

Athena Society



B R I E F I N G S

February, 2012

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ATHENA SOCIETY

P.O. Box 10813
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Upcoming Meeting

- WHEN:** Thursday, February 2
11:55 a.m.
- WHERE:** Centre Club
Westshore at Kennedy
- PROGRAM:** Unveiling of Athena website!
- SPEAKERS:** **Julia Gorska Freeman**, Technology Chair
Carolyn Reed, Technology Vice-Chair
Elaine Terenzi, President-Elect
Andrew Lee and Brooke Webster
Roundhouse Creative Studios
- MENU:** Dijon and Herb Pork Loin
With roasted Red Bliss potatoes
(veg plate available on request when reserving)
- COST:** Guests - \$25
- RSVP:** By January 30 – Call **Eleanor Hubbard**
(251-9172) or email ewhubbard@aol.com

OPEN MEETING – GUESTS WELCOME

Wait ‘til you see the website created by Andrew Lee and Brooke Webster of Roundhouse Creative Studios...beautiful, functional and very user-friendly. The site provides a vehicle to reconnect us with our roots, a structure to support our professional network and a forum to strengthen our “sisterhood.”

You’ll be able to create your own profile page, access all current Athena news, browse through an extensive archive area (even back to the 70’s!), reserve for functions, make payments if needed, etc.

Thus is the dream site we’ve talked about for years. Join us for an overview of its development and the keys it has opened to our history.



President's Message

The Athena luncheons that feature personal presentations by our members are my favorites. I always learn so much more about the women who share their stories than I was able to glean from a review of their biographies or even multiple conversations at other Athena luncheons and events. Although each brief presentation affords a mere glimpse of the member, her background and upbringing, education, professional career, community and philanthropic endeavors, the richness of her life experience is always evident. And I leave the meeting feeling as though I'd just arrived, wondering where the time went and wishing there had been more.

Thank you to **Adelaide Few**, **Marsha Lewis Brown**, and **Lisa Robbins** for sharing your stories with us at the January luncheon. Your presentations were fascinating, funny, touching, and motivational. You illuminated some more challenging times for women, when options were fewer and discrimination more pervasive, especially for women of color. You inspired us with your triumphs. And you reminded us of the importance of making ourselves a priority, pursuing our passions and doing what makes us healthy and happy.

Equally compelling is the example set by beloved Athena member **Deanne Roberts**, not only in her incredibly full life, her professional accomplishments, her community service, her sense of purpose, her sense of humor, but also in her final days. I know I speak for all of us when I express my heartfelt gratitude to **Diane Egner** for her generous contribution to this newsletter, a fitting tribute to a remarkable woman and a dear friend to so many within our organization. Her account of Deanne's parting thoughts is a precious gift indeed.

In reflecting on these incredible women and their experiences, I find myself moved to refocus on my personal priorities, clear away the clutter and savor every day. You know, just as I do, that this focus should be a constant, but in the crazy, busy, upside-down business of daily life, it can begin to blur. It also occurs to me that I am not the least bit surprised it is Athena women who prompted me to sharpen my focus.

Happy Valentine's Day





The Legacy of Deanne Roberts

By Diane Egner

Deanne Roberts - mentor, friend, colleague, booster for so many in Athena and elsewhere, created and inspired her way through Tampa and throughout Florida. First as student and entrepreneur, later as business and community leader and finally as champion of best practices for addressing illness and finding peace in all that life has to offer, including death.

Looking back, as Deanne did in an interview with Geoff Simon for WEDU in 2010, she said, “Don’t spend time on anything anymore that’s not important. Time is so precious.” She talked then and near the end about the importance of mending relationships with family members and friends, of loving what you do and surrounding yourself with people who complement your strengths and skills. I repeat these thoughts here because I know in talking with Deanne in her last days that she wanted me - and would want you - to look internally and act externally while considering the gifts she valued most. Among her last words of wisdom to me that I’ll share with you as Athena sisters:

1. Prioritize (all things)
2. Plan (be prepared)
3. Love thyself (enlightened self interest)
4. Forgive (yourself as well as others)
5. Forget (move on)
6. Enjoy (have more fun!)

Even at death’s door, her thoughts remained strong about community and passionate about collaboration. If there is one thing that each of you can do to help carry out her legacy, it would be to help another woman achieve her dream. “Sisters,” she said her last night, “We’re like sisters in White Christmas.” Her voice weakened. “Listen to the words. ... Nothing can get between us.”



February Bonuses

February 1 – Join us for a lecture on Egyptian Erotica at the Museum of Fine Arts in St Pete. The fee of \$15 for museum members, \$25 for non-members includes access to all galleries on the first floor and a cash bar with light hors d’oeuvres at 5:30. The lecture begins at 7 p.m. and will be followed by a chocolate fountain and champagne afterward. No advance reservation is required. If you’re able to drive or wish to carpool, please contact **Maira Burke**.

February 12 – Learn how to make champagne cocktails from the master: **Bonnie Saks!** This sure-to-be-great-fun event will be held at her home (5114 San Jose St.) from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. A “bonus” to these festivities will be dancing lessons by **Maruchi Azorin** - the salsa and merengue. Limited to 20 members, the fee will be \$20 per person. Make your check payable to Athena and mail to the P.O. Box prior to February 8.



News About Members

We direct warm wishes to **Caroline Black** on her December 30 marriage to Jeff Sikorske. **Susan Bucklew** officiated at the wedding at the Tampa Yacht Club. It was very much a family affair with Caroline's two sons (ages 17 and 12), nieces, nephews in the wedding in addition to Jeff's nephews and sister. They'll honeymoon in Paris in the Spring and have already moved into their new home at 2924 W. Hawthorne Road, Tampa 33629.

Norrine Russell, president/CEO of Russell Coaching and Consulting, is pleased to announce the unveiling of a new website for her business and invites you to take a look - www.norrinerussell.com. Norrine offers coaching for adolescents and parents, parent education and professional services for non-profits.

The President's Garden at The Home Association, now on the Register of National Historic Places, has been named in honor of **Susan Leisner**. A home for the elderly, it has operated in its current location (on East 22nd Avenue) continuously since 1924 though its history of care dates back to 1899. Susan retired in 2010 after serving as president of The Home's board of managers for 10 years.

For the third time **Candy Olson** has been selected to chair the Hillsborough County School Board. Previous holder of the position was **Doretha Edgecomb**.

We extend our sympathy to the entire **Chavez** family for the passing last week of Tim, the husband of **Melinda**, the brother of **Denise** and the son of **Helen**.

Calendar

February 1 – Bonus – Museum of Fine Arts, St. Pete

February 10 – Membership nomination deadline

February 12 – Bonus – Champagne Cocktail Party

March 1 – Luncheon meeting

March 20 – Bonus – Florida Conversations Lecture Series

March 28 – Bonus – Museum of Photographic Arts

April 5 – Young Women of Promise Luncheon

May 3 - Luncheon meeting

June 7 – Installation dinner (members only)



Members' Projects

Judy Ryan invites Athena members and their friends to a \$5 Benefit for Earth Charter on Thursday, January 26, 6 to 8 p.m. at the Tampa Club. Earth Charter is a declaration of fundamental ethical principles for building a sustainable and peaceful global society in the 21st century. Event includes complimentary appetizers, great drink prices, networking and an opportunity to change our world.