



[www.atlantadna.org](http://www.atlantadna.org)  
[downtownatl@hotmail.com](mailto:downtownatl@hotmail.com)

## **DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORS' SPECIAL AT THE BALZER THEATER!**

This month, Downtown's very own theatre company, Theatrical Outfit, presents award-winning actress Bernardine Mitchell as the incomparable Mahalia Jackson, the Queen of Gospel Music. Jackson, born in New Orleans in 1911, grew to be one of the most influential voices in American music, recording more than 30 albums and placing her gospel hits on the pop charts of the day. Besides being a major talent of the 40's and 50's, Jackson was an astute businesswoman and a courageous civil rights pioneer.

Saturday 2:30 pm Matinee Special: 2 for 1 (regular \$28.08 each), limit 2 tickets. For February 11 and 18 shows only. For tickets call the Box Office at 678-528-1500 and mention the Downtown Neighbors' Special!

## **NEXT MONTH: FOCUS ON WOODRUFF PARK**

In conjunction with the spring launch of a number of new initiatives in Woodruff Park, the March 14 ADNA Community Meeting will feature "A Conversation with Cooper Holland of Central Atlanta Progress". 6:30-8 pm, Central Atlanta Progress, The Hurt Building, 50 Hurt Plaza, Atlanta 30303. [www.centralatlantaprogress.org](http://www.centralatlantaprogress.org) Weather permitting, we'll end the meeting with a walking tour of the park.

## **MINUTES FROM OUR JANUARY MEETING AT THE AJC**

by Whitney Rusert  
 ADNA Secretary

Informal socializing took place from 6:30-7:00 pm. After a brief

# ADNA Monthly Newsletter

welcome and introduction of 2006 Board members, newly re-elected President Jay Tribby introduced AJC Editor Julia Wallace to the more than 60 attendees.

Wallace spoke about the AJC's pursuit of transparency in efforts to boost economic development in Atlanta. Citing recent Super Bowl and NASCAR museum bidding processes, and subsequent AJC lawsuits to disclose the true "cost" to Atlanta of winning these site selections, she encouraged the audience to take an interest in the process by which public monies are committed for public-private partnerships.

VP of Public Policy Chris Ciovacco introduced AJC Metro Editor Bert Roughton Jr, who opened with his impressions of Downtown since he began reporting for the AJC in 1981. The turning point, he said, was when he saw his first resident walking a dog in 1994. Although the Olympics and the opening of Centennial Park and the Georgia Aquarium seem to be fulfilling many planners' dreams of creating "a vibrant Downtown," true community exists, he said, when residents are present. He encouraged taking advantage of special tax districts and the current "honeymoon" period between city officials and business community to protect and utilize older buildings, especially those in the Fairlie-Poplar district.

In response to a question about how Downtown residents can help the AJC enhance its coverage of Downtown life, Metro section writers Chris Seward and Ty Tagami both mentioned the AJC's need for human-interest stories, with a focus on how Downtown residents are affected by city decisions.

Underground Atlanta's nightclub failures and recently floated

proposals for legalized gambling at Underground also came up. AJC staff said there was little chance that the current legislature would consider the matter.

AJC Public Editor Angela Tuck then led two groups on behind-the-scenes tours of the AJC, visiting both the 5<sup>th</sup> floor editorial staff and 6<sup>th</sup> floor news reporting staff. Special thanks to Bob Howard, A1 Page Editor, for taking time to show us how the front page is produced!

## **MEET THE 2006 ADNA BOARD**

This month's spotlight, the second in our series, is on VP of Programs Maria Balais.

## ***Shoes in the City*** by Maria Balais

Since this column is supposed to allow members to get to know the 2006 ADNA board, you might as well know right off the bat that I love shoes. I love shoes on many levels, and for many reasons. Ironically, I don't personally own a lot of shoes...well...perhaps I have more shoes than the average person, and a lot fewer than a true addict.

The thing about shoes is that you can tell a lot about a person by the type of shoes and the brand of shoes they wear. Generally speaking, if a person has on a stylish pair of shoes, under \$200, but is not visibly sacrificing a pinky-toe to look good, then my "shoe-dar" tells me I could probably get along with that person. The "shoe-dar" is different for everyone, and this just happens to be how mine is wired.

As you can imagine, Downtown Atlanta is great fodder for my "shoe-dar," and has reinforced the notion that our neighborhood

is truly a microcosm of the metro area. For example, on the corner of Broad St. and Marietta, next to the GSU College of Business, there is a bus stop. On that corner, I always see between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., dirty and dusty, men's work boots in a size 8 or 9 waiting for the bus. The bodies attached to those shoes are Spanish speaking males.

On other occasions, I see a bright white, clean pair of men's Nikes, roughly \$295 retail, in a size 11 or 12, and the body attached to those shoes is begging for change. When I see that, it turns my stomach.

Some of my favorites are the classic black or brown, 2 inch pumps or Mary Janes, accessorizing the working women Downtown. If closed-toe, you can bet they work for a law-firm. Let's not forget the classic penny loafers on the men. Boring, but worthy of mention as Downtown is supposed to be a center of commerce.

One of the most memorable pairs was last summer at the same bus stop on the corner of Marietta and Broad Sts. It was a pair of well worn, Wassimo open toe wedge sandals for women. It was obviously a style from two years ago. It's roughly \$18 retail at Target. (I know because I have the same pair in black). There were two other little feet next to hers; a children's size 6, with Velcro fasteners, rubber-soled with the Little Mermaid on the side. Pink and brand new. The bodies attached to those shoes were giggling and holding hands. I think they were playing a game while waiting for the bus.

I blinked and thought of my mother. I thought about her old shoes, and the new ones she always made sure my sister and I got every year. I think perhaps she sometimes went 5 years without buying a new pair. We used to wait for the bus on the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> St. and McCallie Ave. in Chattanooga, TN. We used to play games to pass the time too. My mother was a good single mother. I decided this woman

must also be a good single mother, at least in my heart I was really hoping she was.

So, have you gotten to know me yet? What else do you want to know? Why do I live Downtown? I live Downtown because it's more interesting than penny loafers every week and boating shoes on the weekends. But if that's not enough, here's a summary: born Manila, Philippines 1971, received American citizenship 1990, BA from Agnes Scott College 1994, moved to Downtown Atlanta 1996, purchased first Downtown condo 1998, married Tony Stewart 1999. Currently works for the ING Foundation. No kids, no pets, no plants. Lots of shoes. For more details, you'll have to read the book...it's in the works.

**Neighborhood Bites**

***A Tribute to Coretta Scott King***  
*by Camille Smith*

Like thousands of others, I stood in the cold, often rainy Monday night, seemingly compelled to capture a moment in time. I had hesitated until I thought the rain had subsided, to make the trip to Auburn Avenue and Ebenezer Baptist Church. The wait was much longer than I had anticipated, about three hours. However, those in line waited patiently to pay their respects. During the wait, we laughed and talked about why we had come. I said that I had stood in line at Spelman College Sister's Chapel in 1968, for the viewing of Dr. Martin Luther King. Many younger people felt that they were just beginning to appreciate Mrs. Coretta Scott King for her role in the Movement. Others said that they felt a little guilty for taking so much for granted and for not acknowledging her enough, for all that she stood for and for what she had accomplished.

Since Mrs. King's death, many words have been spoken to describe, reflect upon and celebrate her legacy:

- Activist                      Beautiful                      Enduring
- Humble spirit              Mentor                      Aunt

- Brave                      Elegant                      Heroine
- Matriarch              Anchor                      Beloved
- Eloquent              History maker              Outstanding
- Advocate              Courageous              Focused
- Icon                      Partner                      Author
- Committed              Founding mother              Inspiring
- Pastors wife              Able                      Citizen of the world
- Friend                      Influential              Purposeful
- Assertive              Composed              Graceful force
- Liberator              Pillar                      Poised
- Leader                      Gifted                      Soprano
- Lioness                      Phenomenal              Determined
- Gracious              Lobbyist                      Quiet giant
- Dignified              Messenger of peace              Role model
- Revolutionary              Serene                      Remarkable
- Torch bearer              Regal                      Teacher
- Symbol of hope              Visionary                      Servant leader
- Warrior                      Spirited                      Writer

Can you add others?

**February 16: Public Meeting on Baker and Harris Street Conversions to Two-Way Operation**

A study is underway to consider converting Baker and Harris Streets from one-way operation to two-way operation and to provide a multi-use recreational trail connection along one of these streets. You are invited to attend an Open House Public Meeting to learn more about the study and to share your comments.

When	Thursday, February 16 4-6 pm
Where:	FRA Engineering 260 Peachtree, Suite 900 Atlanta 30303 404.841.7886

Questions? Contact Angie Laurie at Central Atlanta Progress: 404.658.1877 ext. 229 or [alaurie@centralatlantaprogress.org](mailto:alaurie@centralatlantaprogress.org)

**MARCH 2: SPECIAL ADNA RECEPTION DURING FIRST THURSDAY GALLERY WALK**

When was the last time you joined Downtown's monthly gallery walk? VP of Special Events Mary-Elizabeth Harmon is working with Central Atlanta Progress for a special reception at Paige Harvey Gallery on Thursday, March 2. Details soon via ADNA e-mail!