

## Atlanta Update

April - June 2005

Atlanta Update is a quarterly listing for events, attractions and venues around the city. For a complete listing of events planned throughout the year in Atlanta, visit the calendar of events on [www.atlanta.net](http://www.atlanta.net). For past issues of Atlanta Update, visit the online press room at [www.atlanta.net/pressroom](http://www.atlanta.net/pressroom).

### City News

The **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO)** announced that it will break ground on a new facility in 2008. The \$300 million new home of the symphony will be on 6.2 acres at Peachtree and 14<sup>th</sup> streets. Plans call for an 836,000-square-foot office building with ground-level retail and a Symphony Center with 2,000 seats in the main hall and 350 seats in the chamber hall. Outside highlights include an 18-story ribbed steel arch that curves over the main building and hydraulic wings that fold over the glass atrium and open when the ASO is in concert. It is scheduled to open in 2011.

[www.atlantasymphony.org](http://www.atlantasymphony.org)

**Turner Field** is undergoing a \$12 million expansion that will be completed for the season opener on April 8. Plans call for new video and information boards, including a high-definition video screen, the largest and tallest video display in any stadium in the world. Other improvements include a 42-foot screen below upper deck for outfield fans to watch replays, game information and graphics, a restaurant above the Chop House named Top of the Chop, a new concession stand called "Skip and Pete's Hall of Fame Barbeque," renovations of the 755 Club and electronic signs to direct fans to parking and exit routes. The field is also building a \$3 million interactive attraction based on shows and characters from the Cartoon Network called Tooner Field. Completion is set for July 25. [www.atlantabrades.com](http://www.atlantabrades.com)

### Events

**Centennial Olympic Park** kicks off its spring 2005 season with the following events: *Music at Noon*, a mid-day, local artist show that occurs every Tuesday and Wednesday beginning April 5 at the Southern Company Amphitheater. The Park also starts its *Wednesday Wind Down* music series, April 6 at 5:30 p.m. Additionally, their *Nu Soul Concert* series and *Fountain Show*, showing daily at 12:30, 3:30, 6:30 and 9 p.m., starts this spring. *Fourth Saturday Family Fun Days* begins April 23 with this year's themes including: All about Arts, Great Outdoors, Our many Cultures, It's about Sports, Games and Gadgets and Flights and Kites. For the month of May, this event will take place on the third Saturday, May 21, due to the Memorial Day holiday. The *Michelob GOT JAZZ* music series continues this year, starting June 1 and continues every first Wednesday.

[www.centennialolympicpark.com](http://www.centennialolympicpark.com).

**Turner First Thursdays Downtown Arts Walk** continues April 7, with self-guided tours of downtown Atlanta galleries and discounted meals at participating restaurants. From 5 to 8 p.m., participants can choose to see art from the following galleries and museums: *The Museum of Design Atlanta, Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia at SunTrust Plaza, GSU School of Art and Design Gallery, Arts for all Gallery @ VSA Arts of Georgia, Rialto Center for the Performing Arts at GSU and Paige Harvey Art Studio.* [www.atlantadowntown.com/HavingFun\\_FirstThursdays.asp](http://www.atlantadowntown.com/HavingFun_FirstThursdays.asp)

The **Atlanta Dogwood Festival** showcases local artists, crafters and musicians. 2005 will mark the festival's 69<sup>th</sup> year in Atlanta, making it the longest running festival in the city. Annual events include two stages of live music performances, food vendors, a 24-foot rock-climbing wall, a kids' village, the annual U.S. Disc Dog Southern Nationals Competition and an artist market featuring more than 200 of the nation's top artists. The festival takes place April 8-10. [www.dogwood.org](http://www.dogwood.org).

SunTrust's **Lunch on Broad** provides a place for downtown workers, residents, students, and visitors to dine outside on Broad Street every Friday beginning April 15-Sept. 30. Between 11 and 2:30 p.m., the street is closed down, chairs are brought out, free music starts and attendees can buy food from surrounding restaurants through September 30. Restaurants located on Broad St. include Alibaba's Mediterranean, Bruster's Ice Cream, Ginseng Chinese Café, Michael's Deli, Mocha Delites, Rosa's Pizza and Thai Gourmet. [www.fairliepoplar.org/HavingFun\\_LunchBroad](http://www.fairliepoplar.org/HavingFun_LunchBroad).

At the first annual **Atlanta WINGS Festival**, over twenty of metro Atlanta's restaurants will participate in a two-day celebration off of Auburn Avenue. This food and art festival takes place April 16 and 17. [www.atlantawingsfestival.com](http://www.atlantawingsfestival.com).

The **Georgia Renaissance Festival**, April 16-June 5, transports visitors back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Attendees can interact with more than 1,000 costumed, medieval characters, including kissing wenches, wandering minstrels, jugglers, magicians, hypnotists, rat-catchers and the world famous Hanlon-Lees Jousting Knights. Participants can also shop at 150 artisan vendors including fine jewelry, weaving, glass-blowing and a blacksmith and a broom-maker store. [www.georgiarenaissancefestival.com](http://www.georgiarenaissancefestival.com).

The 35<sup>th</sup> annual **Decorators' Show House and Gardens** takes place between April 16 – May 8 at a French-style house located at 225 West Paces Ferry. Visitors can tour the interior and exterior of the home and see the work of two dozen local designers. Participants have the opportunity to purchase some of the items displayed at the designer's table and enjoy food from Maestro's Market, all conveniently located at the house. [www.decoratorsshowhouse.com](http://www.decoratorsshowhouse.com).

The **Inman Park Festival** displays the best of spring blooms in Atlanta's oldest neighborhood, April 22-24. For one weekend each year, Inman Park, the city's first suburb, is transformed into one giant artist market, complete with live entertainment and a wide variety of food vendors. Festivities also include a Tour of Homes and a parade on

Saturday, blending the eclectic atmospheres of Inman Park and nearby Little Five Points. [www.inmanpark.org](http://www.inmanpark.org).

**Style Atlanta**, Atlanta's first official fashion and design week, presented by General Motors, will take place May 1 - 6. This week-long event will build Atlanta's stylish image and promote Atlanta and the South's creative design talent. Industries will interact with numerous designers while consumers can purchase Atlanta-based designers' apparel that Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday promoting shopping in Atlanta. The week concludes with the Style Atlanta Gala, a black-tie event that will recognize individuals who have contributed to the city's stylish image. [www.styleatlanta.com](http://www.styleatlanta.com).

**The Atlanta Jazz Festival**, May 1-31, brings more than 100 jazz artists to Atlanta to perform various shows throughout the city. Included in the festivities is the Free Weekend Concert Series at Piedmont Park, a special benefit concert at Chastain Park Amphitheatre, cuisine selections including soul food, ethnic, American cooking and an expanded arts and crafts market. [www.atlantafestivals.com](http://www.atlantafestivals.com)

Shakespeare and Company's **Shake at the Lake** provides a free show of Macbeth this May at the Piedmont Park lawn. [www.gashakespeare.org](http://www.gashakespeare.org).

The **Sweet Auburn SpringFest**, dubbed as the largest street festival in the Southeast, incorporates 10 stages of entertainment including Atlanta's best gospel, jazz, blues and hip-hop. Events include a children's fun area, a technology expo and an international vendors market. Two festival favorites are the Atlanta Classic Car Show and the "Taste of Sweet Auburn," showcasing the best soul food Atlanta has to offer. Sweet Auburn is one of Atlanta's historic African-American neighborhoods and is the birthplace of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the home to landmark churches, such as Big Bethel A.M.E. and Ebenezer Baptist. The event takes place May 6-8. [www.sweetauburn.com](http://www.sweetauburn.com).

Featuring Georgia-grown produce, herbs, fresh flowers and baked goods, the **Green Market** offers fine local goods at Piedmont Park on Saturdays, May 7-August 28. The market resembles a mini-festival with live musical entertainment, kids' activities, historic tours and cooking demonstrations from Atlanta's top chefs.

[www.piedmontpark.org/programs/green\\_market.html](http://www.piedmontpark.org/programs/green_market.html)

Turner Classic Movies continues its free **Screen on the Green** film festival in Piedmont Park's meadow area every Thursday in June. All movies begin at sunset and this year's movies include: *Some Like it Hot*, June 2; *To Kill a Mockingbird*, June 9; *The Birds*, June 16; *Mommie Dearest*, June 23; and *Grease*, June 30.

[www.turner.com/screenonthegreen/](http://www.turner.com/screenonthegreen/).

The **Virginia-Highland Summerfest** takes place June 4-5 in Atlanta's historic Virginia-Highland, an in-town neighborhood known for its diverse mix of nightlife, galleries, restaurants and unique shops. The two-day festival includes more than 200 artist booths,

the Taste of Virginia-Highland Food Market, live local music, a Kidsfest play area, a Saturday morning 5K run and Tot Trot. [www.vahi.org](http://www.vahi.org).

**Music Midtown**, June 10-12, brings more than 100 national artists to several stages and 14 local bands performing on the Locals Only Stage. Festival goers will have the opportunity to interact with local artists and enjoy a blend of food offerings from Atlanta vendors. 2005 performers include Keith Urban, Alan Jackson, Joan Jett, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, The White Stripes, Montgomery Gentry, among others. [www.musicmidtown.com](http://www.musicmidtown.com).

In celebration of Black Music Month, Atlanta's first annual **VIBE MusicFest** comes to downtown, June 10-12. This three-day music, entertainment and lifestyle festival is modeled after the annual Essence Festival held in New Orleans. Performers include Mary J. Blige, Ludacris, John Legend, Kanye West, T.I., 112 and others at the Georgia Dome and the Georgia World Congress Center. [www.vibe.com/musicfest](http://www.vibe.com/musicfest).

The **Atlanta Film Festival**, now in its 29<sup>th</sup> year, presents more than 150 independent films from more than 17 countries. The festival includes guest appearances by filmmakers, panelists, artists and industry professionals from around the world. Screenings run at multiple venues throughout the 10-day festival, concluding with the Atlanta Film Festival Awards Ceremony. The festival takes place June 10-18. [www.imagefv.org/aff2004](http://www.imagefv.org/aff2004).

The third annual **Atlanta Downtown Festival and Tour of Lofts** is scheduled for June 12 - 13. The loft tour will focus on properties in the Fairlie-Poplar Historic District and Centennial Hill. While in the Fairlie-Poplar District, tour-goers are invited to attend the festival which will feature an artist market, live music, food vendors, Sweetwater beer and children's activities. [www.atlantadowntown.com/HavingFun\\_LoftTours.asp](http://www.atlantadowntown.com/HavingFun_LoftTours.asp).

The Atlanta Gay **PRIDE** annual festival and parade commemorates the Stonewall Riots in New York City that launched the modern lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual rights movement. Held this year on June 24-26 at Piedmont Park, the festival attracts as many as 300,000 participants from the metro Atlanta area and neighboring states. It is the largest festival of its kind in the Southeast and one of the largest in the country. The festival highlight is the Sunday parade. [www.atlantapride.org](http://www.atlantapride.org).

**Chastain Park Amphitheatre** kicks off its summer music series with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's Classic Chastain schedule: *Santana* and *Los Lonely Boys*, June 3; *Mary Chapin Carpenter* and *Mindy Smith*, June 17; *Al Jarreau*, *Boney James* and *Cassandra Wilson*, June 18; *Prairie Home Companion* with host *Garrison Keillor*, June 24; *Donny Osmond*, June 25 and *Jane Monheit*, June 29. [www.classicchastain.org](http://www.classicchastain.org).

### Attractions

The world's largest interactive water play structure in a theme park debuts Memorial Day weekend at **Six Flags Over Georgia**. Spanning an area twice the size of a football field, the new Skull Island will sport a Caribbean pirate theme, six water slides, two giant

buckets that tip 1,200 of gallons of water, a spewing volcano and numerous bridges, water wheels and spray guns. Skull Island is the first water play area for the park and will have changing facilities. [www.sixflags.com](http://www.sixflags.com).

**Stone Mountain Park** hosts a number of events this spring including *Kids' Spring Break*, April 2-10; *5<sup>th</sup> Annual FODAC Walk n' Roll*, April 16; *Feria Latina*, April 22-24; *Cool Car Fest*, April 30-May 1; *March of Dimes WalkAmerica*, April 30; *Frontier Days: Georgia Between the Wars*, May 5-8, *Memorial Weekend "Salute to the Troops,"* May 27-30 and the *Stone Mountain Gospel Celebration*, June 25. The *Lasershow Spectacular* begins March 19 and will show weekends April - May and nightly May 28 - June 30 at 9:30 p.m. The *Vintage Vacationland at Memorial Hall Museum's* exhibit contains memorabilia of early tourist destinations around the South and can be seen through August 8. Also at the park this summer is *Jim Fowler's Wonders of the Wild* animal show, May 31-July 17. This interactive and educational show provides an up close look at a variety of wild animals such as baby wolves, red-tailed hawks, snakes and more. [www.stonemountainpark.com](http://www.stonemountainpark.com).

The **High Museum of Art** displays *The Art of Romare Bearden* through April 24. The exhibit contains Bearden's works focusing on religious subjects, ritual practices, jazz clubs, history and literature reflecting the history and culture of African-Americans. Also on display is *Ernest Withers: Memphis Blues Again* through Aug 7. Withers gained wide recognition for his photographs depicting the Beale Street music scene, the Civil Rights Movement and the Negro Baseball Leagues. Through May 1, *On the Side of Freedom: Jo Davidson and the Spanish Civil War* explores the dynamic interrelationship of art and politics during this time period. The High is also re-installing the *Retracing* exhibit from Atlanta-based artist Deanna Sirlin in their atrium, now through June 20. [www.high.org](http://www.high.org).

On special display at the **Atlanta Botanical Garden's** Fuqua Orchid Center is *Locomotion in the Garden: Trains Across Georgia*. Lifelike model trains ride through model Georgia mountains, valleys and bridges into a 3,200-square-foot city model of Atlanta, through Oct 31. [www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org](http://www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org).

**Imagine It! The Children's Museum of Atlanta's** *Spring Into the Arts* where children can build their own art runs through June 12. The museum also hosts a number of events this spring including *Draw with Scissors*, April 2; *Mural Magic*, April 3; *Spring Break Camp*, April 4-8; *Piccadilly Puppets*, April 9; *Boogie Woogie Bullfrog*, April 10; *Drumagination and West African Art for Kids*, April 16; *Garden House Dance*, April 17 and *Destination Imagination*, four summer camp sessions, June 1-July 1. [www.imagineit-cma.org](http://www.imagineit-cma.org).

**Fernbank Museum of Natural History's** special exhibit, *Frogs: A Chorus of Colors*, continues at the museum until April 30. It showcases more than 100 live frogs from around the world in life-like habitats. Through July 4, Nancy Lowe's *Hidden Wonders of the Appalachians: The Watercolors*, illustrates her portraits of landscapes from the Great Smoky Mountain Park. *Grossology...The (Impolite) Science of the Human Body* exhibition actively engages visitors to explain why our bodies do the "gross" things they do. Debuting May 28 – Aug 21, it features more than 20 interactive displays and games,

including a human skin wall, burp machine, gas attack pinball and a 30-foot, 3-D slide through the digestive system. [www.fernbank.edu/museum](http://www.fernbank.edu/museum).

**The William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum** presents *The Superhero: The Golden Age of Comic Books, 1938-1950*, through August 31. The exhibition presents original comic book art from major collectors representing the most well-known superheroes. Also on display are objects belonging to the first comic book creators and publishers, a Batmobile for the kids and superhero memorabilia. [www.thebreman.org](http://www.thebreman.org).

**The Atlanta History Center** presents *V for Victory: Georgia Remembers World War II*, through January 2006. The exhibit examines the individual stories and experiences of Georgians and others who experienced the war from 1941-1945. Every Monday in April, toddlers and their parents can enjoy a guided tour of explorations at the Atlanta History Center exhibitions and grounds, including the Tullie Smith Farm, arts and crafts projects, story time, music and snacks. [www.atlantahistorycenter.com](http://www.atlantahistorycenter.com).

*Hand to Hand: Two Grand Masters of Suzhou Embroidery* features more than 30 works by the grand master embroiderers Gu Wenxia and Yu Fuzhen of China and the Jiangsu Province, through June 11 at the **Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum**. The Carter Library is the sole venue for the show outside of China. [www.jimmycarterlibrary.org](http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.org).

The **World of Coca-Cola** celebrates its 50-year partnership with Waffle House by building a virtual Waffle House museum, June 1-Aug. 31. The museum displays historical artifacts along with a life size photo background of the restaurant and its founders. [www2.coca-cola.com/heritage/worldcocacola.html](http://www2.coca-cola.com/heritage/worldcocacola.html).

### Performing Arts

**The Fox Theatre** presents *Madea Goes to Jail*, April 26 – May 1; *Matters of the Heart*, May 10 - 15 and *Lord of the Dance*, June 3-5. The Fox also hosts the 2005 *Coca-Cola Summer Film Festival* this summer. It offers a mix of classic and current films on the biggest screen in Atlanta, as well as a pre-show, magical movie-going experience featuring Larry Douglas Embury at the “Mighty Mo” organ, sing-a-longs and a vintage cartoon. The schedule includes *Dr. Zhivago*, June 6; 1929 silent *Peter Pan* and *Finding Neverland*, June 9; *Rebel Without a Cause* and *East of Eden*, June 14; *The Phantom of the Opera*, June 16; *The Aviator*, June 20; *Robots*, June 27; and *Barbershop* and *Beauty Shop*, June 30. [www.foxtheatre.org](http://www.foxtheatre.org).

*The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* will run March 23 - April 24 at the **Alliance Theatre**. Adapted by Southern playwright Rebecca Gilman, the play takes place in 1930s Georgia and tells the story of a deaf and mute man trying to fit into society. *Five Guys Named Moe* debuts May 4-June 5 and shares the humorous drama of five guys with the same name helping out one struggling individual. *Shear Madness* is playing on the Alliance’s Hertz Stage, April 8-May 15. This comedy is about a hair salon that has more than just cutting hair on its agenda. [www.alliancetheatre.org](http://www.alliancetheatre.org).

The **Georgia Ensemble Theatre's** production of *And Then They Came for Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank* tells the story of surviving friends of Anne Frank, Eva Schloss and Ed Silverberg, as they recount their stories of the war and segregation, Feb. 28-May 6. [www.get.org](http://www.get.org).

*Hamlet*, the Prince of Denmark, returns to avenge his father's murder and ponder the meaning of his life, March 4 - April 3, at the **New American Shakespeare Tavern**. Also playing this spring is *Our Town*, April 9-May 1; *The Rivals*, May 7-29 and *As You Like It*, June 3-July 3. [www.shakespearetavern.com](http://www.shakespearetavern.com).

*The Foreigner* debuts March 29 - April 24 at the **Balzer Theater at Herren's**. Set in a fishing lodge in rural Georgia, the comedy revolves around the "mute" main character's plot to spread gossip about his neighbors. Also playing May 3 - June 12 is *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*. [www.theatricaloutfit.org](http://www.theatricaloutfit.org).

**Atlanta Ballet's** 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary season concludes with the production of *Cinderella* at the Fox Theatre, April 21-24. [www.atlantaballet.com](http://www.atlantaballet.com).

Six plays debut at the **Center for Puppetry Arts** this spring including *Rumpelstiltskin* (family), through April 3; *Brer Rabbit and Friends* (family), April 7-June 19; *The Anatomy of Melancholy* (adult and teen), April 15-17; *Xperimental Puppetry Theatre* (adult), May 19-22; *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (family), June 21-July 10 and *Avanti, Da Vinci! The Secret Adventures of Leonardo Da Vinci* (adult), June 22-July 3. [www.puppet.org](http://www.puppet.org).

**Dad's Garage** presents *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind*, March 24-April 2. This performance is an attempt to perform 30 plays in 60 minutes. The theater also hosts the *Atlanta Improv Festival*, May 25-28. [www.dadsgarage.com](http://www.dadsgarage.com).

**7 Stages'** *Boston Marriage*, a term coined to describe certain unspoken intimacies, debuts March 10 - April 3. Also playing is *This Jazz Century*, a production that takes audience members through the music that made the 20<sup>th</sup> century, April 7-10. Out of Hand Theater presents *Miss Julie* at 7 Stages, April 22 - May 15. *Wizzer Pizzer* tells of gays learning how to be straight again and debuts May 5-29. Synchronicity presents *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* at 7 Stages, June 4-26. In this musical adaptation of the children's book, audience member watch Alexander and his family struggle through the confusions and frustrations of an ordinary day. *The Sex Habits of American Women* is also playing at 7 Stages, May 27-June 25. [www.7stages.org](http://www.7stages.org).

**Atlanta Symphony Orchestra** will host a variety of musical talent on various dates in this spring's *Delta Classical Concerts*, *Coca-Cola Family Concerts*, and SunTrust's *SuperPOPS*. [www.atlantasymphony.org](http://www.atlantasymphony.org).

**Robert Ferst Center for the Arts** hosts the national tour of *Crazy for You*, April 9; *Pinchas Zukerman*, April 16; *Ballet Folklorico "Quetzalli" de Veracruz*, April 24 and the

*Atlanta Ballet*, May 6 – 7. *Boys in Boyland II* perform at the center, June 17-18.  
[www.ferstcenter.gatech.edu](http://www.ferstcenter.gatech.edu).

Listen to Irish storytelling at the **14<sup>th</sup> Street Playhouse** in *The Voice of the Prairie*, March 18-April 10. Debuting April 27- July 31 is *Menopause the Musical*, a humorous tale about four women who have nothing in common except being the same age.  
[www.woodruffarts.org/woodruff1/14thb.asp](http://www.woodruffarts.org/woodruff1/14thb.asp).

The **Atlanta Opera** welcomes Beethoven's *Fidelio* April 14, 16 and 17 at the **Boisfeuillet Jones Atlanta Civic Center**. This tale of love and disguise reveals how good conquers evil. Also playing at the center is *Groovin' for Grover*, June 25. This event celebrates jazz artist Grover Washington Jr.'s career with performances by Gerald Albright, Jeff Lorber and Kirk Whalum. [www.atlantaopera.org](http://www.atlantaopera.org).

The **Rialto Center for the Performing Arts** hosts a variety of musical talent this spring season including: *Harold Lloyd Film Project*, April 9; *Percussion Ensemble*, April 11; *Nicholas Peyton*, April 15; *Opera Theater Production: Puccini's Suor Angelica & Gianni Schicchi*, April 22 - 24 and *Johnny Mercer Review*, featuring the legendary *Margaret Whiting*, May 13. [www.rialtocenter.org](http://www.rialtocenter.org).

**Theatre in the Square's** *The Diviners*, shares a journey filled with laughter, tears, a need for trust and faith set in the Great Depression era, May 11-June 19.  
[www.theatreinthesquare.com](http://www.theatreinthesquare.com).

**Actor's Express** presents the world premiere of *Hazard County* June 2 – July 23 at the **King Plow Arts Center**. Interspersed with "The Dukes of Hazard" recollections, redneck jokes and cars, this subversive comedy unearths a secret one woman has denied for years.  
[www.actors-express.com](http://www.actors-express.com).

### Sports

The 37th annual **BellSouth Classic** brings the finest professional golfers from around the world, March 28 - April 3, at Sugarloaf in Duluth. The four-day, 72-hole PGA tournament awards the winner \$810,000. Proceeds from the event are donated each year to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. [www.bellsouthclassic.com](http://www.bellsouthclassic.com).

The **Atlanta Braves** kick off their 2005 season April 8 against the New York Mets. The team will try to clinch a 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive division title in their newly renovated, state-of-the-art stadium. [www.atlantabraves.com](http://www.atlantabraves.com).

The **Georgia Force** arena football team continues its winning season with the remaining home games at Phillips Arena against: the Austin Wranglers, April 8; the Grand Rapids Rampage, April 15; the Tampa Bay Storm, May 8; the Dallas Desperados, May 14 and Tampa Bay Storm, May 29. [www.georgiaforce.com](http://www.georgiaforce.com).

The **Atlanta Hawks** continue their season in the Georgia Dome through April 19. Special ticket packages are available during Chick-fil-A Family Nights, which include four game tickets and four Chick-fil-A combo meals. [www.nba.com/hawks](http://www.nba.com/hawks).

**Dodge Tour de Georgia** takes place April 19-24. This six-day professional cycling race extends from Augusta to Alpharetta with participants biking 650.9 miles in six stages, stopping in eight cities: Macon, Fayetteville, Rome, Dalton, Dahlonega, Gainesville, Brasstown Bald and Blairsville. Six time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong will return to defend his title. [www.tourdegeorgia.com](http://www.tourdegeorgia.com).

This year's LPGA **Chick-fil-A Charity Championship** takes place at Eagle's Landing Country Club the week of May 9-15. The LPGA's top competitors go head-to-head for the \$1.6 million purse. Hosted by Nancy Lopez, the tournament has contributed \$5,750,000 to worthy charities over 10 years. [www.charitychampionship.com](http://www.charitychampionship.com).

The nation's only traveling black rodeo, the **Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo**, reaches more than 121,000 spectators annually throughout United States. The event will be held at the Georgia Invitational Horse Park May 14 - 15. [www.georgiahorsepark.com](http://www.georgiahorsepark.com).

#### Shopping/Retail

**Jimmy Choo** shoes and accessories will open its seventh store in the nation at Phipps Plaza this April. The mall will also open **April Cornell**, the **Landau Collection**, and **Sole Mio** in late April. **MaxStudio.com**, **Anne Fontaine**, **Rangoni Firenze Shoes**, **Oilily**, **Coldwater Creek**, **A Pea in the Pod**, **Sigrid Olsen**, **The Limited Too**, **Elie Tahari** and **Gap Maternity** all plan to open this summer.

**Barney's New York CO-OP** and **Nordstrom** opened at Phipps this past March. [www.atlanta.bizjournals.com](http://www.atlanta.bizjournals.com).

**Saks Fifth Avenue Inc.** announced March 11 that many of their stores across the nation will undergo renovation in the next couple of months, including their location at Phipps Plaza. [www.atlanta.bizjournals.com](http://www.atlanta.bizjournals.com).

**Kenneth Cole**, the American designer known for his fashion-forward men's and women's shoes, accessories and apparel is moving from its upstairs location at Lenox Square Mall to a 4,740-square-foot space on the mall's main level. The expansion is set to open in mid-April. [www.simon.com](http://www.simon.com).

Lenox Square Mall is home to the fourth **DASS Salon and Spa** location which opened in early April. The store occupies two levels of the mall and offers the finest in massages, hair coloring and cuts. The mall also plans to open **French Connection**, **bebe** and **Hollister Co.** this summer. [www.simon.com](http://www.simon.com).

#### Hotels

**The Westin Atlanta Airport** launched a new service for their guests that provides off-site baggage check and airline check-in services for \$10. Travelers can check their

baggage as early as 12 hours before departure or as late as two and a half hours. This is the third city in the U.S. market where the BAGS service is available, following Orlando and Boston. [www.starwoodhotels.com](http://www.starwoodhotels.com).

A 3,000-square-foot renovation of the **Buckhead Ritz-Carlton, Atlanta's** The Bar is set to begin June 6 and be completed September 1. The new area, renamed The Gallery, allows the hotel to host smaller, more intimate events with 200 to 300 attendees and feature 20-foot bay windows that offer a view of the hotel's main drive. [http://www.ritzcarlton.com/hotels/atlanta\\_buckhead/](http://www.ritzcarlton.com/hotels/atlanta_buckhead/)

#### Restaurants/Nightlife

**The Oceanaire Seafood Room** recently opened in the 1100 Peachtree building in downtown Atlanta. The new restaurant offers fresh seafood flown in daily from around the world and includes a separate oyster bar area. The atmosphere is reminiscent of the 1930s and 1940s with its timeless architecture that is contemporary and comfortable. It seats 275 patrons and offers a semi-private dining room that can accommodate 60. [www.theoceanaire.com](http://www.theoceanaire.com).

Gary Mennie, the executive chef who helped launch the restaurant Canoe, is opening an American cuisine restaurant June 20, called **Taurus**. Located in the Brookwood Place development on Peachtree Street, the 9,000-square-foot restaurant will seat more than 240 in booths and banquettes, with a chef's table for up to 12 guests and a private dining room that can seat 40. The space will have a three-story open atrium plus patios that will wrap the perimeter of the restaurant. [www.atlanta.bizjournals.com](http://www.atlanta.bizjournals.com).

**The Real Chow Baby** opens April 4 off of Howell Mill with create-your-own Asian and American stir-fries. Guests choose from more than 70 selections for their customized dishes including vegetables, rice noodles, 17 different sauces, spices, meats and seafood. [www.therealchowbaby.com](http://www.therealchowbaby.com).

**JOËL** received the AAA 4-Diamond and Wine Enthusiast's Award of Unique Distinction in its selection of America's Best Wine-Driven Restaurants on February 21. [www.joelrestaurant.com](http://www.joelrestaurant.com).

Here to Serve Restaurants group, which has brought Prime, noche, Goldfish, Peri-Peri Chicken and Twist to Atlanta, are planning a steak and sushi concept restaurant that will open in October at Atlantic Station, near the two-story movie theater. Although the restaurant has no official name yet, **Rare** and **Strip** are a couple of ideas. The restaurant will measure about 10,000 square-feet and have a semi-casual atmosphere. The décor will feature reds, oranges and dark wood. [www.atlanta.bizjournals.com](http://www.atlanta.bizjournals.com).

**Marlow's Tavern** will open a second location in the Vinings on April 25. It will serve American tavern favorites in a modern atmosphere. [www.thereynoldsgroupinc.com](http://www.thereynoldsgroupinc.com).

A new concept featuring modern design and a new menu, **M!X** lounge, bar and restaurant is scheduled to open this summer. Italian entrees meant to be combined and shared includes a selection of 30-40 small plates ranging from classic antipasti's, artisan salads

and petite oven fired pizzas, to small pasta bowls and special meats and fishes.  
[www.MIXRestaurant.com](http://www.MIXRestaurant.com).

**Agave** restaurant, which blends southwestern cooking with an extensive wine list and tequila bar, opened a new 50 seat covered patio complete with a Kiva Fireplace and introduced a new spring menu. [www.agaverestaurant.com](http://www.agaverestaurant.com).

Restaurateur Kevin Rathbun will open **KROG BAR** in Inman Park next to his award-winning restaurant Rathbun's this June. It will feature Mediterranean-inspired cold plates, International wines as well as gelatos and coffee. The restaurant will seat 40 and also contain five communal tables, a walk-up bar and a patio with four tables overlooking KROG STREET in Inman Park.

**Aria, South City Kitchen** and **The Food Studio** were awarded the Distinguished Restaurants of North America (DiRôNA) Award. This is Aria's second consecutive year receiving the honor.

**The Globe** bistro restaurant opened May 23 in Georgia Tech's Technology Square in Midtown. With seafood, duck and chicken on the menu, the restaurant seats approximately 120 patrons. The restaurant features a 31-square-foot bar and a 26-square-foot banquette. [www.globeatlanta.com](http://www.globeatlanta.com).

Established in 1913, the ACVB is a private, nonprofit organization created exclusively to market metro Atlanta and Georgia as premier conventions, meetings and leisure destinations in the regional, national and international marketplace and to favorably impact the Atlanta economy through conventions and tourism.

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