who lived them so that future generations can have access to the knowledge and culture that preceded them. If you have stories worth telling or know someone who might, please contact us at [rwaterhouse@buckheadheritage.com](mailto:rwaterhouse@buckheadheritage.com). To listen to some of the oral histories that we have recorded, please [click here](#).

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## **Executive Director's Report**

Our Peachtree Heights East Walking Tours that were part of the outstanding Atlanta Preservation Center's Phoenix Flies, went extremely well. We had 25 eager participants on each tour. On the first tour, a couple joined us who knew me from my time as Manager of Leadership Giving at Georgia Public Broadcasting. I had given them a tour of the facility.

We will be offering the walking tours again May 23, July 18, September 12, and November 7. They will be listed in future newsletters.

Thank you for your continued support of Buckhead Heritage. If you are not a current member, I hope you will consider joining us.

Take care,

Richard Waterhouse

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## **To Join or Renew Buckhead Heritage Membership**

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

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## **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.

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## **2026 Board & Staff**

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**Executive Director**

Richard Waterhouse

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**Our contact information:**

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