

We couldn't finish the year without recognizing our first female mayor, Susan Weiner. Susan was born in Albany, New York, and studied theater, education, and speech at SUNY New Paltz. Before beginning her political career, she worked as an actress, traveled the world performing in a one woman play, and taught in Cambodia and Thailand. In the 1980s, she moved to Savannah with her husband. In 1991, she entered the mayoral race and defeated Savannah's longest serving mayor, John Rousakis, a five term incumbent. Mayor Weiner served one term, from 1992 to 1996, and helped Savannah rise to international attention by hosting a portion of the 1996 Olympic Games. After being defeated in the 1995 municipal election by Floyd Adams, Jr., Weiner was appointed the Executive Director of the Good Government for Georgia Committee in 1996 and then in 2004 as Executive Director of the Georgia Council for the Arts. She is remembered by those who worked with her as a tough woman who wouldn't compromise her principles and as a game changer for women in Georgia. Susan Weiner passed away in 2006 at the age of 66.