

Athena Society

B R I E F I N G S

December, 2013

2013-2014 OFFICERS

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ADMINISTRATOR/EDITOR

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ATHENA SOCIETY

P.O. Box 10813
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33679

Upcoming Meeting - Party!



- WHEN:** Sunday, December 15
4 – 6 p.m.
- WHERE:** Home of
Pete Zinober & Cynthia Gandee-Zinober
1813 W. Richardson Place
- COST:** Member and one guest – complimentary
Additional guests - \$25
- RSVP:** By December 10 – Register online
or email ewhubbard@aol.com.

Note from Hospitality Chair **Yvonne Fry**: Athena sisters – now is the time of year we come together to celebrate friends.

We're preparing for our annual holiday party at the beautiful historic Hyde Park home of **Cynthia Gandee-Zinober** on Sunday, December 15, 4-6 p.m. Parking is limited so please plan to carpool if possible; we'll send driving and parking specifics prior to the party.

Many have already signed up to bring goodies, but we need more of your specialties. Signups for food can be made online or sent to **Jeanette Fenton** at: jlfen@verizon.net.



President's Message

During November and December, I am reminded of the importance of family traditions. My family spends the week of Thanksgiving on Sanibel Island with my brother, his family and his wife's family (the Abbotts). There will be 20 of us eating together on Thanksgiving Day ranging in age from two to seventy-six. Our group keeps expanding as new family members are born. Before eating turkey, we have a blessing and remember departed family members.

Six years ago my brother invited my family to join the Abbotts in Sanibel for Thanksgiving. My initial reaction was to decline the invitation because I like hosting Thanksgiving dinner at our home. I was reluctant to trade the memories of cooking all day for eating a boxed take away turkey dinner in a beach condo. After discussing the invitation with my husband, we decided to accept the invitation and spend two nights at the beach. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the Abbotts have been celebrating Thanksgiving in Sanibel for 30 years and have created numerous traditions around this holiday. They warmly welcomed us into their extended family and we now spend the entire week of Thanksgiving with them. (The gourmet turkey dinner is delicious and each condo is assigned side dishes to bring for dinner!)

My Sanibel story is intended to encourage you to establish a new tradition, especially if you are feeling a void in your life during the holidays. An empty nester or a widow could host friends for dinner and begin a new tradition filled with laughter and joy. Or if you know of someone who recently had a loss or major life change, please invite them to join your family to celebrate the holidays.

Traditions are important to strengthen bonds, connect generations and create lasting memories. Athena has traditions, such as the annual retreat, Young Women of Promise and Career Assistance Grants. Each of these events provides a wonderful opportunity to connect with other Athena members and form a bond with them. We have remarkable women in our organization who are eager to share their life experiences and teach us valuable lessons. Athena traditions provide a sense of identity and purpose to our organization. This Thanksgiving I am grateful for the friendships formed through Athena and guidance I've received from my sisters. Happy Thanksgiving!





Athena Housekeeping

Per our bylaws, they are reviewed every two years. If you have any recommended changes or if you would like to join the Bylaws Committee, please contact **Karen Arnold** at Karnold@tampachamber.com.

If you're travelling during the holidays, remember that we welcome your leftover hotel toiletries for The Spring and the Ronald McDonald House. Feel free to bring your donations to any Athena function or call **Eleanor Hubbard** to arrange for a pickup.

Be sure the information on your webpage is up to date by December 9. We'll be printing our 2014 membership directory from those pages.

No luncheon meeting in December; January 9 is the date of our next one.



Holiday Gift Opportunity

By JoAnn Urofsky, Philanthropy Chair

Afoudji is working as a caregiver and wants to become an R.N. and to make a better life for her family. Sycoya wants to have an apartment with her kids and to work as a hospital administrator. Tiffaney wants to make a career transition and to fulfill her dream of opening a medical care complex to educate and help people who are disadvantaged.

What do Afoudji, Sycoya and Tiffaney have in common? The gift of a **Phyllis Marshall** Career Assistance Grant. The grant helped them pay for tuition and books so they could improve their chances for success in the world. The grant funds came from your contributions to the Athena Education Fund.

Your contribution means that women who are eager to achieve more for themselves, their families and their community can dream bigger. Each Phyllis Marshall Career Assistance Grant is more than a financial investment in a woman struggling to succeed, it's a gift of confidence in her.

The Philanthropy Committee has a goal of increasing the Athena Education Fund at the Community Foundation to \$100,000. The \$17,000 we want to raise this year will enable the Scholarship Committee to award another full grant each year. Your gift of any amount will help us reach our goal. You can make your gift as a memoriam or in honor of someone, and it's tax deductible.

To insure your contribution is properly credited and your honoree notified, please make your check out to the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay with "Athena Education Fund" on the memo line. Checks should be mailed to Athena Society, PO Box 10813, Tampa, 33679.



Bonus Activities

EVENT	SCHEDULE	NOTES
Concert at Sykes Chapel	Sunday, Dec 8, 4 p.m.	Register by December 5
Ropes Course at MOSI; cocktails/refreshments at IMAX Lounge	January 11, 5 p.m.	\$7 per person. 15 people minimum
Holocaust Museum Exhibit on Hannah Senesh	January 25, 10 a.m.	\$16 per person Optional after - downtown market and/or lunch
Cocktail Tour of Harbour Island Home of Joan Zinober	February 20, 5-8 p.m.	20 people max Joan will provide hors' d'oeuvres and wine but would appreciate contributions of the same.

December Birthdays

Birthday wishes to the following members who celebrate in December:

Jane Castor	Lorraine Lutton	Wilma Smith
Helen Gordon Davis	Donna Petersen	Stella Thayer
Susan Dellinger	Gayla Russell	Kem Toole
Katherine Essrig	Marsha Rydberg	Pam Wolf

Calendar

- December 8 – Bonus – Sykes Chapel Concert
- December 9 – Deadline for updating member webpages
- January 9 – Luncheon meeting
- January 11 – Bonus – MOSI Ropes Course
- January 25 – Bonus – Holocaust Museum
- February 6 – Luncheon meeting
- February 20 – Bonus – Cocktails at Joan Zinober home
- March 6 – Luncheon meeting
- April 3 – Luncheon meeting
- May 1 – Luncheon meeting
- May 14-18 – Bonus – NYC trip
- June 5 – Dinner meeting