

# Athena Society



B R I E F I N G S

December, 2011

## 2011-2012 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT .....RACHELLE BEDKE  
PRESIDENT-ELECT .....ELAINE TRENZI  
VP/MEMBERSHIP .....ADELAIDE FEW  
VP/PROGRAMS .....AMANDA SANSONE  
SECRETARY .....JEANNE TATE  
TREASURER.....KIM DeBOsier  
IMM. PAST PRESIDENT...ADRIENNE GARCIA

## BOARD

BETH BERNITT  
AMELIA CAMPBELL  
KIM DE LA PARTE  
LORRAINE LUTTON  
SUSAN STERN  
BELINDA WILSON

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

BARBARA BACHMAN  
DORETHA EDGEComb  
DENISE JORDAN  
LISA ROBBINS  
LORNA TAYLOR  
XIAO ZHANG  
ALTERNATE: ASHLEY MOODY

## ADMINISTRATOR/EDITOR

ELEANOR HUBBARD  
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## ATHENA SOCIETY

P.O. Box 10813  
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33679

## Upcoming Meeting

- WHEN:** Thursday, December 1  
5:30 p.m. – cash bar  
6:15 p.m. – dinner
- WHERE:** Sono Café  
Tampa Museum of Art  
120 W. Gasparilla Plaza
- PROGRAM:** Enjoy camaraderie of your Athena sisters
- MENU:** Heavy hors d'oeuvres  
(by Mise en Place)
- RSVP:** By November 28 – Call **Eleanor Hubbard**  
(251-9172) or email [ewhubbard@aol.com](mailto:ewhubbard@aol.com)

## CLOSED MEETING – MEMBERS ONLY

What a delightful way to launch the holiday season...visiting with some of the women you most enjoy but never seem to have enough time with. Come prepared for an elegant atmosphere, festive setting on the river and a delicious meal. (Weather is expected to be perfect.) And plan to browse awhile in the gift shop.....they have a great variety of treasures.

We extend a special invitation to those members who find it difficult to attend luncheon meetings. You've been missed; it would be a treat to have you join us.

There's convenient parking next door to the museum at the Bill Poe Garage. Charge is \$1.20 an hour; street parking is free after 6 p.m.

As has been our tradition for many years, we ask that you consider making a holiday contribution to one of our special projects. See page 4 for details.



## President's Message

One of the most wonderful things about this time of year is that it affords us both a reason and an opportunity to reflect on the many blessings in our lives, give thanks for all that we enjoy – family, friends, health, happiness, opportunity, inspiration — and reach out to those less fortunate than ourselves and lend a helping hand. So at the risk of being cliché, I would like to take the very special opportunity afforded me this year and use this column to share some of my thoughts of Thanksgiving.

To date, 2011 has been as crazy busy, challenging and rewarding as any I can recall, and the Athena Society has featured prominently in the mix. While my duties as president routinely increase the length of my “to do” list, the rewards of my service have greatly exceeded the time and effort I have contributed. Each time I have reached out to an Athena member, solicited advice or requested input, I have received not just assistance but also friendship in return. For this bounty, I am grateful.

For the many Athena members who confronted discrimination and limitations, challenged the system, broke glass ceilings and then continued to work tirelessly for positive change for women, I am thankful. You have paved the way for me and countless others like me who enjoy educational and professional opportunities unavailable to women not so many years ago. I am equally appreciative of your willingness now to contemplate new challenges, share the benefit of your experience and extend yourself in assistance to younger members and other women.

I am also thankful for the growing number of younger Athena members who have seized the new opportunities created, capitalized on the advances made and set new examples for success among women. This group of women is increasingly more reflective of the Bay area's rich, vibrant and diverse history and culture, a fact of which we can all be proud. Having taken up the mantle and committed to building upon the foundation established by Athena members who preceded them, these women serve as a source of continued inspiration and a reason for optimism among women throughout our community.

Halfway through my tenure as president, I also want to express my heartfelt appreciation to those Athena members with whom I have worked particularly closely on Athena matters this year and who have taken on added responsibilities in charting our course as an organization for the future. I owe them an enormous personal debt of gratitude. Thank you to **Amelia Campbell, Kim DeBosier, Lorraine Lutton, Ashley Moody, Amanda Arnold Sansone, Susan Stern** and **Elaine Terenzi**. You are amazing women and wonderful friends!

Finally, in the spirit of Thanksgiving, I offer my continued encouragement of your support of Athena's signature programs. I can think of no better way to celebrate the holidays, recognize a friend with a gift in her honor, and lend a helping hand to a woman in need than to make a contribution to the **Phyllis Marshall** Career Assistance Grants Program or the **Sylvia Richardson** Young Women of Promise Program.

My best to you for a happy, healthy and relaxing Thanksgiving holiday!





## Holiday Buffet – December 11

Annual highlight of the season is Athena's Holiday Buffet to be held at the home of **Margaret Miller**, 7806 E. 113th Avenue in Temple Terrace, from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 11. You can mingle inside her charming contemporary home or step into her beautifully serene garden. The Hospitality Committee, under the direction of **Elizabeth Howarth**, will present its usual mouth-watering spread. There's no charge for members and one guest; additional guests are \$25. Please reserve with **Eleanor Hubbard** ([ewhubbard@aol.com](mailto:ewhubbard@aol.com)) prior to December 7 and give guest's name. Limited valet parking will be provided so carpooling is suggested. Driving directions will be emailed prior to the party.

## News About Members

Our sincere condolences to **Gayla Russell** whose father, Herman Brey, passed away earlier this month here in Tampa.

**Diane Egner** is a founding "trustee of awesomeness" for the new Awesome Tampa Bay organization which will award microgrants to creative awesome ideas for making Tampa Bay a better place. For more information and to apply for a grant of \$1000, visit the website: <http://www.awesometampabay.org>. Diane has also recently been appointed to the Arts Council of Hillsborough County.

The most prolific author in our midst, **Elaine Shimberg**, has a new book out – "Growing Up Jewish in Small Town America: A Memoir." Best known for her numerous books on health subjects and family issues, Elaine has written her memories of growing up in the 40's and 50's in a small Iowa town with only 32 Jewish families and has done so with humor and honesty. The paperback book is available locally or on amazon.com.

Welcome back to **Kem Toole!** Kem has returned to Tampa and to Athena after 20 years in the Washington, D.C. area where she practiced law with the U.S. Department of Justice, representing various branches of the federal government in civil matters all over the United States. Her practice (along with some personal travel) has permitted her to visit all 50 states! She retired from government service last year and is now working with Hill, Ward & Henderson part-time in their bankruptcy practice.

## Nominating Committee

At the June meeting members voted for six individuals to serve on the 2011-12 Nominating Committee. The following were elected:



**Jean Amuso**  
**Molly Crews**  
**Linda Devine**

**Adelaide Few**  
**Susan Leisner**  
**Paddy Moses**





## Athena Housekeeping

On December 7 you'll have an opportunity to meet Elizabeth Dearborn Davis and get an update on the Akilah project. Hers is a truly inspirational story which you may remember from her October 2009 luncheon presentation. Mark your calendars for 6:30 to 8 p.m. for an informal get-together at Horizon Bay, 800 W. Azeele Street. There's no fee for attending; RSVP to **Eleanor Hubbard** by December 5. Watch for your email invitation on November 28.

Exciting news from 2008 Young Woman of Promise Danielle Grams, now a junior in the Honors College at USF! On Friday her art show, *Faces of Hope: The Forgotten Children of Peru*, opened at the USF Marshall Student Center. The show features photos she took while volunteering at a residential clinic outside of Lima, Peru. It will run through November 23.

Reminder: Our January meeting will be on the second Thursday of the month, the 12th.

## Paulette Gross Remembered

Family, friends and colleagues have initiated the **Paulette Szabo Gross** Memorial Scholarship Fund at Hillsborough Community College Foundation. The scholarship was created to honor the memory of Paulette who was most recently employed by the College as the Assistant to the Dean for Health, Wellness and Sports Technologies. Annual earnings will support a scholarship for a female HCC student who shows good academic standing, demonstrates a commitment to community service or leadership and intends to transfer to a four-year university. If you wish to donate to the fund, you may submit gifts online at <http://www.hccfl.edu/foundation>.

## Holiday Gift Opportunity

As the year closes, please consider making a contribution to the Athena Society's Women's Education Fund administered through the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay. A tax-deductible donation to the Fund can be made in honor of someone special to you and is the perfect holiday present. (The Community Foundation will notify all recipients of the gift.)

Our dollars do make a difference – each spring we award scholarships (**Phyllis Marshall** Career Assistance Grants) to women who need a helping hand to reach their educational goals. Our scholarships support tuition, books, transportation, childcare and other educational costs. Those of you who have attended the meetings at which the scholarships are presented know how meaningful these scholarships are.

This year we also invite you to consider making a gift to the **Sylvia Richardson** Young Women of Promise program. Athena takes pride each year in recognizing 10 accomplished young women in their junior year of high school. The monetary gift they receive goes toward their higher education goal, whatever it might be. We'll have a basket available for your donations at the December meetings or you may mail your check to Athena, P.O. Box 10813, Tampa, 33679.