

*Mother's Day
is Just Around
the Corner!*



By Carolyn Brenneman, Columnist

COVER: A happy mother at the Art Festival!

The month of May brings thoughts of Mother's Day. It arrives with a quiet radiance, like spring itself took a moment to write a heartfelt thank-you. Mother's Day is important because it creates dedicated time to recognize the care, labor, and emotional support that mothers and maternal figures provide, often quietly and without recognition. It's the perfect time to express our thanks and appreciation.

Yet Mother's Day feels highly commercial because it has been shaped over time by businesses that recognize its emotional significance. Retailers, restaurants, and advertisers promote gifts, dining experiences, and special events as a way to show appreciation.

Because people want to express gratitude in visible, meaningful ways, industries step in to offer ready-made options – flowers, cards, jewelry, and brunch packages, making it easy, but also reinforcing the expectation that the celebration should involve spending.

All across the country, from Los Angeles to New York, Mother's Day is celebrated with many different styles. Brunch reservations are made weeks in advance. Lines form outside trendy cafés, where families in sunglasses and linen outfits gather for elaborate meals and pastries that look too perfect to eat. Here, in Georgia, Mother's Day can be loud, social, and photographed. Mothers are the main attraction for the day, as the day unfolds like a celebration staged for both memory and display. Celebrating is what we do in Georgia through many activities, events, concerts, brunches, and more to enjoy.

One of the most prominent events in the Atlanta area is the Dunwoody Art Festival held on May 9 & 10th. It is a free festival held every year on Mother's Day weekend. The Dunwoody Art Festival is a lively and colorful way to celebrate Mother's Day in Georgia, transforming Dunwoody Village Parkway into a vibrant outdoor art market filled with creativity and community spirit. Families can stroll through rows of booths featuring handmade works like paintings, jewelry, ceramics, and glass art while enjoying live music and street performers throughout the day. The festival also includes interactive activities, making it fun for all ages, along with food vendors offering classic



Display of Dunwood Art Festival!



Sample of a brunch menu!

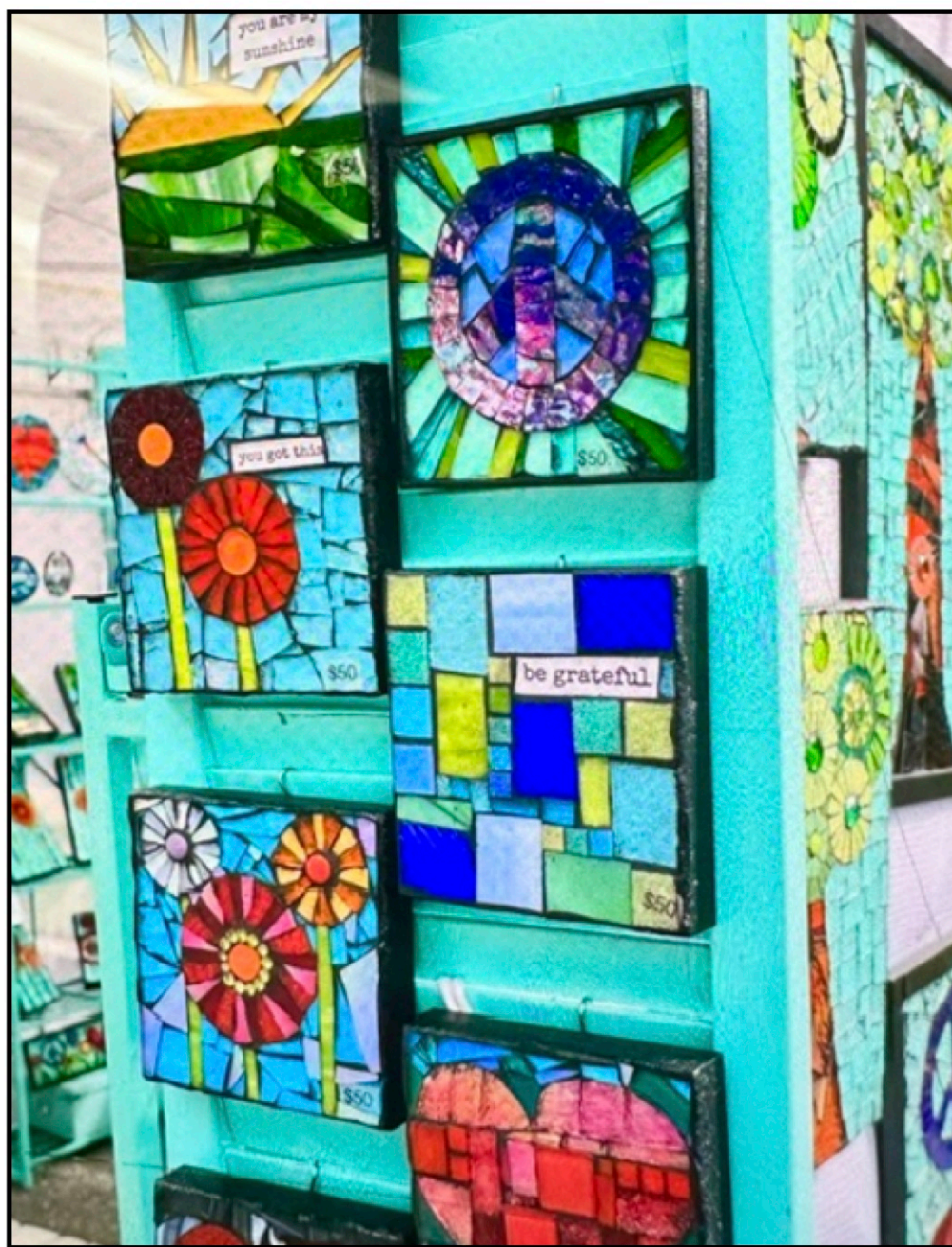
festival treats. With a walkable setting, it creates a festive atmosphere where moms with their families can shop, eat, listen to music, and spend meaningful time together outdoors celebrating Mother's Day.

Another exciting venue to celebrate Mother's Day is at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Here there's quite a bit more to do beyond just walking the grounds. It's designed to feel like a full, layered experience rather than a single activity.

One of the main highlights is the live entertainment, usually spread across different areas of the garden. This Mother's Day, we can enjoy the performances of [Randy Hoexter](#) performing a jazz accompaniment at the Robinson Gazebo in the Skyline Garden, and solo violist [Tania Maxwell Clements](#) playing in Levy Parterre.

At the same time, there are interactive food and drink experiences, like build-your-own mimosa stations ("MOMosas") plus pre-ordered chef-curated picnic boxes filled with small bites. Celebrating at the gardens is a tantalizing experience.

There are also special displays that make the visit feel more immersive. In addition, the Atlanta Rose Show features the annual cut-flower show from the [Greater Atlanta Rose Society](#) with roses of every variety and color. This year's theme is the Magic of



Display at Dunwoody Art Festival!



Gospel choir performing for Mother's Day!



Small delicious bites!



Beautiful yellow rose before display!

Roses. The show will turn something familiar, the rose, into something almost enchanting. Rather than just displaying flowers, the show frames roses as living works of art, highlighting their extraordinary variety in color, shape, and fragrance. Mothers will certainly enjoy this display, where each bloom feels theatrical, showing how roses can transform from simple garden plants into symbols of beauty, elegance, and even illusion. This is a delightful event to attend with our mom.

In Evans we can attend a pre-Mother's Day gospel event with choirs, soloists, and groups, which will entertain us in the Columbia County Amphitheater. This non-commercial event feels like a warm, community-centered gathering where faith and family come together just before the holiday. Moms will admire the scene as families gather with lawn chairs and blankets, settling beneath the sky while local choirs and gospel groups fill the air with music. The music is uplifting, reflecting the deep roots of gospel traditions in Southern culture. The event isn't just a concert. It's a shared expression of gratitude and spirituality, setting a meaningful tone for Mother's Day by honoring mothers and families.

In parts of the South, particularly in rural communities, there's an older custom that still lingers: families attend church wearing a flower pinned to their clothes. A red or pink flower means your mother is living; a white flower means she has passed. It's a quiet, visual language of remembrance and presence. You can sit in a pew and understand who is celebrating and who is grieving. This is often accompanied by giving mothers a true day of rest. It's a day with no cooking, no cleaning, and no responsibilities, where families step in to handle everything and offer a heartfelt card as a simple but meaningful gesture of love.

And maybe that's the most American thing about Mother's Day – there isn't just one way to celebrate it. Whether it's a festival to attend or a brunch to savor, the message is clear: recognize and appreciate Mom.