

DISCOVER DeKalb

Cakes & Ale's Billy Allin

SEE STONE MOUNTAIN

10 GREAT RESTAURANTS

DEKALB BUCKET LIST



PLUS

- AWESOME ATTRACTIONS
- UNIQUE SHOPS
- NIGHTLIFE
- AND MORE



Contributors

SKINNER: ©JASON JORDAN, LOVE: ©MARY GABBETT, SHARPTON: ©HANNIBAL MATTHEWS, ANTENUCCI: ©JAMIE ANNARINO, PHILBRICK: ©ROB McDONALD, FRANKLIN: ©SARA HANNA



Kelly Skinner

Skinner is a Decatur-based writer and editor. Formerly on staff at *Get Married* magazine, her work has appeared in *Flavors*, *Paste*, *Charlotte Wedding*, *Simply Buckhead*, *Atlanta* magazine, *The Atlantan*, *Redbook*, *South*, *Skirt!*, and *USA Weekend*, among others. She loves Decatur, and spends much of her time at DeKalb spots including Taproom, Wild Heaven, Leon's Full Service, Saponi di Napoli, and Stone Summit.

Bret Love

Born and raised in DeKalb County, Love is a veteran writer/editor/photographer whose work has appeared in more than 100 publications, including *American Way*, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Yahoo Travel*. He's also the co-founder of award-winning ecotourism site *Green Global Travel* and media services agency *Green Travel Media*.

Dennis Malcolm Byron

Dennis Malcolm Byron, aka Ale Sharpton, is a world-renowned beer authority, award-winning journalist, blogger (*AleSharpton.com*), photographer, event planner, and show host (*Cruisin' for a Brewsin'*). He is also the co-founder of the creative agency *AllWays Open*. He resides in Atlanta. Follow him on Twitter @alesharpton and Instagram @realalesharpton.

Karina Timmel Antenucci

Timmel Antenucci is an Atlanta-based freelance writer, and editor and content chief of *Message Sprout*, a boutique content marketing and copywriting company. She previously was the editor-in-chief of *Get Married Media* and *Home Improvement* magazines, and has held additional editorial positions at *Health*, *InStyle*, and *Simply Buckhead*. Karina has written articles about numerous subjects for more than fifty publications.

Amy Meadows

Meadows is a veteran freelance feature writer and president of *Green Meadows Communications, LLC*. She has written more than 1,500 articles and contributed to more than a dozen hardcover pictorial books. Her first children's picture book, *Emma's American Chinese New Year*, earned a 2012 Moonbeam Children's Book Award and a 2013 Independent Publisher Book Award.

Hope S. Philbrick

Philbrick is a freelance writer because she believes that work and fun should not be mutually exclusive. Based in Atlanta, she writes about travel, food, wine, and spirits (as in booze, not ghosts). Her work regularly appears in a variety of print publications; she also founded the online magazine *GetawaysforGrownups.com*. When not writing, she's on the road or savoring something tasty.

DeMarco Williams

Williams loves three things: his family, sports, and traveling. Williams earned a journalism degree from Georgia State University; he has penned stories for outlets like *Bleacher Report*, *Forbes.com*, and *SLAM*—all of which made his mom pretty darn proud. When he's not writing, Williams and his wife are either cheering on the Hawks or planning their next getaway.

Jennifer Bradley Franklin

The Atlanta-based writer and editor loved writing about treasures—a DeKalb bucket list and Buford Highway—right in her own backyard. Her food, travel, and lifestyle articles have appeared in *People*, *Hospitality Design*, *Time.com*, *Delta Sky*, *American Way*, and a host of other publications. Most days, she has to pinch herself to believe that she has the good fortune of writing about the topics she loves most. @JennBFranklin



To Market, To Market

Travel to three international shopping hubs without leaving DeKalb County

By *Karina Timmel Antenucci*

THE GREAT MALL OF CHINA

Located just off the Gold MARTA line in Chamblee, **Atlanta Chinatown Mall** covers 55,000 square feet and offers thirty-two stores and businesses. On any given day you will find a crowd from all walks of life.

The main draw for visitors may be the lively food court. Whatever you do, don't miss the barbecued duck at **Hong Kong BBQ** or the soups with hand-pulled noodles from **New Lan Zhou**.

Once you're fueled up, there are plenty of retail shops to poke around in. Start with **Nihao Bookstore**, the first Chinese book shop in the Southeast. In addition to books, it also carries cultural items, such as calligraphy sets, paintings, and ceramic tea sets. Next, head to

Formosa Gifts for lanterns, traditional dresses, Chinese toys, kitchen items (like a special appliance to make soybean milk tea), and more.

If you're trying your hand at cooking Chinese cuisine, buy your groceries at **Dinho Supermarket**. The small grocer has all the flavors and ingredients you'll need from the mainland, from pickled turnip greens to enormous bags of rice. A heads-up: Much of the product packaging here features Chinese characters, not English.

VIVA MEXICO!

Picture a Mexican outdoor market. Now picture it inside a mall—a 350,000-square-foot mall, to be exact—and you have **Plaza Fiesta**, a



go-to gathering and shopping locale for the Latin American community located off of Buford Highway in Chamblee.

Colorful flag banners hang over aisles taking you to more than 280 retail and specialty stores. Facades are designed to look like the exteriors of Mexican villas complete with faux second-story windows and flower boxes that add to the "fiesta" of it all. The shopping itself is just as vibrant. There's more than one Western apparel shop, including **El Caballo Dorado**, where you can stockpile cowboy hats and boots (purple snakeskin is not out of the question here) for the whole family. Speaking of family, little kids will love the huge, complimentary playground area with several looping tube slides, as well as the Mexican candy stores like **Dulce Fiesta**.

You'll also find numerous dress shops, such as **Isabella's Boutique**, with princess gowns in every color for quinceaneras and weddings; soccer apparel stores; a surprising number of undergarment and auto parts retailers, respectively; a pet shop; as well as food galore. Make sure to bring cash, as most places do not take credit cards.

A PASSAGE TO INDIA

Church Street and its surrounding roads in Decatur are a mecca for Indian food. Whether you're having guests over for dinner or shopping for the family, there are two stops not to be missed.

For groceries, head to **Patel Brothers**, a boutique grocery chain with locations in twenty states. Stock your pantry with the largest collection of jarred items—from minced pickles to tamarind and date chutney—you've ever seen. There's also gorgeous fresh produce and exotic veggies



(try the drumsticks, a cross between okra and green beans on steroids); scoop-your-own spices in large urns; Indian packaged goods and snacks you won't find elsewhere in Atlanta (sesame chikki, anyone?); and a wide variety of incense sticks ranging from peppermint to patchouli.

Next, satisfy that sweet tooth at **Gokul Sweets & Restaurant**, with delicious Indian vegetarian cuisine and desserts. If you're ordering for a dinner party, pick up some kaju katli, sugar, and cashew nut cookies decorated with edible silver foil that gives them a refined edge. Or for a truly decadent treat, sample the jalebi, a chewy, sweet confection made by deep-frying wheat flour and then soaking it in sugar syrup.

You can't really go wrong. The fun is in exploring the new flavors. ■



PLAZA FIESTA

PLAZA FIESTA (3), ATLANTA CHINATOWN MALL (2)



Artful Endeavors

DEKALB'S ARTS SCENE OFFERS SOMETHING FOR EVERY CREATIVE PALATE

By *Karina Timmel Antenucci*

LISTEN TO LIVE MUSIC

If you enjoy live music, the **DeKalb Symphony Orchestra** (DSO) will be music to your ears. Established in 1964, DSO is in residence at Georgia Perimeter College's Clarkston campus, playing up to thirteen concerts each year ranging from classical to modern works. The shows, which often feature special guest solo performances, include a free community concert, an annual children's concert, and Summer Pops, featuring popular local favorites. The majority of performances are housed at the college's 500-seat Marvin Cole Auditorium, a concert hall with great sight lines of the over-eighty-person orchestra. Most of DSO's players are volunteer musicians from the community (each logging a whopping average of 200 hours of time every year), but there is a core of twelve principals, with British-born conductor Fyodor Cherniavsky at the helm.

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE ARTS

Callanwolde Fine Arts Center, a bustling, nonprofit community arts center in Druid Hills, looks like something out of a fairy tale. Between its 27,000-square-foot Tudor Revival-style mansion and impeccably manicured twelve-acre estate, it provides the perfect backdrop for creative minds of all ages who take classes and workshops in visual, literary, and performing arts. Visitors will enjoy the Callanwolde Gallery, an exhibition space for emerging local artists; tours of the Candler family's (of Coca-Cola

fame) digs; live jazz and a BYO-picnic on summer Fridays; and special events such as Christmas at Callanwolde.

Additional DeKalb County arts centers include the **Porter Sanford III Performing Arts and Community Center** and **Spruill Center for the Arts**. Porter Sanford, a 500-seat auditorium located in Decatur, presents theatrical productions, concerts, ballets, and more. It can also be rented for weddings and special events. Created in 1975, Spruill Center for the Arts is a Dunwoody non-profit organization whose mission is to foster appreciation of the visual arts. The center includes the Spruill Education Center, which conducts about 700 courses and workshops throughout the year, and the nearby Spruill Gallery, located at the Historic Spruill Homeplace, which mounts four to six annual exhibits.

GO TO THE THEATER

Theatergoers have their pick of fine local stages in DeKalb for entertainment. Decatur's 135-seat **OnStage Atlanta** has a long-running legacy of performance. Since 1971, this organization has put forth an eclectic mix of productions, from *Little Shop of Horrors* to *Steel Magnolias*. Located in a 1913 trolley station in Stone Mountain Village, **ART Station** is home to galleries, gift shops, and the like. The arts center also houses **Equity Theatre Company**, which is dedicated to plays that celebrate the Southern experience and support social change. **D**



IT'S RAD!

Where in Atlanta can you find more than one glassblowing studio, art galleries, ceramic designs, and paper crafts all in one area? Answer: In the hub of creativity that is the Rail Arts District, a one-mile stretch of mid-century industrial space and warehouse buildings that spans from downtown Avondale Estates into Scottsdale and East Decatur. Here's a taste of what you'll discover at the "informal alliance of arts organizations."

➡ **Garage Door Studio** This retail co-op boutique in Tudor Square showcases wares from local artists and craftsmen, such as the playful art made of repurposed items from Lacy Love, and mixed-media paintings and watercolors from Jen Singh.

➡ **MudFire Gallery** You'll find everything from colorful lamp bases to decorative vases crafted by a mixture of nationally acclaimed and emerging Southeastern potters at this gallery.

➡ **Atlanta Hot Glass** Work hand-in-hand with instructors to create your own paperweight, ornament, flower, or cup during a single glassblowing class, or take one of the more in-depth series to explore the craft at this 50,000-square-foot facility.



➡ Little Tree Art Studios

This growing studio (2015 expansion plans are underway) is home to more than twenty-five established and emerging artists working in a variety of disciplines including painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, and textile design. Also in the mix are music rehearsal studio spaces and a performance venue.

DEKALB SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

© CRAIG CARDEN, ART STATION, PORTER SANFORD III PERFORMING ARTS AND COMMUNITY CENTER, CALLANWOLDE FINE ARTS CENTER



Biggar's Antiques

Treasure Hunting

Chamblee's Antique Row is chock-full of unique finds that take you back in time

By *Karina Timmel Antenucci*

ATLANTA'S OLDEST AND LARGEST ANTIQUES DISTRICT IS LOCATED in a pocket of Chamblee called Antique Row. You could spend an entire day perusing the wares at the various furniture and collectibles stores on this walkable strip. If you're in the market to sell old articles—from that sterling silver necklace you never wear to Granddaddy's favorite chair—you can do that here, too. We've put together a sampling of some of our favorite spots.

Put on your comfy shoes before you head to **Simple Finds Interiors & Antiques**. You'll need them while exploring the 25,000-square-foot space, which houses everything from antiques and vintage items in open booths to little vignettes of accessories and furniture items on

consignment (read: They'll buy from you, too). One booth is filled with only lampshades; another sells reclaimed barnwood headboards; and another could be a melange of mementos akin to what you'd find in your grandma's house—there are surprises at every turn. The inventory changes daily, but if you can't find what you're looking for, just enter it into the Customer Wish Book and the store's dealers will be on the hunt for your desired item.

Another antique store on the block is **Antique Factory**, which specializes in Modern Era art, antiques, and collectibles. For fifteen years, the more than 8,000-square-foot store has housed eclectic treasures from the fifties, Space Age design, arts and crafts, and



Broad Street Antique Mall



Biggar's Antiques



Simple Finds Interiors & Antiques



Atlanta Vintage Books

© CARMEN SISSON, BROAD STREET ANTIQUE MALL, © CARMEN SISSON, SIMPLE FINDS INTERIORS & ANTIQUES, ATLANTA VINTAGE BOOKS

advertising and Americana from the twentieth century. Expect to find furniture from designers Charles and Ray Eames, Herman Miller, Knoll, and Dunbar, as well as bronze sculptures, Italian art glass, vintage electric appliances, and cocktail shakers and barware by Alessi.

Biggar's Antiques is more than an antique shop. In business for more than fifty years, and housed in a 100-year-old church building, it offers incredible finds from days gone by including old enamel and neon signs, sports memorabilia, luggage, and lighting—you never know what you might find. The store also maintains a prop rental business for Georgia's film industry (it has provided set decorations for movies like *Driving Miss Daisy* and *Fried Green Tomatoes*), and offers restaurant design and decor services.

If memorabilia is your thing, absolutely make a stop at **Broad Street Antique Mall**, a 20,000-square-foot building with more than 200 showcases of collectibles, antiques, furniture, and oddities. Looking for vintage

barbershop items? Why, yes, they have those. Shopping for medical antiquities? Step right up and buy old dental instruments and "quack" boxes. Are you a music collector? Then you might be interested in a phonograph, one of the mall's hottest ticket items. The space also is home to the Black History Store (blackhistorystore.com), which sells unique historical books, documents, and artifacts. The question is, what can't you find here? Hard to say. It seems like they've got the bases covered (did we mention the sports keepsakes?).

Atlanta Vintage Books is a rare gem these days—an independent bookstore with 80,000 gently used, vintage, and contemporary books ranging from signed first editions like *Finnegans Wake* to hard-to-find titles such as the thirtieth-anniversary edition of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and across every subject imaginable (railroads and metaphysics included). The wooden bookshelves also accommodate one of the largest collections of out-of-print children's books in the Southeast, such as the first edition of *The Wonderful Wizard of*

Oz. The vibe is welcoming—from the smiles when you enter to the worn-in seating that encourages curling up with a book. You might get a snuggle from one of the owners' house cats if you do—there are five in residence.

It's a win-win at **Attie Treasures Thrift Shop**. You'll find gently used duds at budget-friendly prices (most clothing items are no more than \$10) from retailers like Ann Taylor Loft and Banana Republic, while proceeds from your purchase fund Assistance League of Atlanta's programs that aid children and adults in need throughout Atlanta. Friendly member volunteers help you navigate the wares—in addition to clothing, there's framed artwork, everything you need for a starter kitchen (hello, college students!), and more. Tip: Get there on Tuesday mornings when the newest merchandise hits the shelves.

There are a number of restaurants in the area, serving everything from Southern fare (Southbound) to slices (Vintage Pizzeria). Load the car, then take a load off and refuel before hitting the next shop on the block. **D**