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3/30/11

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Veneralia to benefit Emory's Carlos Museum

By **Sally F. White**
Columnist
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Sally F. White

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Art patrons, friends and educators are invited to celebrate the unique Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University in DeKalb County Saturday at an elegant Veneralia evening of cocktails in the main museum gallery followed by dinner and dancing in a tent on the historic Emory quadrangle. The name "Veneralia" is taken from the ancient Roman springtime festival of Venus.

This year's 20th annual benefit, chaired by **Merry Carlos, Annette Joseph** and **Robert Long**, will salute the seven special curators of the museum's permanent collections. Proceeds from the event are being allocated to overall funding and educational programs.

The Emory collections date back to 1876, when a general museum was established on the original campus in Oxford. Since that time the collections have expanded to span the globe and the centuries. Housed in a distinguished building by renowned architect **Michael Graves**, the museum maintains the largest collection of ancient art in the Southeast with objects from ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome, the Near East and the Americas along with 19th- and 20th-century sub-Saharan African art and European and American works from the

Renaissance to the present day.

Tickets and information: (404) 727-2623.

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A special ceremony recognizing individuals and families who have been stewards of the city of Atlanta community and history will gain fanfare with the awarding of the prestigious 2011 Middelthon-Candler Prizes April 9 at the Millennium Gate Museum at Atlantic Station.

The three categories are Peace, Justice and the Millennium Gate awards.

The Middelthon-Candler Prizes were created with the Millennium Gate in 2009. **Matthew A. Middelthon**, the great-great-great grandson of Coca-Cola founder **Asa G. Candler**, established the Middelthon-Candler Millennium Gate, Peace and Justice prizes to continue the family's extraordinary stewardship of the city of Atlanta. With the coordination of **Rodney M. Cook Jr.**, founder of the Millennium Gate Monument and Foundation, the prizes recognize individuals and families who have been stewards of greater Atlanta and Georgia, perpetuating community involvement and preserving local history.

The benefit-style ceremony in a tent at the classically styled monumental arch is being chaired by **Kay Quigley** with 25 host committee members. Funds raised during the evening will facilitate the museum's mission to preserve and interpret Georgia history, architecture, culture and philanthropic heritage, as well as highlight Georgia's historical and aesthetic relevance to the United States and to the world.

The 2011 Millennium Gate Prize will honor the **Voyles** family, whose community involvement and charitable contributions have been a part of their commitment to the greater Atlanta area for three generations. The Justice Prize will recognize former Atlanta Mayor **Shirley Franklin**, not only for her roles as a public official, but also her Atlanta community service spanning 35 years, including participation in the arts, higher education, and alleviating homelessness.

The National Monuments Foundation is an independent charitable trust and receives no government funding. Dedicated individuals, companies and grants fund the museum's future.

Tickets and information: (404) 881-0900.

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The Atlanta Opera will present La Belle Soirée: A Fun and Flirty Affair April 13 at the Buckhead home of **Dale** and **George Levert** to benefit the professional company's annual performance season and educational outreach.

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