

**HUMAN  
RIGHTS / HUMAN  
RESPONSIBILITY**  
*Toward a Better Future*

October 29 - 31

**2014 ATLANTA**

**PRESS HIGHLIGHTS**

## Saporta Report

### [Atlanta emerging as a human rights hub with a focus on women issues](#)

November 4, 2014

Web Address:

<http://saportareport.com/blog/2014/11/atlanta-emerging-as-a-human-rights-hub-with-focus-on-women/>

# SAPORTAREPORT

[Home](#) [Maria](#) [Latest Reports](#) [David](#) [Eleanor](#) [Tom](#) [Moments](#) [Michelle](#) [Saba](#) [Jamil](#) [Guest](#) [About](#) [Leadership](#)

## Atlanta emerging as a human rights hub with a focus on women issues

Posted in Latest Reports

Date: November 4th, 2014, 12:16 am

[Share](#) 31 [Tweet](#) 18 [Email](#) 9 [Share](#) 94

By Maria Saporta

A new central theme for Atlanta is emerging — showcasing the role of women and human rights around the world.

Take three different globally significant events occurring in Atlanta within a two-week period.

The first one has already happened. More than 700 women from more than 30 countries were in Atlanta from Oct. 29 to Oct. 31 to attend the International Women's Forum. The focus was "Human Rights/Human Responsibility: Toward a Better Future."

A highlight of the three-day forum was at the closing night's gala when former First Lady Rosalynn Carter was honored with IWF's "Leading Light Award."

As a founding member of IWF's Georgia Chapter, Carter spoke of her 44-year dedication to the cause of mental health.

It began when her husband was running for governor, and Georgia was closing its mental health hospitals. She confronted her husband at a campaign stop and asked him what he was going to do about mental illness when he was governor. He told her: "We are going to have the best program in the country," because he was going to put her in charge..

Although that didn't come to pass for pragmatic reasons, the former First Lady of Georgia and the United States has been spent the better part of the last five decades helping remove the stigma of mental illness so that people can see treatment and "live good, full productive lives in the community."

And it is a cause that she has championed at the Carter Center – where she has been able to marry her interests in global health, mental illness, human rights and women issues in what has been described as one of the most successful post-presidencies in U.S. history.

The three women inducted this year were: **Gayle Anne Hurd**, a movie and television producer who also is known as the "First Lady of Sci-Fi;" **Olga Maria del Carmen Sanchez Condero**, a justice on Mexico's Supreme Court. Olga Sanchez has worked hard to make sure women were treated fairly in the courts; and **Maureen Harding Clark**, a judge from North Ireland who on the United Nations' War Crimes tribunal

That leads us to the second globally significant event happening in Atlanta.

On Wednesday, Nov. 5, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., the Carter Center will be holding a special event called "The Elders: Building a Lasting Peace: Where are the Women."

Two panels of Elders and women peace builders will explore what can be done to prevent conflicts, combat negative cultural norms, and ensure that women are part of peace-making efforts. This event promotes the recommendations on women's role in peace building set out in President Carter's acclaimed recent book "A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence, and Power."

The first panel will look into the alternatives to violence and extremism being proposed by women.

What role can women play to prevent conflicts from breaking out? How do we involve women at the grassroots?

Participants will be: former U.S. President Jimmy Carter; Mary Robinson, first woman president of Ireland and former U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights; Asha Haji Elmi, peace activist and member of the Federal Parliament of Somalia; and Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, a leading international advocate, researcher, and trainer on conflict prevention and training.

The second panel will discuss the role of women in peace negotiations and peace-building efforts. How can we ensure that women are involved in peace processes? What cultural norms are preventing women from taking up their place at the decision-making table?

Participants will be: former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan; Hina Jilani, leading activist in Pakistan's women's movement and human rights champion; Jessica Neuwirth, founder of Equality Now; and Manal Omar, acting vice president, Center for Middle East and Africa at the U.S. Institute of Peace.

The program will be moderated by Carter Center CEO Mary Ann Peter., a former U.S. ambassador to Bangladesh.

The third event will take place during a series of events at Georgia Tech's Ivan Allen College from Nov. 11 to 13 when Beatrice Mtetwa will be awarded the prestigious Ivan Allen Prize for Social Courage.

She is the first woman to be receiving the Ivan Allen Prize, which comes with a \$100,000 cash award, which was named for the courageous Atlanta Mayor Ivan Allen Jr. The late mayor was a beacon of racial tolerance during the volatile 1960s in a segregated South.

Mtetwa is a fearless lawyer from Zimbabwe who has been recognized for being an advocate for women's equality and advancement. She has dedicated her life to representing those who have persecuted under the Mugabe regime. In 2009, Mtetwa became the only African other than Nelson Mandela to win the prestigious Ludovic-Trarieux International Human Rights Prize.

Atlanta's hosting of the women's-related human rights events reinforces the role that the Center for Civil and Human Rights is playing in the city. The Center already has declared that one of its focus areas will be on the rights of women around the world.

# Atlanta Journal-Constitution

## ["The Walking Dead" actress joins international leaders at women's forum](http://buzz.blog.ajc.com/2014/11/03/the-walking-dead-actress-joins-international-leaders-at-womens-forum/)

November 3, 2014

Web Address:

<http://buzz.blog.ajc.com/2014/11/03/the-walking-dead-actress-joins-international-leaders-at-womens-forum/>

Jennifer Brett

### "The Walking Dead" actress joins international leaders at women's forum

© November 3, 2014 | Filed in: Uncategorized

**Danai Gurira**, who plays the fierce and fearless **Michonne** on "The Walking Dead," joined a group of equally impressive women from around the world at the International Women's Forum's Hall of Fame gala, held Friday at the Marriott Marquis in downtown Atlanta.



Gurira introduced IWF International Hall of Fame honoree **Gale Anne Hurd**, known as "The First Lady of Sci-Fi" for her long and impressive career in film and television. Her many credits include producing and co-writing "The Terminator," and working on a slew of projects including "Aliens," "The Abyss," "The Ghost and the Darkness," and "Dante's Peak."

"The Walking Dead" actress Danai Gurira introduced honoree Gale Anne Hurd at the International Women's Forum gala. Photo: Jennifer Brett

More recently Hurd has served as executive producer for "The Walking Dead" and a consulting producer for the popular spin-off "The Talking Dead." She will serve as producer for the new "Walking Dead" companion series airing next year.

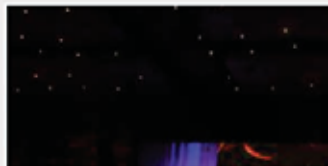
"I was looking for a role model," Gurira said. "I am honored to call her my boss."

Here's a video clip of Gurira describing her audition process for "The Walking Dead," and how Hurd has inspired

her:



The fierce and fearless "Michonne."  
Photo: AMC/The Walking Dead



The two used their time at the microphone to urge prominent women from around the world to maintain a focus on the girls kidnapped by the militant terrorist group Boko Haram. Although reports indicated that the Nigerian government was in the process of freeing the abducted schoolgirls, a message from a Boko Haram leader said "the missing schoolgirls have converted to Islam and have all been married off."

"Given the power and influence of the women in this room, I know we can change the world," said Hurd, who read a harrowing excerpt from a BBC interview with girls who had escaped their kidnappers. "We cannot forget these girls."

The IWF's 2014 World Leadership Conference and Gala committee leaders included co-chairs **Marsha Sampson Johnson** and **Julia Emmons**; president **Annette Cone-Skelton**; gala chair **Pat Upshaw-Monteith** and fundraising chair **Shirley Mitchell**. **Marilyn Johnson** served as emcee. **Sein Chew** is 2014-15 president of the IWF.



*Danai Gurira said during "Walking Dead" auditions she quickly learned that Hurd was "the one to pay attention to" and greatly admires her as a role model.*

*Photo: Jennifer Brett*

Gala honorees included former Georgia and U.S. First Lady **Rosalynn Carter**, co-founder of the Carter Center, where she chairs the Mental Health Task Force. She was given the 2014 IWF Leading Light Award for her decades of advocacy work, particularly her accomplishments on behalf of the mentally ill.

"We've been trying to overcome the stigma," Carter said. "The brain is just like any other organ in the body. We can treat it. We still have a long way to go."



*Rosalynn Carter was saluted for her many years of work on behalf of the mentally ill. Photo: Jennifer Brett*

She saluted progress made in the arena of mental health, noting that people who might have faced institutionalization in decades past are now able to lead productive and meaningful lives in the community. But the struggle is not over, she said.

"We still have so much work to do," Carter said. "Too many people who have mental health issues won't go for help."

Other International Hall of Fame honorees included **Olga Maria del Carmen Sanchez Cordero**, the ninth woman to hold a seat on the Supreme Court in Mexico and named by Forbes magazine as one of the 50 most powerful women in Mexico; and

Ireland's **Maureen Harding Clark**, who served as a judge on the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal and was one of 18 judges from around the world nominated to the International Criminal Court.

Also recognized at the event were the 2014 Women Who Make A Difference honorees. They included **Jan Blomstrann**, chairwoman and CEO of Renewable NRG Systems and a member of IWF Vermont; **Ophelia Cheung**, founding executive director of the Consumer Council (IWF Hong Kong); **Linda Davis**, chair of the board at CS Ranch (IWF New Mexico); **Ann Drake**, chairman and CEO of DSC Logistics (IWF Chicago and IWF Florida); **Heidi Kuhn**, founder and CEO of Roots of Peace (IWF Northern California); **Chua Sock Koong**, group CEO of Singapore Telecommunications Limited (IWF Singapore); **Zanele Mbeki**, founder and patron of the

Women's Development Banking Trust and former First Lady of South Africa (IWF South Africa); **Teresa Valdes-Fauli Weintraub**, president and CEO of Fiduciary Trust International of the South (IWF Florida); and **Carol B. Tomé**, chief financial officer and vice president of corporate services of The Home Depot (IWF Georgia).

The evening featured performances by the **Billy Batts Jazz Quartet**, the Georgia State University Symphony Orchestra conducted by **Rolando Salazar** (principal artists **Megan Mashburn**, soprano; **Jessica Luffey**, mezzo soprano; **Richard Clement**, tenor; **Nicholas Yaquinto**, baritone and **Wade Thomas**, bass); **Taylor Fuentes** and "The Mariachi Amigoz," who performed in honor of Justice **Olga Maria del Carmen Sanchez Cordero**; and Irish Tenor **Ronan Tynan** with accompanist **William Lewis**.

Here's a video clip of Tynan and Lewis, who performed in honor of Judge **Maureen Harding Clark**.

## *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

### [Civil rights icons speak at women's conference](#)

October 30, 2014

Web page: [http://www.myajc.com/news/business/civil-rights-icons-speak-at-womens-conference/nhwpS/?icmp=ajc\\_internallink\\_invitationbox\\_apr2013\\_ajcstub1#4611610c.3648827.735537](http://www.myajc.com/news/business/civil-rights-icons-speak-at-womens-conference/nhwpS/?icmp=ajc_internallink_invitationbox_apr2013_ajcstub1#4611610c.3648827.735537)

### Civil rights icons speak at women's conf

Posted: 5:05 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014

 0  0  0  4

By Kelly Yamanouchi - The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Civil rights icons Andrew Young and Ruby Bridges called on women leaders to draw on experiences from the civil rights movement to combat human rights violations around the world.

Former U.N. Ambassador and Atlanta Mayor Young, speaking at the International Women's Forum World Leadership Conference in Atlanta, invoked a message from the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

"In order to be free, you have to conquer the love of money and the fear of death," Young said Wednesday at a conference reception at the National Center for Civil & Human Rights. "If you don't love money, they can't buy you off. And if you're not afraid of death, they can't scare you off."

Ruby Bridges, who made history in 1960 at the age of 6 as the first black child to attend an all-white elementary school in New Orleans, said, "As African-Americans, we knew that if we wanted to see change, we had to step up to the plate, and that's exactly what we have to do as women today."

Bridges, who spoke at the conference Thursday at the InterContinental Buckhead hotel, is the founder of the Ruby Bridges Foundation. She speaks to students in schools across the country.

The conference, a gathering of some 700 women leaders from 30 countries, continues through Friday.

During a panel discussion Thursday on companies' role in promoting human rights and responsibilities, business leaders discussed how global corporations can encourage diversity in countries with different cultural values.

They also commented on the interplay of corporate social responsibility and long-term profitability.

---

The conference, a gathering of some 700 women leaders from 30 countries, continues through Friday.

During a panel discussion Thursday on companies' role in promoting human rights and responsibilities, business leaders discussed how global corporations can encourage diversity in countries with different cultural values.

They also commented on the interplay of corporate social responsibility and long-term profitability.

"I don't think it's an either-or at all," said Microsoft senior director of corporate citizenship Dan Bross. He said Microsoft "has a responsibility to protect the human rights of our users," including their privacy and data security. And he said investing in education helps to train potential talent.

"I would like these issues [of social responsibility] that we're talking about to come up on our quarterly earnings calls," Bross said.

---

## Saporta Report

Column: [700 of the world's top women leaders are headed to Atlanta](#)

October 16, 2014

Web page: <http://saportareport.com/blog/2014/10/column-700-of-the-worlds-top-women-leaders-are-headed-to-atlanta-2/>

# SAPORTAREPORT

Home Maria Latest Reports David Eleanor Tom Moments Michelle Saba Jamil Guest About Leadership

## Column: 700 of the world's top women leaders are headed to Atlanta

Posted in ABC Articles

Date: October 16th, 2014, 5:00 pm

[Share](#) 7 [Tweet](#) 10 [Email](#) 1 [Share](#) 36

By Maria Saporta

Published in the Atlanta Business Chronicle on October 10, 2014

As continued evidence of Atlanta's role as a center for human rights, the 2014 International Women's Forum will bring more than 700 of the world's top women leaders to Atlanta from Oct. 29 to 31.

The theme of this year's conference will be "Human Rights/Human Responsibility: Toward a Better Future," and there will be multi-day discussions focused on the critical issues around global human rights.

The conference will culminate on the evening of Oct. 31 with a gala where Rosalynn Carter will be honored with the Leading Light Award. The former first lady of the United States was a founding member of the Georgia chapter of the International Women's Forum. The gala is open to the public.

"This forum has never been held in Atlanta before," said Pat Upshaw-Monteith, president of Leadership Atlanta, who is chair of the gala and co-chairing the \$250,000 fundraising effort to host the group in the city. "The whole goal is to empower women around the world."

Upshaw-Monteith said there are about 60 IWF chapters around the world, and Georgia has one of the largest chapters. It holds two conferences a year – one in the United States and one international conference. Women from more than 30 countries are expected to be at the Atlanta conference.

Events will be held throughout the city, including programs at the Center for Civil and Human Rights, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CNN and The Carter Center.

"The conference will emphasize Atlanta's preeminence as a city for national and international business, health care and medical research, higher education, and the home of thought leadership for civil and human rights work around the world," said Annette Cone-Skelton, president of IWF Georgia, in a statement.

Among the speakers at the conference will be:

- **Ruby Bridges:** an American civil rights activist and recipient of the Presidential Citizens Medal and founder of a foundation that promotes tolerance and respect;
- **Andrew Young:** former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, former mayor of Atlanta and a civil rights leader who was a close friend and associate of Martin Luther King;
- **Yoani Sánchez:** a young Cuban dissident and blogger named by Foreign Policy magazine as one of its Top 100 Global Thinkers;
- **Mohammad Al Abadiah:** a Syrian human rights activist and pro-democracy researcher who is executive director of the Syria



#### **Justice & Accountability Centre;**

- **Sheryl Wudunn:** an American business executive who was the first Asian-American to win a Pulitzer Prize. The former New York Times reporter is co-author of the best-selling book "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide";
- **Leymah Gbowee:** a Liberian peace activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate who led a women's peace movement that helped bring an end to the Second Liberian Civil War, along with her collaborator – Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and
- **Rosalind Brewer:** president and CEO of Sam's Club, a \$56 billion wholesale division of Wal-Mart Stores

Upshaw-Monteith said Atlanta submitted a proposal to host the annual IWF conference in the spring of 2013.

Because of its global humanitarian mission, she said it made sense for the organization to hold its conference in Atlanta. The organization has more than 6,000 women members in Africa, Asia, Australia, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America and North America.

#### **Georgia Historical Society**

Although Civil War markers have been part of the state's landscape for decades, the Georgia Historical Society is broadening the scope of what will be memorialized.

The Georgia Historical Society, the Center for Civil and Human Rights and the Georgia Department of Economic Development are officially launching the Georgia Civil Rights Trail, a statewide public education initiative commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement in Georgia.

The three entities will dedicate a historical marker in recognition of the Atlanta Student Movement on the campus of Clark Atlanta University on Oct. 16.

"The Civil Rights Movement was one of the most significant social, legal, political and cultural movements in American history," said W. Todd Groce, president and CEO of the Georgia Historical Society. "The Georgia Civil Rights Trail recognizes the central role that Georgia played and the leadership that Georgians provided in the movement to end Jim Crow in America."

The dedication will take place on Oct. 16 at 1 p.m. at the corner of 223 James P. Brawley Drive on the campus of Clark Atlanta University. Lonnie King, a leader of the Atlanta Student Movement, and Mary Ann Smith-Wilson with the Committee on the Appeal for Human Rights, will speak at the event.

#### **Beth Schapiro sabbatical**

After 30 years in business, public affairs consultant Beth Schapiro is taking down her shingle so she can "sit back and reflect on what an amazing ride this has been."

Schapiro began her career as a public affairs and political consultant in June 1984 after spending three years as executive director of the now-defunct Research Atlanta.

As president of The Schapiro Group Inc., she provided solid research and analysis to people running for public office and to organizations seeking to develop data-driven and sound public policy strategies.

"All good things must come to an end, though, as it's time for me to step off the treadmill, and take some time to reflect, recharge and refresh," Schapiro wrote in an email to clients, colleagues and friends on Oct. 8.

Answering the inevitable "what happens next?," Schapiro said she would be finishing up a couple of projects and would be closing the doors of the Schapiro Group by the end of the year.

After an indefinite sabbatical, Schapiro hinted that she likely will be heard from again – one way or another.

She ended her email by saying, “Atlanta is our home now, so I’ll still be around and expect to be reengaging at some point, as making this world a better place is part of my DNA.”

### **Steve Selig honored**

A record crowd turned out to honor businessman Steve Selig as he received the Council for Quality Growth’s 2014 Four Pillar Tribute on Oct. 2 at the Georgia World Congress Center. (See more photos on Page 6A, The Insider.)

Michael Paris, president and CEO of the council, said more than 1,300 people attended the dinner, a record for the Four Pillar event.

Several friends, colleagues and family members spoke of Selig – either in person or on video, including former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

But one of the unexpected highlights was Doug Hertz, president of United Distributors, who said they have known each other almost all of their lives.

Hertz, who was supposed to talk about “quality” and Selig, complained about what a subjective word that was.

Hertz then borrowed a quote from one of Selig’s family members: “OK is not OK. Just being good is never going to be good enough if your standard is excellence.”

Hertz also teased Selig by saying that anyone who has had a 10-minute conversation with Selig finds out how great a football player he was. (“The older he gets, the better he was.”)

Other speakers included Larry Gellerstedt, Vince Dooley, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, attorney Steve Labovitz and Mike Levin, president and CEO of Las Vegas Sands.