



# BrookNotes

January 2014

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

Volume XXVII, No. 1

## Book Sheds New Light on Brookwood Hills

*Posted by Dan Whisenbunt on NewsReporter.com  
Contributed by BrookNotes Co-Chair Katy Fransen*

Betsy Crosby has lived in Buckhead's historic Brookwood Hills neighborhood for more than 30 years, but writing a book on the neighborhood taught her things she never knew.

"One of the things I had not ever known about much was just how extremely — let's just say *high end* — the Brookwood area was," Crosby said. "It was probably the most beautiful area in all of Atlanta at the turn of the century, with beautiful mansions and by the '50s and '60s, those were gone."

Today the neighborhood is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The neighborhood, consisting of about 350 homes, is featured in a book Crosby co-authored with Elaine Luxemburger: "Images of America: Brookwood Hills."

Crosby is a writer who has published articles in Atlanta Magazine and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Luxemburger, also a longtime Brookwood Hills resident, is an architectural historian.

The two knew a kid from the neighborhood who had done pretty well for himself and asked him to write the forward. Ed Helms, a TV star best known for his work on "The Office," grew up in the neighborhood.

"My street was teeming with kids," Helms writes in the forward. "We played kickball in our yards and even cut our own BMX track into the woods at the end of the street. Come Christmastime, we were often caroling around the neighborhood. Was it a nice place to grow up? Let's just say Norman Rockwell would've had a field day."

The community was established in 1922, but it had a colorful history prior to that, Crosby said. The Battle of  
*Continued on page 3*

## 5-Year Planning for BWH Park Update

*Contributed by  
BWH Park, Community, and Common Areas Chair Joy Lusk*

The Brookwood Hills Park Planning Committee is excited to be moving forward with the creation of a 5-year plan for the Brookwood Hills Park. Your input is very important to our process. HGOR, the landscape architects we have engaged to create the plan, will hold three meetings to gather input. Please plan to attend all three. The following is the schedule for these meetings:

**February 15 at 2PM** we will identify and prioritize the community's goals for the park

**March 29 at 9:30AM** HGOR will present several options for designs of various features in the park for the community to rank

**May 3 at 2PM** HGOR will present a master plan with sketches.

All meetings will be held in the Rich Auditorium at Piedmont Hospital. We encourage neighbors to make every effort to attend these meetings.

If you have any questions, please contact Joy Lusk.

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### Contribute to BrookNotes

BrookNotes welcomes articles, art work, photographs and story ideas. The deadline for the next issue of BrookNotes is Friday, February 13th.

Submissions may be dropped off at 102 Wakefield Dr. or e-mailed to [brooknotes@brookwoodhills.com](mailto:brooknotes@brookwoodhills.com).

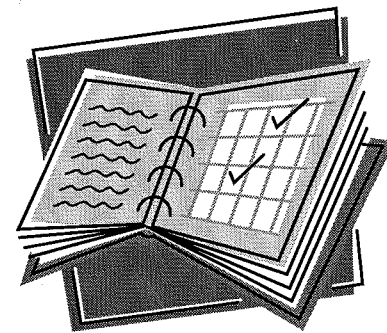
## Calling all BWH Youth Residents!

Are you between the ages of 5 and 17?

Have you started your own business? ...or organized a fundraiser? ...Do you donate your time with a local nonprofit? ...or contribute in other ways to your neighborhood or community at large?

If you are a youth resident and answered YES! to any of the above questions, the BrookNotes editors would like to profile you for a new regular feature in the publication that highlights our enterprising young residents. If you are interested in sharing your story and have it printed in the BrookNotes publication, please email Katherine or Katy at [Brooknotes@Brookwoodhills.com](mailto:Brooknotes@Brookwoodhills.com)

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



- **January 26th** 7PM in Rich Auditorium at Piedmont Hospital BWH Annual Meeting.
- **February 15th** at 2PM in Rich Auditorium at Piedmont Hospital Community input meeting to identify and prioritize the community's goals for the park.
- **March 29th** at 9:30AM in Rich Auditorium at Piedmont Hospital HGOR will present several options for designs of various features in the park for the community to rank.
- **April 15th** BWH Garden Club Spring Soiree Sponsor/Auction Donation forms due (see p.7)
- **April 26th** BWH Garden Club Spring Soiree
- **May 3rd** at 2PM in Rich Auditorium at Piedmont HGOR will present a master plan with sketches.

Peachtree Creek, fought in 1864, started there and it proved to be a turning point in the American Civil War. "I didn't appreciate, until I did this book, how it was one of the triggers for the momentum that allowed Sherman to vanquish Atlanta and how close it came to the tide turning in favor of the Confederates," Crosby said.

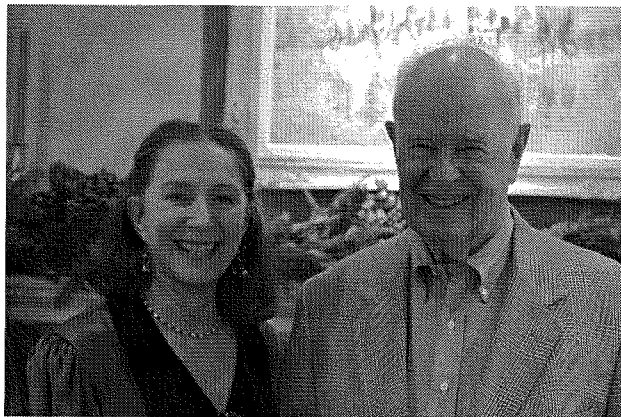
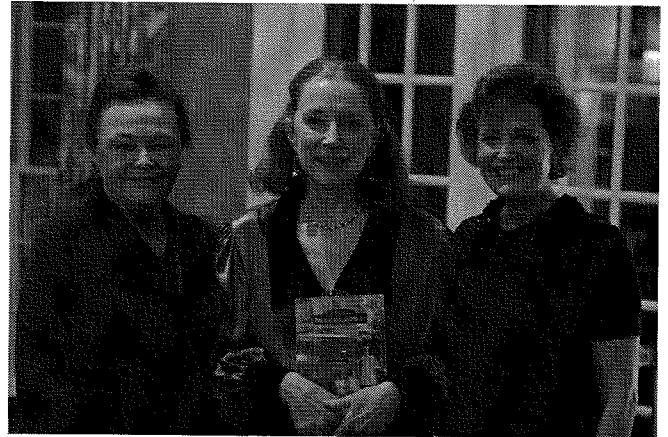
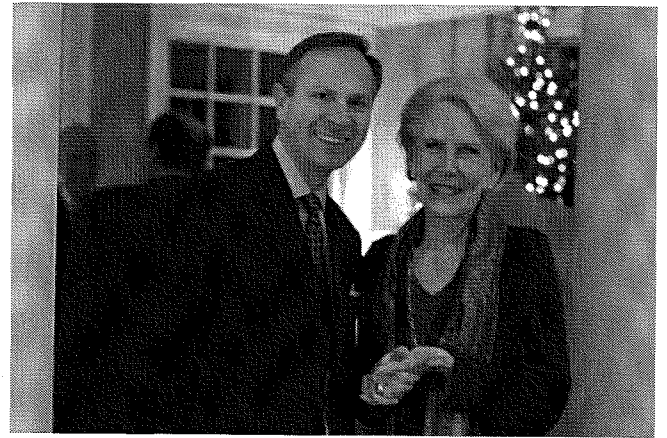
Crosby said Luxemburger was instrumental in getting the neighborhood added to the National Register. Some of the book drew upon interviews she'd conducted in the 1980s.

"She convinced the neighborhood legacy ladies, women who were over 60, in our neighborhood, in 2005 to do a neighborhood-wide project where they gathered information from residents, asking what they knew about their homes," Crosby said.

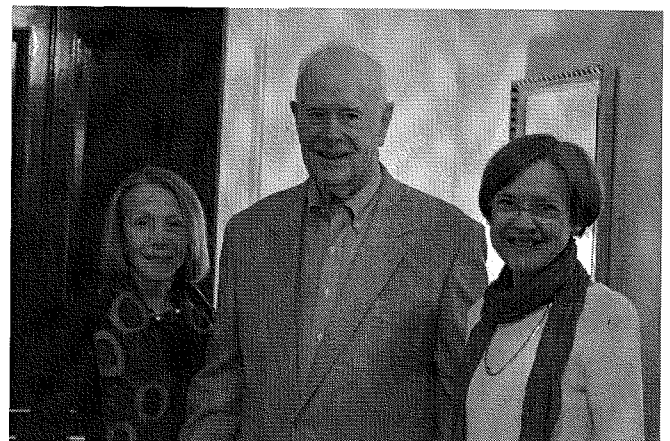
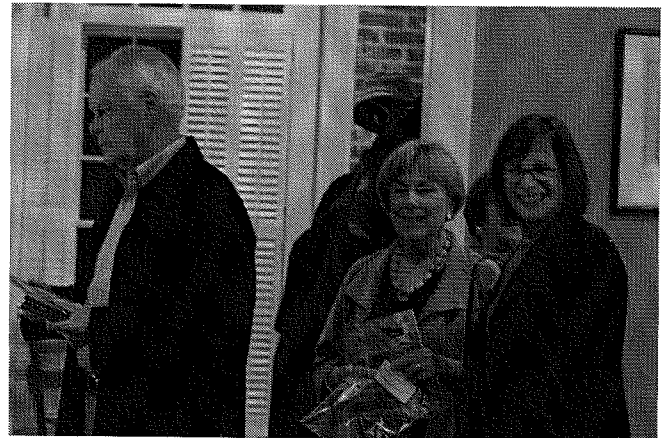
"They passed it along to previous residents. That brought along a lot of information that became the backbone of this book."

### Images of America: Brookwood Hills Book Signing Event

*Photographs submitted by Kem Lee*



Bunny and Mike Winter hosted the book-signing event.



## Spotlight on...Betsy Primm

*Contributed by Gajan Retnasaba*

Every afternoon 4-year-old Radha Retnasaba, makes a pilgrimage of learning up the hill to upper Brighton. Like many BWH children before her, she comes to Betsy Primm for her daily reading lesson. For half an hour, she sounds out letters, blends sounds into words, rhymes, and practices writing.

Radha's attention waxes and wanes like all four year olds. Sometimes she engages enthusiastically, and at other times it seems like her only thread of motivation is to make sure "Miss Betsy can't trick me." Betsy wheedles and cajoles, focusing the student's attention on the task until each concept takes hold.

Betsy first moved to Brookwood Hills when she was 14. Following high school at Westminster, she went to Emory and Oglethorpe, before going to graduate school at Duke. While doing post-graduate training in Philadelphia, working with children with neurological disorders, Betsy discovered her passion was early child literacy.

"Being able to teach a person to read provides a lasting gift to that person. Reading is something they are going to use every day for the rest of their lives. And very few people have the privilege of giving that gift."

On returning to Atlanta, Betsy taught at Lovett before leaving to run the reading program of the Georgia Institute for Neurological Development. Betsy continued this work with the state of Georgia as a learning disabilities specialist.

While working with school systems east of Atlanta, Betsy struck upon the idea of a peer-based teaching system where High School Seniors mentored and took responsibility for teaching elementary school students to read. Despite Betsy's exacting standards for the Seniors, the program became one of the most sought-after Senior electives, and resulted in massive increases in reading proficiency for the elementary students. The system quickly spread through the school district and beyond, winning national acclaim including the Excellent School Award from the National Institute for Direct Instruction.

"I realized that for most of these kids, they were only going to get one chance. They weren't going to inherit big money or their family's company .. If they were going to make it, it was going to be through their brains and education. And success in academics all depends on reading."

Since retiring from the public school system, Betsy has become a sought-after speaker on the topics of teaching excellence. Betsy also conducts training seminars, teach-

ing the next generation of educators the most effective methods of reading instruction.

As she has throughout her career, she continues to work with children, attracting students from across Atlanta. Betsy's lessons have also figured prominently in the lives of many BWH children including the Simon, Brown, Gebhardt, and Jackson families. Deborah Gebhardt describes Betsy as "an amazing teacher, an amazing advocate, and an amazing lady."

Betsy tells us that one of her proudest moments was at the BWH Halloween Party, when, "one of [her] former students who had been struggling academically announced to her with a grin that he was the 'goodest' reader in his entire class." The punch line is that he truly had become the best reader in his class!

Others such as Freddy Simon explain that "Betsy is the best thing that ever happened to us - she worked with our two sons at a young age and elevated their reading and comprehension skills to an extraordinary level. The relationship that the boys have with Betsy has developed into a lifelong friendship for them and our entire family."

Just watching Betsy teach a session, we are exhausted. As the doorbell rings, signaling the parent's return and the end of the session, Betsy and the child declare victory with high fives and a sticker (Dr Seuss of course). This routine will continue every day for around six months in order to establish a solid foundation for reading success, taking the child to early second grade level.

Stephanie Brown, the mother of two of Betsy's former students, explains that Betsy's method of teaching "is as if she climbs right into these boys' heads to determine how it works. She skillfully determines their weakness, and encourages them by showcasing their strengths." She jokes "that we may have to pay to send Miss Betsy to college with at least one of our kids!"

We ask Betsy where she finds the energy. She says, "I get it from the people I teach. There is no greater thrill for any teacher than to see a pupil master a skill or concept that they have been working on with you. It's what makes being a teacher both very challenging and extremely rewarding. There's nothing I would rather do."

[Victor Skenderi is a former student and is currently a freshman at Harvard College. Gajan Retnasaba is the father of a current student. ]

## Robert A. "Bob" Pastor, 66: Former Carter foreign policy aide

*Originally printed in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution &  
Submitted by BWH Membership Chair Mary Long*



Bob Pastor's life was a combination of intellectualism and adventurism, which, to his son looked a lot like the exploits of a certain fictional crusader.

"For me, he was an Indiana Jones," Robert Kiplin "Kip" Pastor said of his father. "We'd be playing basketball or we'd be on the way to a baseball game together and then he'd be

in China observing elections. And then you'd hear he was in Haiti on a mission with Colin Powell, Sam Nunn and President (Jimmy) Carter. And as they were trying to come to an accord, Marines were there and he's rushing to finish it all, while running through the city and riots are breaking out."

They weren't just stories for the Pastor family. That was Bob Pastor's life. A Newark, N.J. native who lived in Atlanta in the 1980s and 90s, he was a key foreign policy aide for Carter for more than 20 years. Pastor also authored 17 books and taught at Emory, Harvard and American Universities, all the while seeking ways to solve some of the world's problems.

"If you asked him what he did professionally, he'd say he was a professor," said his son, who lives in Los Angeles. "But he really was a teacher and scholar who had great influence on public policy."

Robert Alan Pastor of Washington, D.C., died at his home of complications from colon cancer. He was 66. A memorial service is planned for Jan. 25 in Washington. Rapp Funeral and Cremation Services, Silver Spring, Md., is in charge of arrangements.

In the mid-1970s, with a newly minted Ph.D. from Harvard, Pastor was named the executive director of the Commission on U.S./Latin American Relations. Before his 30th birthday, he was working in the White House as director of Latin American and Caribbean Affairs on the National Security Council.

"He helped to reshape our country's relations with our Latin American neighbors and secure democracy and human rights throughout the region," Carter said in a prepared statement. "After he left the White House, he continued this work at the Carter Center, leading for more than a decade critical peace and election observation missions and advancing the idea of a united North American community.

Because of his vision, boundless energy and political skill, the Western Hemisphere is more democratic and developed today."

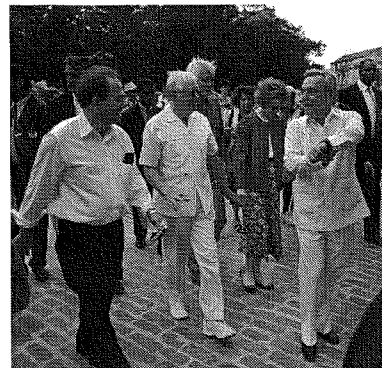
During the Carter presidency, Pastor helped negotiate the Panama Canal treaties, among other accomplishments. After leaving the White House, he performed tasks like organizing a trip for the former president and a team to observe elections in Panama. It was no easy feat, Pastor told *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in 1998. While negotiating the terms of Carter's visit, he said former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega jumped onto a table and started throwing things at him.

"He was a master strategist and he always thought big," said Jennifer McCoy, director of the Carter Center's Americas Program and political science professor at Georgia State University. "He also loved to rock the boat and push people to their limits"

Friend and colleague Joe Eldridge said Pastor "was happiest when he was working on policy, when he was trying to bring things into reality, when he was trying to make things happen.

"Bob was an enterprising, able activist who could spit out an idea a minute," said Eldridge, who is the chaplain at American University. "He was always thinking outside of the box and ahead of the curve. He was always trying to anticipate what was going to happen and set up a dynamic that would lead to the implementation of his idea. He was not content simply to just write. He wanted to put his ideas into action."

In addition to his son, Pastor is survived by his wife, Margaret "Margy" Pastor of Washington; daughter Tiffin Pastor Eisenberg of New York, N.Y.; brothers Donald Pastor of Minneapolis, Minn., and Bruce Pastor of Boston, Mass.; and one grandson. The Pastor family used to live in Brookwood Hills on Brighton Road.



HAVANA, CUBA — In 2002, Bob Pastor looks on as Havana's historian Eusebio Leal tells former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and wife Rosalynn that their tour was over right on time. (DAVID TULIS/AJC staff)



## Brookwood Hills Garden Club

# *Spring Soirée*

Saturday, April 26, 2014

The 2012 Brookwood Hills Garden Club Spring Party was a great success. Through the generosity of businesses, sponsors, and neighbors, such as you, we were able to raise almost \$50,000 for the beautification of our neighborhood.

The Brookwood Hills Garden Club is dedicated to the education of our members, preservation of our history, and the beautification of our neighborhood. We cannot achieve this alone. It is through the generosity of our neighboring businesses and the participation and support of our members that we are able to maintain the beauty of Brookwood Hills.

We very much appreciate your consideration of supporting this year's efforts through sponsorship or by donating a Live Auction item to the event. If you would like to participate, please complete this donor form. (on reverse).

On behalf of the Brookwood Hills Garden Club, we thank you for your support!

### **Sponsorship Opportunities**

Benefits of sponsorship include: recognition in BrookNotes and the event program, your name on signage at the event, two (2) tickets to the Patron Party from 6-7 p.m. and two (2) tickets to the main event.

\$1,000+      Benefactor

\$500          Partner

\$250          Patron

### **Live Auction**

Please consider donating an item to this year's live auction. Exciting auction items in previous years have included wonderful vacation homes, unique dining experiences, tickets to special events, artwork, and more!

Please complete the form below and return to Christy Payne at 210 Brighton Road. Checks should be made payable to BWH Garden Club. For inclusion in print materials, *all forms will need to be received by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014.*

*Yes! I would like to be a sponsor.*

Name of Sponsor (as it should be listed in the program) : \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Yes! I will donate a Live Auction item.*

Name of Donor (as it should be listed in the program): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Item Description to include all features, restrictions, blackout dates and expiration dates:

Donor stated market value of item \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions please contact :

Christy Payne (404) 580-5873 [cahpayne@gmail.com](mailto:cahpayne@gmail.com) or Amy Mattingly (404) 993-1680 [asmmail@mac.com](mailto:asmmail@mac.com)

### Announcements

**BABYSITTING:** Caroline Hardison lives on 252 Brighton Rd. She is 16 years old and less than a month away from getting her driver's license. Her cell phone number is 404-606-2256.

**SEEKING GARAGE APARTMENT OR CARRIAGE HOUSE:** Priscilla Wexler (known to many in the neighborhood from her 4 years at Chick-fil-a and current position at the nearby CVS) is seeking new housing. She currently lives in The Darlington and would like to leave when her lease is up in March. Priscilla walks to work and the grocery store, so this area is an ideal location for her. You can contact Priscilla at 404-388-9852 and plwexler@hotmail.com.

**DENTIST REFERRAL** - If you are looking for a qualified dentist who is conveniently located, I would like to recommend Paul Freeman, who is in the Sheffield Building just across from our local CVS. His office number is 404-355-2001. Dentistry like many fields of medical science has changed considerably in the last several years, and Paul seems to me to utilize the most up to date procedures and equipment. I have been a patient for several years and have been pleased with his service, competency and professionalism, as well as that of his dental hygienists. He did not ask that I do this; I am just trying to help a good young professional build his practice. Dean Copeland (214 Camden Road)

# Sudoku

Challenge yourself  
Challenge your children  
&  
Have fun!

		8		4		3		
5		1		9			7	
								6
					3	5	8	
	4							
7					9		1	
1			2				3	8
				6	7			1
	7							5



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