

# Athena Society



B R I E F I N G S

March, 2012

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TREASURER.....KIM DeBOsier  
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ALTERNATE: ASHLEY MOODY

## ADMINISTRATOR/EDITOR

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## ATHENA SOCIETY

P.O. Box 10813  
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33679

## Upcoming Meeting

- WHEN:** Thursday, March 1  
11:55 a.m.
- WHERE:** Centre Club  
Westshore at Kennedy
- PROGRAM:** Leadership and Civility
- SPEAKERS:** **Anne Gormly**, Dean  
College of Social Sciences, University of Tampa  
  
Stephanie Russell Holtz  
Dean of Students, University of Tampa
- MENU:** Honey Pecan Crusted Tilapia  
(veg plate available on request when reserving)
- COST:** Guests - \$25
- RSVP:** By February 27 – Call **Eleanor Hubbard**  
(251-9172) or email [ewhubbard@aol.com](mailto:ewhubbard@aol.com)

### OPEN MEETING – GUESTS WELCOME

Anne and Stephanie will share their experiences leading the Deans' Civility Initiative at UT.

Fostering a culture of civility in the workplace is becoming increasingly important as examples of incivility permeate the media, our email inboxes and daily interactions with colleagues and friends. As leaders it is important to understand the definition of civility, realize the significance civility plays in the workplace and consider how individual leadership can encourage a civility movement among our peers.

Join us as these leaders identify tools for promoting civility in the workplace and beyond.



## President's Message

This is the “best thing” Athena has ever done! I’m inspired to “go buy an iPad!” “Applause” for a job well done! Such have been the kinds of comments and email messages coming from members since the unveiling of our new website on February I couldn’t agree more.

Thanks to the creative, insightful, tech savvy, and incredibly committed members of Athena’s Technology Committee – **Patti Breckenridge, Julia Gorska Freeman, Yvonne Fry** and especially **Carolyn Reed** and **Elaine Terenzi** – Athena has a website worthy of our membership and our mission. It is crisp and fresh and elegant in appearance. It is organized and easy to navigate. It provides the public with ready access to current coverage of Athena members in the news as well as to prior years’ coverage of our Dr. **Sylvia D. Richardson** Young Women of Promise Program. The “members only” side is particularly useful because it allows us to update our profiles, view Athena’s master calendar, register for luncheons, Bonuses and other events and even pay our dues online. We can see a current list of officers, directors, committees and their members, not to mention consult our bylaws, policies and procedures and long range plan with a mere click of a mouse or tap of a finger. We can also review our archived materials, including newsletters dating back nearly thirty years. What’s more, our website enables us to enjoy the treasure of Athena scrapbooks, news clippings and wonderful photographs heretofore largely relegated to our storage unit. In short, it’s terrific!

In typical Athena fashion, the Technology Committee was not content to just unveil our new gem. Instead, the committee organized a series of Bonus workshops to showcase the website’s capabilities, demonstrate its use and encourage us to embrace the changes that the new website will bring. As Carolyn Reed, who was so instrumental to this project’s success, reminded each of us earlier this month, “When you are through changing, you are through,” and “you must be the change you wish to see in the world.” From my vantage, it’s clear that our members have taken that message to heart as they’ve jumped into the new website and started surfing through the pages and enjoying the content. Thank you, Carolyn, for being such a positive agent for change. Kudos to the Bonus Committee for working to organize a photo shoot (on a date to be determined) for those of us who could use new photographs to accompany our bios. And a big “shout out” to those members who have embraced this change with such enthusiasm.

Undoubtedly, we’ll encounter some glitches in the process of learning to use our new website, but such is the case with any change of this magnitude. We are Athena; we will work through them in record time. So, dive in and have fun! If you see a mistake or hit a snag, or you have a constructive suggestion for improvement, please tell me, Carolyn or Elaine. If you have Athena photographs or clippings you’d like to share and/or a large flatbed scanner we can use, please let us know. With your input, our website will only continue to improve and enhance our participation in this fabulous organization. I’ve already decided we need to add a page for testimonials. What better place to feature all of the positive feedback on our new website!





## News About Members

**Charlotte Starfire** has relocated with SunTrust to the corporate headquarters in Atlanta. “I sold my house in Tampa, bought one up here in a whirlwind and would welcome visitors.” Her new office phone is 404/588-7507; her email address remains the same. Best of luck to you, Charlotte.....we’ll miss you!

**Jan Platt** and **Doretha Edgecomb** were recently honored as Women of Distinction by the Sun City Center branch of the American Association of University Women.

**Robin DeLaVergne** is one of four being honored as 2012 Women of Distinction by Girl Scouts of West Central Florida. The recognition luncheon will be held on Tuesday, March 13, at the A La Carte Pavilion with Joan Lunden as the keynote speaker. Tickets are \$75 and may be purchased at [www.gswcf.org/wod](http://www.gswcf.org/wod).

**Jeanne Tate** is a grandmother! Her first grandchild, 9 lb. 2 oz. Kevin Joseph Healey II, was born on February 12 at St. Joseph’s Women’s Hospital to Erica Tate Healey and husband Kevin. Congratulations to all!

**Joanne Lighter** has retired from her position as President & CEO of The Spring after four years of service during one of the most violent times that families have experienced. “In the future,” she stated, “I will do some consulting work with non-profit organizations and will always continue my interest in issues effecting women and families. See Directory Changes below for her new contact information.

**Kim de la Parte’s** Employee Benefits Consulting Firm is now part of USI Insurance Group, a Goldman Sachs Portfolio Company. According to Kim, “We now have the third largest employee benefits practice in the country. Clients are very excited about the additional resources available at a local and national level and I am thrilled with joining the USI family.” See Directory Changes below for her new contact information.

## Athena Housekeeping

Note these dates: July 20-22, possibly the most important ones of your summer, Athena’s annual retreat. We’ll be at the Longboat Key Club & Resort in Sarasota, a return to the site of our 1991 retreat. The accommodations there were and are especially appealing for our group: two-bedroom fully furnished suites. (One BR and singles are also available.) Program details and registration information will be circulated in early April.

Athena recently received a \$1000 contribution from the Bank of Tampa’s “Women Connected” program. As a thank you to Advisory Board members of WC, the Bank makes charitable donations to an organization of the Board member’s choice. **Robin DeLaVergne** serves on the Advisory Board and requested the donation in support of Young Women of Promise. Our sincere thanks to Robin for this unexpected but very much appreciated gift.



## March Bonuses

March 5 – Last Fall **Lisa Robbins** was involved in a project of epic proportions – a seven week scientific adventure in the Arctic. Studying primarily water samples, she was aboard the Coast Guard Cutter *Healy*, the world's largest non-nuclear icebreaker. You can hear her story of the excitement and see the beauty (many slides!) of that trip on March 5 at 5:30 p.m. at Horizon Bay, 800 W. Azeele Street. There is no charge for this event but we'll need RSVP's by March 1 as Horizon Bay is providing refreshments and arranging the seating.

March 20 – Join **Betty Castor** for a Florida Conversation on *Breaking Barriers: Female Public Servants Who Have Shaped the Tampa Bay Area*. Betty will moderate a panel consisting of **Doretha Edgecomb**, **Sandy Freedman**, **Doris Weatherford** and Faye Culp at the Tampa Bay History Center on Tuesday, March 20. Festivities start at 5 p.m. with a reception in the atrium with sangria and appetizers; a cash bar will be available as well. Our thanks to **Angela Crawford** who arranged our partnering with DLA Piper law firm to underwrite the cost of the reception. To reserve a seat, mail your \$4 check (payable to Athena) to **Eleanor Hubbard** by March 15 as space is limited. Parking is available adjacent to the Center for \$5.

March 28 – **Melinda Chavez** will be our host at the Museum of Photographic Arts for a wine and cheese reception followed by a guided tour of their impressive new facility at 400 No. Ashley Drive. Cube 200. (The Museum is now in the process of moving into the Cube at Rivergate Plaza, the building attached to the round “beer can” building. The official Grand Opening Gala is set for March 10.) Cost of \$10 per person will include admission and reception. Please mail your check (payable to Athena) to Eleanor Hubbard by March 21.



## Calendar

- March 5 – Bonus – Lisa Robbins' Arctic Adventure
- 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)
- June 16 – New member party (guests welcome)
- July 20 to 22 – Retreat, Sarasota



## Directory Changes

(in print copy)

<b>Nancy Cole</b>	(H) 932-9283
<b>Kim de la Parte</b>	USI Insurance Services 1715 No. Westshore Blvd. #700 321-7545, kim.delaParte@usi.biz
<b>Dianne Jacob</b>	<a href="mailto:djacobtpa@gmail.com">djacobtpa@gmail.com</a>
<b>Joanne Lighter</b>	14042 Egret Lane, Clearwater 33762 (H) 727/289-1042, (C) 727/542-5351
<b>Jean McNally</b>	(O) 36818 East Lake Rd. #136

## Members' Projects

International Women's Day is March 8 and to coincide with the celebration the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers is sponsoring "Lunch and Learn" from noon to 2 p.m. at the University Club. The program will feature a presentation on the history of women in the local legal community and a panel discussion including **Susan Bucklew** and **Gwynne Young**. The registration fee of \$12.50 includes lunch and RSVP's may be directed to [OsterC@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:OsterC@hillsboroughcounty.org).

A new portion of the Riverwalk will feature sculptures of five historically significant Tampa individuals. As the only woman on the selection committee, **Doris Weatherford** is very excited about the project and invites members to attend the press conference where the names will be revealed. It will be held at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6, at the Tampa Bay History Center.





## Community Action Committee

The Community Action Committee is pleased to add an inaugural “Action Corner” to the Athena newsletter this month. We encourage Athena members to learn about the issues that impact our community, and to access the resource links presented and posted on the Athena website for more information. With these resources in hand, we hope that you will be inspired to get involved, engaged and/or to take ACTION on issues that affect all of us. Please note, however, that the information presented is for your information only; and does NOT represent the view or position of the Athena Society, or the committee, unless expressly stated.

Today we find ourselves in the middle of the State of Florida’s Legislative Session. We thought that you might be interested in learning what bills may be out there that directly related to Athena’s positions on Affirmative Action, Choice, Day Care, Educational Funding, Equal Rights Amendment, Indigent Health Care, Non-Violence, Pay Equity, Tolerance and Women in Government. Naturally, we won’t be able to mention all of them here, as there are way too many! But, here are some links to a few of the organizations that are actively tracking these bills and legislation:

Florida CHAIN *Increasing Access to Affordable Quality Health Care*

<http://www.floridachain.org/>

Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, Children’s Health, Uninsured, Medicare, etc.

Florida Planned Parenthood

[http://www.ppaction.org/site/PageServer?pagename=fl\\_fappa\\_website\\_Legislative](http://www.ppaction.org/site/PageServer?pagename=fl_fappa_website_Legislative)

Women’s Health Services and Family Planning

And, the recent budget cuts to USF and schools continue to impact our communities. Please go online and read Pam Iorio’s blog re: leadership <http://www.tampabay.com/blogs/the-buzz-florida-politics/content/jd-alexander-called-textbook-lesson-bad-leadership> to learn more.

FYI, to track the session and bills, and to sign up to receive notices when particular bills are modified or addressed, go to <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/> and <http://www.flsenate.gov/>. At these sites you also will find information about your elected officials, the committees in which they serve, their bills and interests and their contact information. Get involved and take action! All legislation affects our quality of life and some specifically targets women, children, families and our quality of life.

**Dena Leavengood**, Co-Chair

**Sylvia Carley**, Co-Chair

