

## Native Americans of North Georgia

About 55 people attended the Native Americans of Georgia Bus Tour on May 7. We visited three Georgia historic sites: the Etowah Indian Mounds in Cartersville, New Echota in Calhoun, and the Vann House in Chatsworth.

**Jim Langford**, former president of the Society for Georgia Archaeology, who has worked on excavations at the Etowah Mounds, led the tour at that site. The most ancient of the three sites visited on the tour, the Mounds represent the Woodland and



*Phyllis Irby-Downing and Yvette Gunn in the stairwell of the Chief Vann House.*

Mississippian periods. On the tour Jim emphasized the structure of the chiefdom and the way the people there lived. The tour group climbed to the top of Mound A, where they had a view of the Etowah River with its native-constructed fish weir, which resembles a stone dam and was used to channel fish. From the top of the mound the group saw the area that had been the village plaza, which was the ceremonial and cultural center of the town.

From the Mounds we traveled about 25 miles north on I-75 to New Echota,

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## Roots of Friendship

### Our March Symposium was a Success

On the morning of March 5, approximately 80 people gathered at the historic courthouse for a symposium entitled, "Roots of Friendship: African Americans and Jews in Atlanta: 1900-1950." The symposium provided a forum for presenters and participants to discuss the evolution of African-American and Jewish relations in the city of Atlanta during the first half of the twentieth century. Topics included the role of Atlanta neighborhoods, the Temple bombing, the experience of Holocaust survivors in Atlanta, Jewish people's perspectives on Jim Crow laws, African-American World War II veterans in

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## Upcoming Events

### ***DHC Exhibits Open***

#### **During the Decatur Arts Festival**

**Saturday, May 28, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**Sunday, May 29, noon - 5:00 pm**

**Free & Open to the Public**

Join us for this weekend opportunity to visit our exhibits located on the main floor of the Historic DeKalb Courthouse: *Tears and Curses: A Human Focus on the Civil War*; *Highlights from the Guy Hayes Collection*; and *The Mid-Century Ranch House: Hip and Historic!* We will also be unveiling our newest exhibit: ***Decorative Arts from the Permanent Collection***.

Our Decorative Arts exhibit features a sampling of pieces from our holdings acquired over the nearly 70 years since the DeKalb History Center was established. The emphasis is on antique furniture with some items previously owned by prominent DeKalb County citizens such as author Caroline McKinney Clarke, Judge Charles Whitefoord Smith, and Bishop Warren Akin Candler. Most objects date from the early 19th to the early 20th century.

### ***Saturday School***

#### **July Lunch & Learn**

**Tuesday, July 19, noon - 1:00 pm**

**Free & Open to the Public**

Our next Lunch and Learn will be presented by Tom Keating, who will talk about the public school system in Decatur in the early 1900s. For 30 years, Decatur's school system held classes Tuesday through Saturday. Tom wrote his book, *Saturday School*, in 1998 to delve into the reasons and history behind this practice. His prevailing theory was that citizens in positions of power in Decatur used this type of school week to keep "the Jewish" out of the city.

Keating holds a B. A. in political science and an M.A. and Ph.D. in education policy and politics. In addition to *Saturday School*, he has written *U.S. Department of Education: Legislative History and Reference Book* and *The Missing Policies and Politics of the Georgia Dropout Crisis*.

### ***Civil War Reconstruction in DeKalb & Atlanta***

#### **A DeKalb History Center Symposium**

**Saturday, August 20, 10:00 am - 1:30 pm**

**Tickets are \$35/\$45 (discount for members)**

We are offering another in-depth learning opportunity covering Civil War Reconstruction in DeKalb and Atlanta. The featured speaker is Wendy Hamand Venet; a history professor at Georgia State University and author of *A Changing Wind: Commerce and Conflict in Civil War Atlanta*. Lunch is included. For reservations or more information on this event, email Jenny at [goldemund@dekalbhistory.org](mailto:goldemund@dekalbhistory.org) or call 404-373-1088, extension 20. ✦

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## Native Americans (cont.)

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which was the last capital of the Cherokee Indians from 1825 until their forced removal to Oklahoma in the 1830s. At New Echota we saw the printing of the Cherokee Phoenix newspaper, visited Cherokee cabins, the council house, the courthouse, the Vann tavern and the home of missionary Samuel Worcester. We also saw the museum's exhibits and had a picnic. The staff at New Echota gave us great information, and we were joined by Dr. Donna Myers, a specialist on the site, who talked about the transition of the Cherokees from a subsistence culture to a market-driven economy.

From New Echota the bus took us to the Chief Vann House, the former home of James Vann, a Cherokee Indian who owned this large plantation with about 1,000 head of cattle, 250 horses, 150 pigs and about 95 outbuildings. Approximately 120 enslaved people worked at the plantation and served the Vann family. The beautiful home and some outbuildings remain, and the staff has done an amazing job interpreting these structures so that one gets a feeling that the Vann family has just gotten up from the dinner table or from other activities throughout the home. Julia Autry and volunteers explained the family history, the politics of Cherokee removal, and brought out rarely seen items such as Vann family quilts.

It was a great day of exploring the amazingly rich and complex history of Georgia's Native Americans.

*The photo to the right shows the dining room at the Vann House historic site. ✦*



### **Dorothy Fay Patterson Nix (2/23/1920 to 3/15/2016)**

It is with great sadness that we note the death of longtime DeKalb History Center supporter, Dorothy Nix. Dorothy became our second Executive Director in 1980; a position she held for seven years. She began her association with DHC as a volunteer; and when hired, explained to a reporter that her family thought it was "funny to have a Yankee preserving Southern history." She was interested in local history not only as a reporter, but also because her husband (Franklin Nix) was an Atlantan. During her tenure, the DHC opened the west wing of the courthouse for our museum exhibits and started the "I Remember Hour" to collect oral histories. She also began the campaign to restore the Historic DeKalb Courthouse and oversaw the move of the Thomas-Barber Cabin to Adair Park.

Originally from Marietta, Ohio, she received a degree in journalism and was employed as a reporter and feature story writer for several publications including The DeKalb New Era and The Atlanta Journal Constitution. ✦



# Annual Meeting

The DeKalb History Center celebrated its 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary on March 18. New directors and officers were elected during the Annual Meeting: President, Beth Shorthouse; Past President, John Hewitt; President Elect, Meg Samuels; Treasurer, Jacqui Steele; and Secretary, Kathryn Laity. Incoming board members are Lyle Davis, Sam McRae, Tiffany Parks, Pete Pfeiffer, and Joe Stoner. Outgoing board members Mary K. Jarboe, Bob Kelley, Vee Nelson, Jack Regan, and Claudia Stucke were thanked for their service to the organization.

Donations from 100 generous individuals, restaurants, artists, hotels, and businesses helped us to raise over \$7,300 at our silent auction. ***Thank you for your support!***

Our guests enjoyed food from **Avalon, Endive Fine Catering, Fox Brothers Bar-B-Q, LowCountry Catering, Oakhurst Market, Soiree Catering & Events, Sun in my Belly, and Zest Atlanta**. Décor or services were provided by **2000 AD Inc., C Brown Photo** (the accompanying photos), **Imperial Events, PeachTree Tents and Events, Peachy Keen Planners, and Spectrum Entertainment & Events**.

**Special thanks to our volunteers who made the night such a rousing success: John Coleman, Greg Donaldson, Shelia Harkleroad, John Hewitt, Mary K. Jarboe, Cathy Mullins, Tiffany Parks, Pete Pfeiffer, Jack Regan, Rick Setser, Beth Shorthouse, Ben Samuels, Meg Samuels, and Brad Syna.**

Silent Auction Packages included donations from *2000 A.D. Inc. Concepts in Floral Art, A Needle In My Hand, Active Production & Design, Aimée Designer Jewelry, Al Morris Tax Service, All Paige's Pictures, Alliance Theatre, ART Station, Atlanta Botanical Garden, The Atlanta Opera, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa, Mark G. Burnette (Joyner & Burnette), C. Brown Photo, Café Alsace, Cakes & Ale*





# & Silent Auction



Restaurant, *Callanwolde Fine Arts Center*, Center for Civil & Human Rights, *Center For Puppetry Arts*, Karen Chance, *Chattahoochee Nature Center*, City of Decatur, *Russell Clayton*, John Coleman & John Ayoub, *The Cook's Warehouse*, Courtyard by Marriott Decatur, *Cunningham Associates Heating & Air Conditioning*, Decatur Arts Festival, *Decatur Downtown Development Authority*, Decatur Estates and Wayback Antiques, *Decatur Family YMCA*, Decatur Ghost Tour, *Decatur Yoga & Pilates*, DeKalb History Center, *DeKalb Symphony Orchestra*, Druid Hills Civic Association, *Elmyriachi*, Emory Conference Center Hotel, *Farm Burger*, Fernbank Museum, *fifth group Restaurants*, Fleet Feet Decatur, *Melissa Forgey*, Frank Hamilton, *The Great Frame Up*, Historic Oakland Foundation, *Susan Hogue*, HomeGrown Restaurants, *The Imperial*, Imperial Events (Sandy Bell), *Jazmin Spa*, Jekyll Island Club Hotel, *Perry Julien*, Bob Kelley, *Kirkwood Car Wash*, L.G. Designs, *Margaret Lacy*, Lark Chamber Music/Dr. Vera Ilyushina, *Little Shop of Stories*, Lotus of Life Chiropractic, *Master Framing & Oil Painting Conservation Studio*, Matador Cantina, *Maxim Barbers*, Michael C. Carlos Museum, *Mike Fink Gallery*, Mitsubishi Electric Classic (PGA TOUR Champions), *Monks Mead*, Fred Mobley, *Cathy & John Mullins*, Nail City, *Natural Body Spa & Shoppe*, Vee Nelson, *Ernst & Carla Nieuwoudt*, Pets Playhouse On Ponce, *Melissa Prosser Photography*, Pamela Pryor, *Queen Lane Design*, Raging Burrito & Taco, *Reiki Master – Bobbi Henry*, Mike Roach & Shawn McDaniel, *Christie Schauers*, Skip's Chicago Dogs, *Souper Jenny*, Southern Airways Express, *Melissa & Bo Spalding*, Sq/ft, *Carl & Claudia Stucke*, Thai Chili, *Nora Tocups*, Trackside Tavern, *Twain's Billiards & Taps*, The Variety Playhouse, *Victory Sandwich Bar*, Wade Walker Family YMCA, *Wahoo! A Decatur Grill*, The Wellness Center at DeKalb Medical, *Worthmore Jewelers*, The Wren's Nest, *World of Coca-Cola*, Young Chefs Academy ✦



# Roots of Friendship *(cont.)*

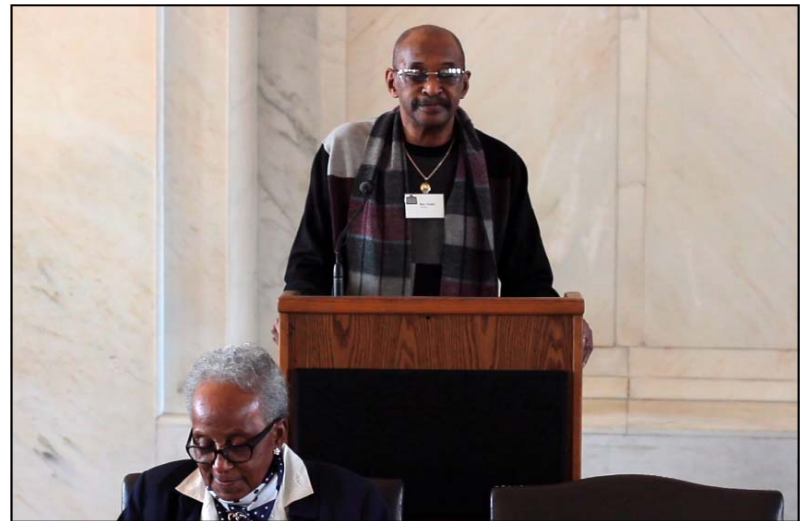
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Atlanta, Jewish businesses and their socially conscious owners, and the experiences of local residents during this period.

The featured speakers for the symposium were award-winning author Melissa Fay Greene, archivist and author Sandy Berman, and Emory Ph.D. candidate Danielle Wiggins. Dr. Charissa Threat of Spelman College moderated the symposium, and Dr. Jelani Favors of Clayton State University moderated a panel discussion after the previously mentioned speakers. Panelists included local residents Sylvia Clark, Hershel Greenblat and Roy Nesby. Writer and teacher Tiffany Parks had the initial idea for this symposium, and she also organized the event. Volunteers for the event included Mary K Jarboe, Cathy Mullins and LaDoris Davis. We at the DHC want to thank everyone involved in this wonderful program.

Please join us for our August 20 symposium, Reconstruction in DeKalb and Atlanta. Online registration is available through our website, [www.dekalbhistory.org](http://www.dekalbhistory.org) or by phone at 404-373-1088, extension 20.

*Photo to the right from top to bottom: Melissa Fay Greene, Roy Nesby, Hershel Greenblat. ✦*



*Sylvia Clark displayed some of her paintings.*





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## **DeKalb History Center**

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