

Brookhaven Buzz

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Covering Brookhaven, Buckhead,
Chamblee, Dunwoody & Doraville



Happy
Valentine's
Day

Buckhead Leaders of the Arts Saluted

Groundbreaking at Lynwood Park School, 1950s

Lynwood Park School principal and PTA president (left) perform ceremonial groundbreaking duties while black and white DeKalb educators, teacher supervisor Narvie Harris and Superintendent Jim Cherry (right), look on.



This issue of the *Brookhaven Buzz* salutes Black History Month, which observes the movement and struggle of African Americans and their descendents throughout the world. The remembrance has its origins in 1926 as an idea of black historian Carter G. Woodson. He chose February to celebrate African American history because it marks the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

In rural DeKalb County in the first half of the twentieth century, as elsewhere in the South, public education was strictly segregated on the basis of race. Black children and teens often attended "combined" schools in buildings that offered elementary as well as high school classes. By the 1940s African American students in DeKalb attended seventeen schools, most of them in dilapidated churches and lodge halls.

In the aftermath of the Supreme Court 1954 Brown decision, which struck down "separate but equal," things slowly began to improve in DeKalb, although short of racial integration. The county funded six new Negro schools. Serving blacks in the extended Brookhaven area was the Lynwood Park School, named after the historic African American community on House Road (now Windsor Parkway, which is currently undergoing gentrification). The 1950s groundbreaking for this and other new black schools began a significant first step in the long struggle to improve education for African Americans in DeKalb County.

Dr. Paul Hudson, longtime resident of the Brookhaven area and historian at Georgia Perimeter College, writes stories of Bygone Brookhaven for the Buzz.



(L-R) 2009 Buckhead Girls Club "Woman of the Year" Jan Collins, saluted for her work on behalf of the Sandy Springs Society Foundation, was congratulated by Jenny Pruitt, Club founder and Chairman of Atlanta Fine Homes Sotheby's International Realty, and her daughter Courtenay Collins.

Two extraordinarily accomplished Buckhead-bred women were applauded at the Buckhead Girls Club Winter Brunch, when Elizabeth Musser, author of *The Swan House*, was guest speaker and Jan Collins, Founding Chair of the Sandy Springs Society Foundation, was accorded the 2009 Buckhead Girls Club "Woman of the Year" award. Jenny Pruitt, Buckhead Girls Club Founder introduced the honorees as "talented leaders whose contributions to the literary, visual and performing arts reflect Atlanta as a cultural center."

Jan Collins, appointed by the Governor to the Georgia Council of Arts, co-chaired the "Town Turtles of Sandy Springs," which captivated Atlantans with the display of turtle sculptures, each created by local artists with a unique theme.

Native Atlantan Elizabeth Musser now lives in Montpellier, France. Her first novel, *The Swan House*, was selected as one of the Top Christian Books by Amazon. Com Editor's Choice and as Best Novel Set in Atlanta by *Atlanta Magazine*. Her just-published book, *Searching for Eternity*, focuses on the city during the 1960s through the eyes of a young man relocated to Atlanta from France.

