

# Athena Society



B R I E F I N G S

May, 2014

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## ADMINISTRATOR/EDITOR

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## ATHENA SOCIETY

P.O. Box 10813  
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33679

## Upcoming Meeting

- WHEN:** Thursday, May 1  
11:55 a.m.
- WHERE:** Centre Club  
Westshore at Kennedy
- PROGRAM:** The State of Mental Illness in 2014  
**Phyllis Marshall** Career Grant Recipients  
(See Page 3)
- SPEAKERS:** Gail Ryder, Vice President  
BayCare Behavioral Health  
**Marsha Lewis Brown**, Executive Director/CEO  
Northside Mental Health Center
- MENU:** Mandarin Beef Stir Fry  
Veg plate available on request when reserving
- COST:** Guests - \$25
- RSVP:** By April 28 – Register online  
or email ewhubbard@aol.com

## OPEN MEETING – GUESTS WELCOME

The numbers are staggering: an estimated 26.2 percent of Americans ages 18 and older – about one in four adults – suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year (National Institute of Mental Health). Yet in 2014, mental illness still bears a stigma in our society. The May 1 program will focus on the state of mental illness in our community – and what resources are available here. This is an opportunity to get invaluable insight and information on mental illness, so please mark your calendars.

[www.athena-society.com](http://www.athena-society.com)



## President's Message

Magical! Inspiring! These are two comments I heard from Athena members about the 2014 Dr. **Sylvia Richardson** Young Women of Promise Program. As the emcee, **Linda Devine** quickly made the YWP recipients and their guests feel welcome. Once again the Committee did a fabulous job and their attention to detail was apparent. Ernest Hooper of the *Tampa Bay Times* attended the meeting and wrote a beautiful article about the ten high school students. In case you missed it, here's the link to his article: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/humaninterest/athena-society-cultivates-sisterhood-among-young-women-of-promise/2173579> Lenora Lake also wrote a wonderful article for *The South Tampa News* on April 16th. The link to her article is: <http://tbo.com/south-tampa/hillsborough-juniors-honored-for-service-to-others-20140415/>

The YWP program becomes more meaningful to me each year. I've reflected on the reasons and concluded that the program is a strong reminder of the progress women have made since Athena was founded. A Young Woman of Promise delivering her remarks from the podium looks out into a room filled with very accomplished professional women, including local and national politicians, business owners, judges, lawyers, doctors, educators, financial planners, accountants, the Chief of Police, School Board Members and a geologist. I'm hopeful that being honored as a YWP has a positive impact on her life by empowering her and giving her even more confidence. My wish is that these young women graduate from college, return to Tampa and become Athena members! For those who choose to live in other US cities, perhaps the introduction to Athena encourages them to seek out similar women's organizations.

In May we direct our focus to women who are in a different place in life than the YWP. These women struggle financially to care for themselves and their children and often lack a strong network of support. Most of them are single mothers working and attending school. They're trying to navigate a shift in their desperate circumstances. How do these women find resources to allow them to pursue an education? Fortunately, Athena has a fund at the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay dedicated to providing career assistance grants. We are giving five grants totaling \$6,300 to deserving recipients at our May meeting.

As of December 31, 2013, we have \$94,461 in our fund at the Community Foundation. Our goal is to grow the fund to \$100,000 so that we can give additional grants next year. We're so close to achieving our goal! Please consider making a tax deductible contribution in honor of your mother for Mother's Day, a mentor or an Athena member who has helped you, taught you and supported you. This contribution and a handwritten note from you to the honoree will be an unexpected, thoughtful gift. As Maya Angelou said "If you get, give. If you learn, teach."

Thanks so much to **Rachelle Bedke, Elaine Terenzi, Katherine Essrig, Jane Peppard, Ann Giles, Susan Leisner, Annette DeLisle** and **Anita Caballero** for serving on the **Phyllis Marshall** Career Assistance Grant Committee. Thanks also to our former leaders who created the fund at the Community Foundation in honor of the 20th anniversary of Athena. Awarding these grants is one of the tangible ways we come together to support women in the community.



## May Bonus

Two new pages have been added to “Connections” on our website and we want to show you how to utilize and benefit from them! We’ve had requests for both: a recipe page and Athena’s own “A List,” a page to share information on reliable service providers, vendors, great sales opportunities, etc. Join the fun for this special Tech Bonus on Thursday, May 8, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. We’ll meet with Tech Chair **Jean McNally** at the Morgan Cigar Factory, 2802 No. Howard Avenue. Join us and feel free to bring an appetizer or dessert with recipe you’d like to upload. Register online or email Eleanor Hubbard prior to May 6.

## Athena Housekeeping

Reminder that Athena Founder **Nancy Ford** and **Arthenia Joyner** will be inducted into the Hillsborough County 2014 Women’s Hall of Fame on May 7. The presentations will be made at a 11:30 a.m. luncheon at the Tampa Convention Center. If you plan to attend and would like to sit at one of the Athena tables, please register on our website and pay online or email **Eleanor Hubbard**. Tickets are \$50 and checks should be made payable to Athena.

**Hospitality Chair Yvonne Fry** and her committee have begun planning our Summer/New Member party (June 14) and ask for your help to bring it all together. We know there are many who always step up and bring long time favorites and we’re counting on you to delight everyone with your traditional dishes. We also welcome anyone else who wants to try her hand at a culinary delight and those not wanting to cook but could easily pick up an item, to step up as well. Let us know your willingness to help by contacting Yvonne ([yfry@onepointofcontact.com](mailto:yfry@onepointofcontact.com)) or signing up at the luncheon next week.



## Phyllis Marshall Grants

The following outstanding women are the 2014 recipients of the Phyllis Marshall Career Assistance Grants. Selection was made by committee; see President’s letter.

Kayla Carter - HCC  
Keely Johnson - Erwin Technical Center  
Vanessa Pacheco - HCC  
Stacy Salazar - Erwin Technical Center  
Bonita Sizemore - HCC



## Retreat 2014

The Athena Retreat will be July 18-20 at the Renaissance Vinoy in St. Petersburg. Themed Being Athena: Women of Wisdom, Strength and Enlightenment, the programming will showcase each of these notable qualities of great women. You won't want to miss it! If you register prior to our May 1 meeting, you'll be eligible to receive a \$100 gift certificate for the Renaissance Vinoy (winner will be announced at the May 1 meeting). This is the retreat that we'll be talking about for months! You can register/pay online at the Athena website: [www.athena-society.com](http://www.athena-society.com). Questions? Call Renée Vaughn at 813/416-4146.

## Calendar

May 7 – Women's Hall of Fame luncheon  
May 8 – Tech Bonus  
May 14-18 – Bonus – NYC trip  
June 5 – Dinner meeting - TYCC  
June 14 – Summer party – 4 to 6 p.m.  
July 18-20 – Athena Retreat, Vinoy

## May Birthdays

Birthday wishes to the following members who celebrate in May:

**Rachelle Bedke**  
**Susan Bucklew**  
**Sylvia Carley**  
**Betty Castor**  
**Denise Chavez**  
**Lee Essrig**  
**Katherine Frazier**  
**Linda Fries**

**Anne Giles**  
**Kathleen Heide**  
**Gail Holtzman**  
**Denise Jordan**  
**Mary Key**  
**Lagretta Lenker**  
**Winnie Marvel**  
**Mindy McLaughlin**

**Ann Miller**  
**Jane Peppard**  
**Anne Strozier**  
**Elaine Terenzi**  
**Louise Thompson**  
**Rhonda Trainor**  
**JoAnn Urofsky**  
**Vicki Vega**

## Directory Changes/Additions

**Jean McNally** – [jean@optinsmart.com](mailto:jean@optinsmart.com); phone is 813/920-9435

**Maryanne Rouse** – Cell is 813/205-2732; home: 1 Beach Dr. SE #1414, St. Pete 33701

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