

The report at the second (where Mrs. Roff Sims was speaker) showed 3,042 adults and 138 juniors. With this second report came news that Central's budget had passed the \$100,000 mark. Income for the year had been \$97,715.83 with expenditures of \$97,832.30. At the same time the Phyllis Wheatley income was \$42,530.83 with expenditures of \$42,472.77.

Like the Association, the Board had grown, too, its membership being increased in '50 from "not more than 30" to "not more than 36", and a quorum of the board was increased from seven to ten.

World Fellowship scored a triumph in February, 1951, with a Civic Ballet program presented at E. Rivers School, clearing around \$500. The rest of their \$1,000 goal was secured through gifts and a flower arrangement benefit in November by Mrs. W. Harrell Wilson.

During the summer new USO services were organized with representatives from six agencies including the YWCA. A member of the Health Education staff assumed responsibility for a Saturday night USO orchestra dance at the Y, which averaged 130 people.

By fall the wolf was at the door of Phyllis Wheatley, where a deficit of \$4,003.00 was anticipated; but the staff and committee routed him by raising that amount before the year was over. The 218 Boulevard dormitory, which had been operated since the Branch moved into 599 Tathall, housed only 27 girls and was a losing proposition; so it was closed December 1, and other homes were found for the girls. The Branch Food Service, which was costly, was discontinued temporarily.

Historically, '51 was the building year. Excavation had begun in January, and by the end of the year construction was almost completed.

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JANUARY 1952 - DECEMBER 1956  
Compiled by Miss Lorton Lee

1952

The last annual meeting in the Auburn Avenue building was held January 16th. Mrs. Ahmed-Shah, president of the YWCA in India, spoke of the World Council of Youth meeting which she attended in May at Beirut, and of work the YWCA is doing in her own country.

Moneywise Central reported for 1951 an income of \$109,189.65 and expenditures of \$105,654.98. Phyllis Wheatley income was \$61,686.22 and expenditures were \$61,531.11. Membership figures showed 2,006 members.

The move to the new building and the Dedication in April took everyone's attention and energies for the first few months of 1952. The new building was completed in April, 1952.

The Central association went through the strain of moving equipment and program into 72 Edgewood Avenue and smilingly opened its new doors to all of Atlanta for a weeklong Dedication program, beginning Sunday, April 20, 1952.

The festivities included:

- Sunday - Dedication Service - YWCA gymnasium
- Tuesday - Morning Coffee and Fashion Show by Rich's honoring past presidents
- Wednesday - Young Adult night with husbands and bosses
- Thursday - Y-Teen night with parents and school principals
- Friday - International night

Promotion for Dedication was more intensive than for any other event in the past few years. The Public Relations Committee worked feverishly for several months before successfully contacting every publicity media, Radio, Newspaper and TV. The window displays in all the larger department stores featured the YW during Dedication Week. Each department of the Y worked with its own membership on special events and during the week hundreds of people came to view the YW's new home. Because of the generosity of an anonymous donor the first floor lounge was handsomely decorated. The Altrusa Club completely furnished the Executive Director's office and a friend gave an air conditioner unit.

In addition to parlors, a pink-tiled swimming pool, program rooms and offices, the new building boasted a beautiful Cafeteria and kitchen for Public Food Service and pine-paneled Chapel donated by the Woodruff Family. During the summer the Cafeteria was air-conditioned and accoustical tile was installed in the swimming pool. As an additional generous gift, Mrs. Howard Candler had the private dining room beautifully decorated, furnished and air-conditioned.

With the move into the new building it seemed the proper time to begin membership fee-sharing which had been adopted at the 1949 convention. In April, 1952, the Atlanta Association increased its membership from \$1.00 to \$1.50 with \$.50 to National. Junior Membership Fee was \$.50 with \$.25 going to National. Phyllis Wheatley had successfully experimented with fee-sharing previous to this time.

The 19th National Convention was held in Chicago in May with Atlanta sending six voting delegates. Atlanta delegates were especially proud and delighted when Mrs. Granger Hansell a past-president and member of the Board of Trustees was elected to the National Board of the YWCA. Convention delegates brought back a national plan for World-wide celebration of the YWCA Centennial in 1955. The plan included raising a five million dollar Centennial Birthday Gift. No immediate action was taken in Atlanta because of the recent building campaign and the Dedication activities.

In May an Endowment Fund was established. The Fund at the beginning consisted chiefly of gifts sent to the YWCA honoring the memory of someone who had died rather than sending flowers to the funeral.

Shortly before moving into the new building an idea of World Fellowship in action in Atlanta began to take permanent form with the beginning of the YWCA International Club. Starting in January with a small handful of interested people, the club met each week and throughout the year about 62 countries were represented in the membership and visitors. Sponsored by the World Fellowship Committee the Club's responsibility was carried by the Executive Director until a part-time staff member was employed in September.

Several projects for raising World Fellowship Funds were held during the year. The chief projects were a series of lectures on cultural and spiritual training of the East and West given at the YWCA by Dr. Ahmed-Shah of India and a flower arrangement class conducted by Mrs. W. Harrell Wilson.

Over 150 volunteers and staff members and several out of town visitors attended the Leadership Institute on September 27. The group studied phases of YWCA activities and made recommendations for the year's program. Workshops met from February to September analyzing program, membership, committees and planning.

From October through Christmas Mr. Roland Blackburn gave half-hour organ recitals in the Chapel at noon. His services were made possible by an anonymous gift.

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### 1953

For the first annual meeting in the new building, over 160 members and friends delightedly heaped their plates at the buffet tables spread in the library by Food Service. Following dinner which was served from 6:00 to 7:30 p. m. Mrs. Maurice T. Moore, director of the Foreign Division of the YWCA, gave her personal impressions on "Two Cities Divided - Berlin and Jerusalem."

The Treasurer's report for 1952 showed that, financially, the Atlanta YWCA was now Big Business with a budget of over \$200,000. Income for Central was at \$167,435.99 with expenditures of \$168,051.94 and income for Phyllis Wheatley was \$47,028.93 with expenditures of \$45,999.85. With required membership for all program participants in effect, membership in the Central Association had grown to 4,524 adults and 432 juniors.

The first of the year brought important changes and the beginning of plans for Centennial. In February Mr. Fred J. Turner was elected chairman of the Board of Trustees, to succeed Mr. Bolling Jones, Jr. Since November, 1944, the Trustees had been responsible for raising or helping to raise almost one million dollars, and under Mr. Jones' leadership there was less than \$10,000 deficit in February, 1953.

A Centennial Committee was formed early in 1953. Representatives from all areas of the Y at Central and Phyllis Wheatley met to make Atlanta's plans for the Centennial Celebration. The three-fold goal was (1) 10% increase in membership for the next two years, (2) interpretation of the YWCA to the public and a rededication of the membership, (3) the raising of a birthday gift to replace capital funds used during the Depression and to insure National financial stability.

Business men and women and homemakers attended the first Easter Services held in the new Chapel. Daily midday worships were led by Dr. W. Aiken Smart, professor emeritus of Emory University School of Theology, Mrs. Arthur J. Moore, Mrs. A. G. Alexander, and Dr. W. E. Colwell, dean of faculty at Emory University. The services were planned by the Christian Emphasis Committee, and members of the Board served as hostesses.

The Spring Leadership Assembly for Central and Phyllis Wheatley was held in conjunction with the 1953 Neighborhood Meeting, May 22. Seventy-five representatives from Associations in Alabama and Georgia attended the Neighborhood Special Collections - Woodruff Library - Emory University - This Material May be Protected by Copyright Law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

Meeting. The theme was "Our Faith - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" with emphasis on plans for the Centennial celebration. The Atlanta Leadership Assembly considered reports on program the Atlanta Y offers for all young adults and for all teenagers in every department. As a result of this study, both the Young Adult and Y-Teen departments recognized the need for program for the teenager out of high school on her first job.

Behind the scenes in the area of Administration, 1953 found the Personnel Committee continuing to try to improve the standards and advantages for staff. In January the Board of Directors voted that participation in the Savings and Security be required for all new employees of the Y.

The Board of Directors also decided in January to place all life Memberships, \$100, received thereafter in the Endowment Fund, established in May of 1952, instead of in the Building Fund. Decisions concerning the use of the Fund were to be made later, depending upon the needs of the YW.

A report on the Beck Fund in May showed that since December 1922, when the fund was established to "assist worthy white girls to obtain a business or commercial education in Atlanta", some 86 girls have been loaned \$10,727.00. As of May 22, 1953, there were five active loans outstanding. Two were still students and three had completed school and were repaying the loan. At the time \$2,950.60 was on hand to loan.

In September, the Board voted to make the Chapel and lounge available to YWCA club members without cost. For others \$10 is charged for the Chapel and \$7.50 for the lounge for a reception.

Although the Building was just a year old, improvements were necessary in 1953. Landscape work began in the patio, better ventilation in the gymnasium was procured. Storm and screen doors were installed. An ice-cube machine, new hot water tank and booster heater were purchased for the Cafeteria. With hope of eventually adding an elevator to the facilities at Central, a contribution box was placed at the top of the stairs on the second floor, and the Trustees began investigating the cost of an elevator.

Program was continuing to expand. The Health Education department, whose classes were bringing in a large percent of the income, reported in January that they had served over 6,000 people in 1952 where ten years before in 1942 the department had served only 1,134 people. Throughout 1953 the classes continued to draw the largest number of people of any program. Classes offered for teenagers, which were begun in February, 1949, were expanded into a Teens program including lessons in tennis, charm, swimming, and co-ed dancing. The largest enrollment was in January when 142 teenagers registered for these courses.

Both the Homemakers and Hobby Nite courses were offered for the first time in the summer and in September of 1953 Homemakers registered was 385 and Hobby Nite totaled 485 women.

The Food Service department in March tried a successful experiment of offering morning coffee from 8 to 10:30 a. m.

The Executive Director's report to the Board in September showed an active summer season. There were 200 girls in the Hobby Night and Homemakers classes. Camp was excellent. The Co-Ed Club met every Friday night. Delta Club began holding open house every Wednesday with a dance. The International Club

continued its regular Saturday evening program; the Business Girls' League had a social each month, and the Cafeteria served approximately 225 to 270 people for morning coffee and 350 to 450 for lunch each day. The USO dance continued throughout the summer and although the USO in December of 1953 withdrew money for dances, orchestra and food from all agencies due to a cut in the USO budget, the YWCA voted to continue the Saturday open house and dance.

The Y-Teen program in the fall had 30 clubs in high schools and 2 clubs in Oak Hill Homes. Highlight of their activities in 1953 was the World Fellowship trip to Washington and New York. For the first time in Atlanta's history, 25 Y-Teens and the Chairman of the World Fellowship Committee attended the annual service at the National Cathedral in Washington, D. C., to personally place Atlanta's gift on the altar. Board members helped raise the World Fellowship pledge from individual donations, and the Committee sponsored a bridge lecture by Charles H. Goren, international bridge expert.

The Public Relations Committee tried to help promote interest in the Y program among young employed women. An orientation luncheon brought 32 personnel directors to the Y in February, and after the program the directors ordered 3,000 pamphlets on all Y activities for distribution to employees.

Church representatives helped in interpretation of Y activities. During 1953 fifty churches sent representatives to various interpretation coffees. These representatives were sent Y-Lights which was a monthly publication of Central activities, in order to keep them informed of new events at the Y.

To help with the enormous amount of clerical work necessary with the increased program serving over 10,000 individuals, the Volunteer Personnel Committee appealed through the newspaper for volunteers. The results were two weekly workshops, one in the morning and one in the evening. Over 40 volunteers throughout the year gave over 500 hours addressing, stuffing and stamping envelopes, stapling and assembling publicity materials. Staff responsibility was assumed by the Membership and Publicity Director, but a volunteer chairman assumed responsibility for weekly supervision. The Volunteer Personnel Committee also began staffing the roll-checking for Homemakers and Hobby Nite classes.

During the Christmas Season the Christian Emphasis Committee recruited members of the American Guild of Organists to play for a meditation half-hour at noon. Y-Teens held their annual Candlelight ceremony for the first time in several years. Mrs. Robert B. Church, Jr., whose review of Sholem Asch's "The Nazarene" had been an annual Christmas event in Atlanta for 15 years, gave her 16th review in the YWCA Chapel, starting a new tradition at the Y.

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## 1954

The Central Y broke its tradition of having an annual dinner meeting and held the Annual Meeting at 8 p. m. on January 22 in the gymnasium. Miss Margaret Hickey, Public Affairs Editor for the Ladies Home Journal, spoke to over 250 members and friends of the Y. The Board of Directors voted to invite the leadership group from Phyllis Wheatley and the Chairman of the Committee on Administration presented the Branch report in person.

Financially the Y budget increased for the year 1953 with an income at Central of \$213,187.51 and expenditures of \$210,274.19 and an income at Phyllis

Wheatley of \$50,773.14 and expenditures of \$47,078.67. At the beginning of the year the Trustees announced that the Y had no obligations in the area of the building fund. Membership at the beginning of 1954 was 8,180.

In January the Atlanta association accepted the National Centennial quota and pledged itself to raise a birthday gift of \$26,931.30. The actual quota for Atlanta was \$45,000, but through the National Campaign 2/5 of this amount was expected to be raised. In approving these plans of the Board of Directors, the Trustees decided to make private solicitation for \$45,000 more for the elevator fund and air-conditioning some of the program areas. They felt that in this way people in the community contacted for gifts would be able to tie their contributions to something local as well as the birthday gift for National.

Centennial was on the minds and hearts of every department in the Y as they planned the 1954 program.

During National YWCA week festivities honored former Board members, business girls, homemakers and teenagers and officially opened the new patio. The coffee for past presidents and former Board members emphasized the YWCA's need of their help in interpreting the Centennial plans to the Community. The Membership Committee gave a party in the patio for members of the Homemakers Holiday classes and the Y-Teen tea for teenagers in Health Education classes were not well attended. The white wrought-iron furniture for the patio was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Bolling Jones and the Hill and Dale Garden Club decided to keep the flower border beautiful every season rather than decorating the parlors each week. The Johnson-Estates Garden Club began weekly arrangements as their project.

Fulton County celebrated its Centennial in 1954 and the YWCA entered a float in the Centennial Parade in the fall. A large globe mounted in the center and topped by a YWCA triangle was surrounded by people from the past and present of the Y. It included leadership in an 1855 dress, a 1900 business girl at an ancient typewriter, a present-day Y-Teen from Central, a young adult from Phyllis Wheatley and Health Ed participants.

In the fall Homemakers swapped their aprons for can-can skirts and business girls rushed from typewriters to tap dance routines to produce "Top Billing", the Health Education department's Centennial Show. Held September 23, 24 and 25 at the Atlanta Women's Club, the musical comedy starred some of Atlanta's best talents in the leads. Written by Mrs. Lynda Moore, and produced by Mrs. Doris O'Mara and the Health Education staff, "Top Billing" provided Atlanta with musical entertainment for the whole family and added over \$900 to the Centennial Fund.

Central Y-Teens sponsored a Pancake Supper, Cake Contest and Fashion Show to help raise their pledge of \$2,000. Young Adult Clubs held dances, spaghetti suppers, and made plans for more events in 1955. The Co-Ed Club was the first group to reach their quota of \$3 per person. The Phyllis Wheatley Branch also planned special Centennial events. The Phyllis Wheatley Y-Teens by December of 1954 had completed their pledge of \$1,200.

In view of the amount of money being raised, the Association decided in September, 1954, that work should begin on the elevator with the hope of having it in operation in the spring of 1955. The contract was signed with Westinghouse Electric Company in October. Earlier in September landscaping and

redecorating began with an expenditure of \$2,294.90. This was made possible by an anonymous gift.

Although Centennial was the by-word in every department, the year 1954 saw strides in other areas of program. The Business Girls' League proudly celebrated its 25th anniversary in May, inviting all former members to join them. Charter members Ethel Moore and Ethel Reese were in charge of the program. The three Young Adult Clubs held a Leadership Seminar with emphasis on the YWCA history and its world-wide program. A new club, named Live Y-Ers, grew out of the need for program for girls and boys on their first jobs. The group met on Thursday night with help in leadership from BGL, but because of dwindling interest it was disbanded at the beginning of 1955.

The International Club held it's first major project in May. Over 400 people visited the International Exposition on a Saturday night and were overwhelmed by the display of culture from all over the world. Members of the International Club in native dress served as hostesses and answered the many questions about unusual articles which were gathered from Consulates in this country, libraries, department stores and the homes of club members. The purpose of the Exposition was to acquaint people in Atlanta with the International Club of the YWCA and to share with them the culture of other countries. In 1954 members of the Club came from 25 to 30 different nations and the total membership was 132, with many more regular visitors.

Besides the regular Young Adult State and Regional conferences, seven Young Adults from Atlanta also received inspiration from the United Nations Conference in New York over the Labor Day week end.

Enthusiasm rode high for the teenage department in the spring when 200 Y-Teens, parents and friends joined in the Spring Banquet instead of the expected 100. The atmosphere among the large groups of Y-Teens who attended Fall Conference and Interclub Council meetings showed them eager to realize the Y-Teen goals and during the year they doubled the number of paid memberships. In 1954 1,047 paid their Y membership in comparison to 523 in 1953, and the Y-Teens took their second World Fellowship trip to Washington and New York. Seven Y-Teens from Phyllis Wheatley took a separate trip, attending the National Cathedral Service for the first time.

Serving over 5,328 individuals in adult education classes, sports, and swimming, the Health Education department was most proud in 1954 of its Friday night swimming program which brought evenings of fun and personal satisfaction to a small group of 40 handicapped children and adults.

The Christian Emphasis Committee sparked one of the most effective series of Holy Week Services. Events of Holy Week were dramatically portrayed by members of YWCA groups. The Procession of Palms, the Trial of Jesus by Pilate and the Three Marys at the Tomb were made real to the noon-day worshippers. Speaking choirs and choral music and modern interpretive movement were used to add dramatic emphasis.

Helping with the work of all departments the Volunteer Workshop had 34 volunteers who served 639 hours during the year.

Leadership development for volunteers and staff from Central and Phyllis Wheatley continued with the May 21 Leaders Meeting which considered the Basic Standards evaluation and adopted the new Constitution presented by the Constitution

Committee and passed by the Board of Directors April 26, 1954. Two of the major changes were the provisions for an Electors Assembly and the moving of the election of the Board of Directors to April rather than October.

Volunteers and staff also joined over 400 other YWCA workers at the Southeastern Conference June 11-12. Held in Blue Ridge, North Carolina, the Conference emphasized preparation for the Centennial Convention in 1955, the "Unchanging Purpose and the Ever-Changing Program" of the YWCA and gave delegates an opportunity to meet Mrs. Edward Macy, President of the National Board, and Mrs. Savilla Simons, the new General Secretary of the YWCA of the U. S. Atlanta was also honored on November 30 with a visit from Mrs. Simons, and the Association began preparation for Convention in October. "Life is Commitment" was adopted as devotional material for Board Meetings and reports on the Workbooks were given at each Board Meeting.

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## 1955

Centennial year began in a spirit of jubilation, although there was still a large portion of the birthday gift to be raised. At the beginning of January, \$30,000 and \$9,000 in pledges had been received toward the \$75,000 for Centennial, World Fellowship and the Elevator Fund. It was decided to send \$10,000 as the first payment on the Centennial pledge to National for the Centennial Week Celebration, January 10-17.

In Atlanta, the Y joined in the national celebration of Centennial Week with a Prayer Offering, a "Panorama of 100 Years", and the opening of the National Centennial Art Exhibit at High Museum. Chapel doors were open Friday, January 14 for the YWCA Centennial Prayer Offering to give an opportunity for those to whom the YWCA has meant a great deal in past years and for everyone who believes in the work of the YWCA to pray for the future of the organization, to offer a gift for the Centennial Fund, and to join in the YWCA's prayer for world understanding and peace.

"Panorama of 100 Years", a historical skit highlighting the events of the YWCA's century was featured at Annual Meeting Friday evening. Written and directed by Mrs. Rutherford Ellis, the skit was enacted by Y members from Central and Phyllis Wheatley. Dean Dickens of WGST radio moderated the "Panorama" and costumes from hoop-skirted brocades to bustling silks, bloomer girls and middy blouses added color and authenticity. Displays representing the year's activities decorated the gym and visually told the story of the YWCA services in Atlanta to the more than 400 people attending. About 245 people enjoyed the buffet dinner before the Annual Meeting.

The week's festivities ended with a tea on January 10 at the High Museum. Mary Bruce Sharon, 77-year-old painter, was honor guest coming from New York to open in person the YWCA Centennial Art Exhibition in Atlanta. Atlanta was one of 12 cities throughout the nation to receive the collection of Mrs. Sharon's water colors. The tour of these paintings which included six "Yesterdays of the YWCA" was climaxed in a showing at the Metropolitan Museum in New York City during the YWCA Convention. Between 400-500 people attended the tea for Mrs. Sharon in Atlanta and viewed her paintings. The showing continued at the Museum through January 30.

The Public Relations Committee took advantage of the Centennial Celebration to interpret the growth of the YWCA and its current program through all the



publicity mediums and the Atlanta YWCA was featured on the cover of the magazine section of the Journal-Constitution with a two-page spread of pictures and story in the issue.

The Treasurer's report for 1954 showed an income at Central of \$207,328.37 and expenditures of \$207,166.42 and at Phyllis Wheatley an income of \$55,621.94 and expenditures of \$54,741.85. Membership figures at the beginning of 1955 stood at 6,936.

Atlanta was the host to experienced leaders from seven states in the South for a Briefing Session for Convention. They met March 11-12 with Mrs. J. Birdsall Calkins, vice-president of the World's YWCA and Miss Dorothy Height from the National Staff in preparation for 30 discussion groups at the Convention.

Phyllis Wheatley held a "Little Convention" on March 11 and 12 and it was felt that this was one of the best convention preparation programs held in the Atlanta Association.

Thirty-one volunteers and staff from Central and Phyllis Wheatley attended the Centennial Convention in New York and the Atlanta Y-Teens were responsible for one of the Teen programs. Four of the representatives were voting delegates. A report of Convention was given at the Atlanta Leaders Meeting, May 14, and all departments and Committees presented their program emphases for 1955-56. The need of every committee having a job description was emphasized and by the end of 1955 all groups had composed one.

The Atlanta Association continued to work on raising the money for the Centennial gift. Y-Teen Clubs took individual quotas and oversubscribed their goal. The International Club compiled and published an International Cookbook, donating some of the profits to the Centennial Fund. Letters to the membership and a private campaign in the community brought many contributions for the Y birthday gift. The Health Education department held a fashion show on March 25, and by May the second payment toward the pledge was made in the sum of \$6,931.30.

The Fun Fair in September at Central and the Harvest Tea in November at Phyllis Wheatley ended the Centennial activities which began in 1954. Over 1,500 people frolicked in the Central building from 3 to 11 p. m. at the Fun Fair, September 24. They enjoyed the side shows, merry-go-round, the colorful booths in the gym, the International Market and the Country Store. One of the thrilling highlights was the Water Ballet which had jammed audiences for every performance and had to schedule a fourth showing. Spearheaded by the Health Education department, Fun Fair brought volunteers, members and staff from every area of the YW into the work and fun of the festivities and cleared \$2,071.04 for Centennial. The final \$10,000 of Atlanta's pledge was sent to National in December.

Every department felt the vitality resulting from the Centennial Celebration which had as its goal not only the raising of the birthday gift, but also increase in membership and rededication to our Christian purpose. Y-Teen clubs increased from 27 in 1954 to 35 clubs in 1955. The 12th annual potato chip sale was the most successful up to date and showed the enthusiasm and growth of the Y-Teen program. An Atlanta Y-Teen served as executive of the Southeastern Y-Teen meeting and another Atlanta Y-Teen was selected by "Seventeen" magazine to be one of four Y-Teens featured in the August issue. New interest groups in drama and program ideas were initiated in the fall and the drama workshop presented Charles Tazewell's "The Small One" at the Y-Teen Christmas Candlelight Ceremony on December 10.

Health Education tackled the weighty problem of the overweight woman.

The department began sponsoring a group called SFF's. The polite meaning is Special Collections - Woodruff Library - Emory University - This Material May be Protected by Copyright Law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

\*Slimming Feminine Friends, or the less polite is Sloppy Fat Females. The program is designed for those at least 10 pounds overweight. The group met every week for exercise, films on overweight, discussion of diets, and to weigh in. Anyone who had not lost the prescribed amount of weight forfeited one dollar. The classes grew tremendously in attendance as the members reduced in size.

The Health Education department also added new classes for younger boys and girls every Saturday morning. Starting in the fall the building resounded with lessons in dramatics, tap and ballet as well as swimming and baton twirling. The Teen classes continued to thrive and in the summer 135 girls enrolled. Seventh graders were offered charm in March as part of the Teen program and in the summer of 1955 the Seventh grade classes became a separate program. During the year the department served 660 girls under 12 years, 989 girls from 12 to 17 years and 90 boys. In adult sports and recreation 3,090 women were served. Homemakers Holiday classes attracted 822 women and Hobby Nite interested 1,128 business girls. Some 498 women and 564 men joined the Co-Ed classes.

Delta Club became co-ed during the summer of 1955 and Camp Highland enrolled 338 girls. The World Fellowship Committees from Central and Phyllis Wheatley joined for the third year in planning the Atlanta World Fellowship Service and 25 Y-Teens from Central and 26 Y-Teens from Phyllis Wheatley attended the National Cathedral Service in Washington.

The Public Affairs Committee chose three major emphases from the Public Affairs program passed by the 20th National Convention in April. The first, to stress the importance of the United Nations, was carried out particularly during UN Week in October. A survey and study of health and medical problems of working girls and women was the second emphasis and by the end of the year a survey had been compiled. The third emphasis was placed upon helping the Atlanta YWCA work toward inclusiveness.

Early in 1955 discussions were held on the need in the community for Decentralized program. At Convention the Atlanta Y found this was one of the trends in YWCA's throughout the nation. In the fall a staff member was assigned to spend part of her time investigating the need and the possibility of the Central Y offering decentralized program other than the Y-Teen clubs.

Physical changes included the repaneling of the lodge at Camp Highland, the purchase of a commercial washing machine and dryer for the Health Ed Department, and the closing of the Phyllis Wheatley dormitory on August 1. There had been a monetary loss every month and proper supervision was not possible because of lack of facilities for a residence director. The area was converted into much needed classroom space.

Realizing the value of all areas working on the Annual Meeting as they had for the Centennial Celebration, the Annual Meeting Committee began in March of 1955 to plan for the 1956 meeting. All areas of the Central Y sent representatives to the Committee and for the first time the Committee decided to raise enough money to bring Miss Anne Guthrie as the speaker. The goal of \$200 was reached.

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## 1956

The year 1956 was ushered in by a successful Annual Meeting on January 20. Miss Anne Guthrie, who is "at home in the world", sparked the meeting of

nearly 200 members and friends of the YWCA with her address on "A Near Look at Far Horizons". Added to the displays which pictured current activities were decorations in the gym emphasizing the YWCA around the world. The treasurer's report showed an expenditure for 1955 of \$204,004.00 at Central with an income of \$206,260.72 and at Phyllis Wheatley an expenditure of \$56,968.52 and an income of \$57,154.27. Membership at the beginning of 1956 showed that during 1955 6,023 adults and 2,913 members under 18 years had been on the rolls during the year at Central and 1,751 adults and 896 younger girls were members of Phyllis Wheatley.

Climaxing several years of planning, the Atlanta YWCA held its first Electors Assembly, May 15, 1956, at 7:30 p.m. in the Central Chapel. Seventy-three people heard program emphases for 1956-57 and recommendations for training of electors presented. The group lacked five of having a quorum of 50 electors besides program staff and Board members and could only give approval rather than the final vote which was taken at the second Assembly on November 29. The second Assembly also approved the Basic Standards Study and heard reports from Y-Teen and Young Adult delegates to the World Fellowship Service in Washington and the Y-Teen National Conference.

Preparation for the Electors Assembly began in October of 1955 when the president appointed a Steering Committee from the Leadership of Central and Phyllis Wheatley. The Steering Committee, after recognizing the need for a responsible, informed, participating electorate, set up a series of training meetings, March 6, 14, and 22, for all members from Central and Phyllis Wheatley who were interested in becoming electors. Duplicate programs were held in the morning and in the evenings and the subjects covered included Administration, Program, and Finance of the YWCA. Members were asked to attend two out of the three sessions and 154 members qualified as electors.

When the ballots to elect members of the Board of Directors and Nominating Committee were mailed in April to these qualified electors and to members who had voted last year, to past presidents and past chairmen of Committee on Administration, 153 ballots were returned. This was the first year that electors from Phyllis Wheatley Branch voted for the Board and Nominating Committee. A second series of training programs was held, October 10, 17, and 24, with 87 new electors qualifying, making a total of 237 electors and 7 Y-Teens who qualified and will become electors on their 17th birthday. Several electors were dropped because of leaving the city.

Program notes for 1956: Out of a concern for the need of leadership to work with youth, the Atlanta YWCA initiated a four session institute in October, to give lay leaders techniques in working with young people. The weekly program was jointly sponsored by Decatur and Atlanta recreation departments, Juvenile Court, YMCA, YWCA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, and the Jewish Community Center and was offered as a community service. Nearly 200 people responded enthusiastically to the training program and requests were made for it to become an annual event.

1956 saw decentralized program become an actuality. Twenty-five homemakers responded in September to the first decentralized program for adults that the Central YWCA has offered. The Health Education department set up classes in the East Lake Community Center, beginning September 27 and meeting each Thursday from 10 a. m. to 1 p. m. Courses included lessons in speech, charm, slimnastics, dancing and party ideas. Because of the good response, the "Hi Neighbor" program was continued in January 1957 and was expanded to a second area, meeting in the Capitol View Baptist Church for a similar series each Wednesday.

*Camp Highland opened the summer season with a new 60-foot swimming pool, enrolled 389 girls who helped build their own outdoor Chapel on the banks of Nickajack Creek, became an accredited member of the American Camping Association and opened its facilities in the fall and spring to groups from churches, schools, clubs, and other organizations.*

In the spring a Y-Teen became the first teenager in the history of the Atlanta YWCA to be named an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors. The teenage department also initiated an informal summer program for Y-Teen officers, and the Club program grew to number 40 clubs in 18 high schools in the fall of 1956. The new summer program took officers of the teen clubs on tour of the YWCA and the community. Thirteen other Y-Teens received special training as delegates to the Southern Regional Conference at Homassassa Springs, Florida, June 18-25. In November 48 Y-Teens from Central and Phyllis Wheatley and their adult leaders took the annual World Fellowship trip to Washington and New York. This was the first combined trip of teenagers from Central and Phyllis Wheatley and for the first time four Young Adults from Delta Co-Ed Club joined them at the World Fellowship Service in the National Cathedral, Washington, D. C. Four selected Y-Teens, two from Central and two from Phyllis Wheatley, represented Atlanta at the 75th anniversary National Y-Teen Conference in the Capitol.

In Atlanta extra chairs lined the aisles of the YWCA Chapel on November 15 as members from Central and Phyllis Wheatley worshipped together in a World Fellowship Service. The program featured a newly released film from National "No Man Is an Island."

A new member joined the program family of the YWCA. The USO in Atlanta requested affiliation with National USO in February 1956. In March this request was approved including the designation of the YWCA as the operating agency, and in April a professional USO-YWCA staff member was assigned to the Atlanta USO.

The Volunteer Workshop completed its fourth year of service totaling 652 hours helping address and stuff envelopes, staple materials, file cards and aid the staff in any other way. The Church Representatives were reactivated in October with 37 churches responding. Physical improvements during the year included the completion of air-conditioning the entire building in August. Barge-Thompson was in charge of installations.