

Athena Society



B R I E F I N G S

January, 2016

2015-2016 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....KIM DeBOSIER
PRESIDENT-ELECT.....JEANNE TATE
VP/MEMBERSHIP.....AMANDA SANSONE
VP/PROGRAMS.....GAIL HOLTZMAN
SECRETARY.....KERI EISENBEIS
TREASURER.....SUSAN CASPER

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YVONNE FRY
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MINDY McLAUGHLIN
TINA TENRET
GWYNNE YOUNG

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

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BONNIE CARR
KATHERINE ESSRIG
CHANTAL HEVIA
DIANNE JACOB
SUSAN STERN
ALTERNATE: JEANETTE FENTON

ADMINISTRATOR/EDITOR

ELEANOR HUBBARD
813/251-9172
ewhubbard@aol.com

ATHENA SOCIETY

P.O. Box 10813
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33679

Upcoming Meeting

- WHEN:** Thursday, January 7
11:55 a.m.
- WHERE:** Centre Club
Westshore at Kennedy
- PROGRAM:** "Health Care for the Indigent?
Pay Me Now or Pay Me Later...."
- MODERATOR:** **Donna J. Petersen**
Dean, USF College of Public Health
- PANELISTS:** **Dena Gross Leavengood**
Community Advocate
Sandra Murman
Hillsborough County Commissioner
Gerry Skinner
Tampa Family Health Centers
- MENU:** Cedar Plank Salmon
Veg plate available on request when reserving.
- COST:** Guests - \$25
- RSVP:** By January 4 – Register online
or email ewhubbard@aol.com

OPEN MEETING – GUESTS WELCOME

In the 1990's, Hillsborough County created an innovative sales-tax funded indigent health care program. But we still need to do much more. Learn why this matters to our community, to our collective health and to our economic future and why you should be an advocate for population health.

www.athena-society.com



President's Message

Happy New Year! As we prepare to welcome 2016, many of us are no doubt thinking of ways we can make it a memorable year of personal and professional development and growth, hoping and planning for health, happiness and prosperity. I know I am, and health is always at the top of my list of New Year's resolutions. Taking care of ourselves is one of the things we MUST do, with the goal of being Younger Next Year (a fabulous book that I highly recommend). Along those lines, the Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of Women has developed a Mandate for Women's Wellness, the preamble of which states that "every woman in Hillsborough County deserves to be educated, to prosper, to raise and support a family in a healthy and safe environment, to contribute to society and to enjoy a purposeful and meaningful life." What a powerful declaration. For details of the Mandate, I encourage you to visit <http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/index.aspx?NID=4046>.

Coincidentally, our first Athena Bonus of 2016 is focused on women's health: "Drip, Droop, and Drop". It is sure to be an educational and enjoyable time with Athenian Dr. **Cathy Lynch** in her home as we discuss some of the unique challenges women face as we age. If you have not yet registered, please do so soon as it is limited to 25 guests.

We are also fortunate to have three of our new members practice in the health care field, one of whom (**Nicole Fanarjian**) is highlighted below. As we begin a new year, my hope for you is that it is the best year ever for you and yours and that your resolutions and dreams are fulfilled.

Nicole splits her time between two healthcare settings—one is a healthcare system (the VA) and the other a non-for-profit clinic (Planned Parenthood). In both settings she teaches residents and medical students. She strives to practice evidence-based medicine while considering healthcare costs. At the VA she has been involved in several regional and national initiatives aimed at addressing the health needs of female veterans. At Planned Parenthood she has helped to establish a family planning rotation for the University of South Florida OB/GYN residents. She serves as the Associate Medical Director for Clinical Education for Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida while also being employed as a gynecologist in the Women Veteran's Program at the CW Young VA Hospital.

She holds a BA in Anthropology from Bard College, a post-baccalaureate in pre-medical education from Rutgers University, a Masters of Arts, Humanities and Social Thought from New York University Graduate School of Arts & Science and a doctor of medicine from University of North Carolina. Nicole was proposed by **Adelaide Few** and co-sponsored by **Moira Burke** and **Leslie Stein**.





Membership Nominations

Athena membership nominations are due Friday, March 4. The nomination form, which is available on the Athena website under the Membership Committee section, was updated last May to ensure that nominees fully support the Purposes of Athena, that nominees are aware of Athena's Position Statements and that the questions the sponsors answer provide more insight into the nominees' qualifications for membership. Please keep in mind that Athena continues to be very committed to further diversifying our membership. Diversity comes in many forms – from the more visible dimensions of race, age and physical disability to the less visible dimensions of religious belief, socio-economic status and work experience. As you start thinking about a person you'd like to nominate for Athena membership, please also think about whether and how that person contributes to Athena's commitment to further diversifying its membership as well as the other qualifications for membership.

Amanda Sansone, VP/Membership



Retreat Launch Party

Don't get left on the dock.....there are still cabins available for our April retreat cruise. Join us on January 12 to select the special perks that are available. The party is scheduled from 6-8 p.m. at **Susan Dellinger's** condo, 5701 Mariner Street; RSVP to tenret@proviser.com.

Chamber Award to Betty Castor

At The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce's 130th annual meeting held on December 17, **Betty Castor** was awarded the 2015 H.L. Culbreath Jr. Profile in Leadership Award. The award, established in 1997 is presented annually in recognition of an individual whose leadership has made a positive impact within the greater Tampa community.

Betty is best known as a public servant and a leader in advancing public policy in the areas of education, environmental protection and governmental transparency. Her distinguished career includes many firsts: the first woman elected to the Hillsborough County Commission, first woman elected to the Florida Senate from Tampa Bay, first woman elected Senate President Pro Tem, first woman elected to the Florida Cabinet and the first woman selected to serve as President of the University of South Florida. Her community involvement is lengthy, significant, and diverse as she remains actively engaged in our community and on a national level. Betty is the featured speaker at the Chamber's Women's Series lunch on January 26; see attached flyer.



Community Action Committee

Is your company recognized for its excellent pay equity practices? If so, the CAC wants to recognize it! Please contact **Carlye Morgan** at carlyemorgan@gmail.com.

Breastfeeding

Breastfeeding is STILL an Issue in Florida! Breastfeeding is the gold standard in infant nutrition and the most effective and affordable way to assure a child has the best possible opportunity to grow up a healthy adult. So why don't more American mothers breastfeed? In the 1970's changes in hospital policy and insurance coverage, women joining the workforce and easily available formula dropped the rate to 22%. Plus, mothers face obstacles like returning to the workplace, stigma of indecent exposure, heavy marketing of alternative feeding sources, limited insurance coverage for breast pump supplies and resources and acculturation.

FYI, Florida has a breastfeeding law permitting breastfeeding in public, but it has no law enforcement provision and most Floridians (and lactating mothers) don't know about it. Additionally, Florida doesn't uphold US Labor Laws [that protect nursing mothers in the workplace](#): Lactation consultants can't bill; hospital staff often aren't trained; and support, breast-pump intervention and supplies are not always available. So, mothers don't breastfeed, infants aren't fed properly, we see increased maternal and child illness and more hospitalization.

Take action! Learn more at the Florida Breastfeeding Coalition website and call, e-mail, and/or write your Florida and U.S. legislators and local governments and leaders: Urge them to support and encourage breastfeeding, and creating and strengthening laws addressing funding, enforcement, access to support services and equipment, institutional/maternal/family training and designated appropriate breastfeeding space in the workplace.

Transportation

The Board of County Commissioners is currently deciding whether to put a transportation referendum before the voters. Contact the Commissioners and tell them what you think! You can read more <http://www.tbo.com/news/politics/go-hillsborough-transit-supporters-lay-low-until-critical-vote-20151127/>

Athena Housekeeping

Our 2016 pocket directory will be distributed at lunch next week.

Please note and adhere to this request: In the interest of time, all announcements at lunch are being made by the president. If you have information you'd like to share with the membership, please condense it to 50 words or less and email to **Eleanor Hubbard** by Wednesday noon.

We continue to welcome your leftover hotel toiletries for residents of The Spring, Alpha House and the Ronald McDonald House. Feel free to bring your donations to any luncheon meeting.



News About Members

Heart of Adoptions Alliance, Inc. just became a recognized charitable organization with Smile Amazon! That means that when you shop on Amazon you can donate to the non-profit foundation created by **Jeanne Tate** to help with special needs adoptions. Simply shop on www.smile.amazon.com and .5% of the sale will be donated by Amazon to the foundation.

Lorna Taylor is Event Co-Chair and **Jane Castor** is an Honorary Co-Chair of the 2016 Person of Vision Award Dinner honoring Mayor Bob Buckhorn on January 13 at the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel. Benefitting Prevent Blindness Florida, the event will feature Athena members **Kathy Castor** and **Jane Castor** as toasters and **Joanne Lighter** as PBF's CEO. **Juel Smith** also serves on the Host Committee. Past Athena honorees include **Betty Castor, Kathy Castor, Pat Frank, Judy Genshaft** and **Alex Sink**. For additional information or reservations, call 813/874-2020x4026.

January Birthdays

Birthday wishes to the following members who celebrate in January:

Jean Amuso
RoseAnne Bowers
Patti Breckenridge
Noni Brill
Susan Casper
Cynthia Gandee-Zinober
Judy Genshaft
Linda Gibbs

Laura Kolkman
Miriam Mason
Barbara Reeves
Lisa Robbins
Lesley Rudolph
Michelle Schofner
Deborah Skyrms
Elizabeth Walters

Calendar

January 12 – Cruise Launch Party
January 20 – Bonus – Drip, Droop, Drop
February 4 – Luncheon
March 3 – Luncheon
March 4 - Deadline - Nomination Forms
April 7 – Luncheon (YWP)
April 14-18 – Retreat Cruise
May 5 – Luncheon
June 2 – Dinner (Annual Meeting)



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Upcoming Meeting

WHEN: Thursday, February 4
11:55 a.m.

WHERE: Centre Club
Westshore at Kennedy

PROGRAM: Pay Equity

SPEAKERS: **Cathy Lynch**
Susan Leisner
Edna Broyles
Gail Auerbach

MENU: Raspberry BBQ Chicken Stack
Veg plate available on request when reserving.

COST: Guests - \$25

RSVP: By February 1 – Register online
or email ewhubbard@aol.com



OPEN MEETING – GUESTS WELCOME

The program this month is being presented by the Community Action Committee. **Cathy Lynch** will provide some fascinating information on trends in the way women negotiate salaries. **Susan Leisner** and **Edna Broyles** will relate their personal stories of fighting for pay equity and advise how to move forward on this issue. HR professional **Gail Auerbach** will make suggestions as well.

This is a topic of widespread interest, so we're leaving time for a Q&A session. Join us!

www.athena-society.com



President's Message

The new year is underway and we've already heard about many positive changes happening for some of our Athena sisters. And despite the excitement of the beginning of a new year, there is undoubtedly trepidation as some face serious health challenges, family difficulties, and career changes. I am among the ranks of those who planned big changes in 2016. As I write this, I have just merged my 21-year-old small business with a large, national engineering firm. It is a fabulous opportunity and means an exciting transition for the firm and my own role as we set out to grow their Florida operations. Like many small business owners, my personal identity has been tied inexorably to that role. So I will be reinventing myself, in a way, in the professional realm.

Any major challenge can easily and quickly become overwhelming even for the most adventurous among us. I am focusing on three concepts to minimize the overwhelm (and help me sleep at night!):

- Invest or Divest: examine which activities/mindsets are advancing my new goals and which serve as obstacles, and decide whether to invest or divest in each.
- Keep it simple: focus on those critical few goals that will move the needle.
- Be courageous.

Let's all start each day determined to improve oneself (in whatever way you may define that) by day's end, and committed to helping each other achieve success. And speaking of success....

One of our new members who owns her own small business is **Lesley Rudolph**, DMD. Leslie is a pediatric dentist and owner of South Tampa Pediatric Dentistry. She founded the first full-time pediatric dental practice in South Tampa and provides comprehensive oral health care to children of all ages and patients with special healthcare needs. She was the recipient on Angie's List Super Service Award in 2013. Prior to becoming a dentist she was a 4th grade teacher. Leslie invites female dental students and young women interested in dentistry to shadow her at her office. This allows them to see the actual practice of dentistry and also how to operate a small business from the ground up. She strives to make sure that young women continue to believe in the possibilities within them to be leaders in their field and successful business owners.

She received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Duke University and her Doctoral of Medicine from the University of Florida College of Dentistry where she also did her post-doctoral residency in pediatric dentistry. Leslie was proposed by **Gwynne Young** and co-sponsored by **Bonnie Saks** and **Gail Holtzman**.





Hall of Fame for Lee Leavengood

The Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of Women announced last week that **Lee Leavengood** will be inducted into the Hillsborough County Women's Hall of Fame on May 6. The event will be a ceremonial luncheon at the Tampa Convention Center and we'll reserve several Athena tables; details later. Congratulations to Lee!

Membership Nominations

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At your earliest convenience, when you decide on a nominee, please submit the name to **Eleanor Hubbard** (ewhubbard@aol.com).

Amanda Sansone, VP/Membership



February Birthdays

Birthday wishes to the following members who celebrate in February:

Ruth Bell
Stephanie Ferrell
Mary Gamble
Nancy Hutson

Arthenia Joyner
Susan Leisner
Maryanne Rouse
Marlene Spalten



Community Action Committee

Women entrepreneurs – specifically African American women – represent the fastest growing segment of entrepreneurship. Increasingly and worldwide, cities, regions and countries are looking to entrepreneurs to boost a lagging economy. According to Forbes, 36% of all US businesses are owned by women - an increase of 30% over 2007. “WBEs [women business enterprises] are agile, innovative problem-solvers, meeting corporations’ needs quickly, adapting to marketplace changes and providing deep value and cost-effectiveness,” according to Pamela Prince Eason, president/CEP of Women’s Business Enterprise National Council.

The current economic conditions are supportive of women entrepreneurs. Low interest rates and a nearly dissolved gender bias make bank loans more accessible. However, there are still a number of challenges women face in trying to start a business. Primary among them is that women receive “less than 5% of venture capital (VC) dollars” according to Professor Fiona Murray of MIT Sloan. He and others are researching the reasons behind that disparity.

The Kauffman Foundation is heavily involved in promoting entrepreneurship and published *Guidelines for Local and State Governments to Promote Entrepreneurship*. In an article for Kauffman by Jonathan Ortman, three cities which are leaders in promoting entrepreneurship are highlighted together with their primary strategies. San Francisco is formulating new regulations for new business models such as those that represent the “sharing economy.” New York City advocates for new businesses with its “Made in NY” brand. Boston is using the civic innovation approach to build collaboratives among community resources. Nationally, new rules for selling equity were adopted by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to address crowdfunding and early stage capital.

There has been a good deal of work done in Africa to support women entrepreneurs as a means for addressing extreme poverty and the lack of opportunities. Women still face gender discrimination, lack of access, balancing business and family and lack of self-promotional skills according to Mac-Jordan D. Degadjor, and award winning Ghanaian Blogger.

Those same issues challenge women in our own community as they attempt to start a new business. To address those challenges in the Tampa Bay region, Liz Gutierrez, founded Enterprising Latinos, a nonprofit to help women build their own businesses and supporting networks. With their help, three women have launched El Aventon (a Spanish term meaning risk-taker) to address the lack of transportation in Wimauma. They are starting with three golf carts to make deliveries and transport customers and will expand to vans as their business grows.

Women as entrepreneurs are resourceful and resilient. By supporting them, we can address chronic community issues while lifting families out of poverty and boosting our economy. A win all around.

Marlene Spalten





Calendar

March 3 – Luncheon
March 4 - Deadline - Nomination Forms
April 7 – Luncheon (YWP)
April 14-18 – Retreat Cruise
May 5 – Luncheon
June 2 – Dinner (Annual Meeting)



Members' Projects

Friends of the Library's Four Seasons Author Series will present Dr. Jaime Kulaga at its noon, March 18, luncheon at the University Club. **Jan Platt** invites Athena members to hear this author of "The SuperWoman's Guide to Super Fulfillment: Step-by-Step Strategies to Create Life-Work Balance". A Certified Life Coach and Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Dr. Kulaga will share how she is teaching women, men and families to make better lifestyle decisions, steer the course of their lives and reach deeper fulfillment and happiness. Reservations are required and must be received by March 11. The cost is \$55 per person; to reserve, call 813/273-3616.

Directory Changes/Additions

Gail Holtzman – Jackson Lewis, gail.holtzman@jacksonlewis.com, 813/512-3215
Belinda Wilson – belindatpa@aol.com
Gwynne Young – gyoung@carltonfields.com



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P.O. Box 10813
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Upcoming Meeting

- WHEN:** Thursday, March 3
11:55 a.m.
- WHERE:** Centre Club - Westshore at Kennedy
- PROGRAM:** "Why Women on Corporate Boards is Good for Business"
- MODERATOR:** **Katherine Young**
- PANELISTS:** **Gail Auerbach**
Felicia Harvey
Lorraine Lutton
India Witte
- MENU:** Blackened Salmon Salad
Veg plate available on request when reserving.
- COST:** Guests - \$25
- RSVP:** By February 29 – Register online
or email ewhubbard@aol.com

OPEN MEETING – GUESTS WELCOME

The program will begin with an overview of the status of women on corporate boards statewide, nationally and internationally. (Germany just passed legislation requiring that women constitute 30 percent of positions on corporate boards.) We'll hear facts and figures regarding the number of corporate boards in the Bay area and identification of local opportunities. The skills and qualifications required to serve on a public board will be examined and then we'll hear the personal story of a member describing the process of being selected for the Sykes board and her experience serving on that board. Time will be allotted for a Q&A session.

www.athena-society.com



President's Message

I am really looking forward to the March program on women on corporate boards as this has been a topic of discussion in Athena and other groups for years. It is encouraging that there is increasing media coverage of the under-representation of women on boards. As a gubernatorial appointee to and 4-year Chair of the Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority at the “turn of the century”, I experienced first-hand the benefit of diversity of thought and approach on a board.

A census was assembled by the nonprofit [Women Executive Leadership](#) (WEL) in collaboration with Holland & Knight and the [2020 Women on Boards](#), a national initiative that seeks to increase women on U.S. boards 20 percent or greater by the year 2020. According to their Florida Census of Women Directors and Executive Officers for 2014, women board members comprise only 11.8 percent on Florida's top 100 companies. That number lags behind the national trend where females represent 19 percent of board membership on the S&P 500 companies and Fortune 500 companies.

Studies consistently demonstrate that companies with gender diversity on their boards outperform those that don't. Although there are many reasons for this, it is attributed in part to the fact that women are more inquisitive and detail-oriented, leading to more open discussions and inquiries. As we reflect on and discuss this important topic, Athena is fortunate to have **Katherine Young**, who serves on the Board of Directors of WEL, as a new member.

Katherine is the Managing Partner and President of Young Search Partners LLC, a women founded and owned boutique retained executive search firm serving corporate executive recruitment needs of Tampa Bay, Florida and US based corporations. Katherine's search experience has spanned across industry and functional roles to include search assignments in the consumer/retail, financial services, manufacturing, hospitality and healthcare sectors, with a focus on critical leadership roles in Human Resources, Finance/Operations and Sales & Marketing.

Several of Katherine's clients include Jabil, Raymond James, OSI/Bloomin Brands, Tupperware Brands, Gerdau Ameristeel, AAA Auto Club, Masonite International and many others you would recognize.

Katherine's unwavering commitment to advancing women is clearly seen in her professional achievement and community leadership. Her core passion has been ensuring career development for women and promoting leadership opportunities. She serves on the Board of Directors and the Central Florida Chair for WEL, Women Executive Leadership. WEL is a nonprofit whose whole mission is to promote gender diversity in the board room and promote the advancement of women in leadership roles. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Ohio Wesleyan University and was proposed by **Rachelle Bedke**, co-sponsored by **Mindy McLaughlin** and **Holly Tomlin**.





Community Action Committee

Pay Equity and Women of Color

Probably not surprising, statistics on pay equity show that this is not just a gender issue, it is also a race and ethnicity issue. The disparity in pay for women of color is greater than the overall gender gap in pay between women and men. Overall, women earn approximately 79% of what white men earn; African American women earn approximately 63%; and the gap is even greater for Hispanic/Latino women. Hispanic/Latino women earn slightly more than half (54%) of what white men earn. Asian American women are the best paid. Higher education attainment is a factor. Asian American women earn approximately 90% of the pay that white men earn (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement). Based on early estimates for 2015, the overall gender pay gap is not expected to show a significant change. However, the earnings percentage for African American women is expected to show a worsening situation by decreasing to 60%. Hispanic/Latino women earnings percentage is expected to increase to 55% (Council of Economic Advisors Issue Brief, January 2016).

To fully and appropriately address pay equity, it is important to note this deeper gender gap influenced by race and ethnicity. The Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) predicts that it will take until the year 2059 for women to finally reach parity with men, if progress continues at its current rate.

Wage inequality by race and ethnicity are factors that further deflect women of color and their families from access to the middle class. Women of color have the lowest rate of employment in professional and managerial occupations (IWPR 2014). They are also more likely to live in poverty (2014 U.S. Census, social and economic supplement and the National Women's Law Center, National Snapshot).

Women of color are disproportionately retiring into poverty. Pay inequity and disparities in occupation and industry caused by gender, race and ethnicity discrimination have resulted in lower retirement incomes. During the period between 1940 and 1980, the proportion of African American women working in private household jobs decreased from approximately 58% to 6% (Cunningham and Zalokar 1992). This is important because during this period household jobs were unlikely to provide any pension or social security benefits. The compounding of the disparities in pay, occupation and industry has had a disproportionate adverse impact on women of color, their families and communities.

Women of color do show some gains in past decades according to a report by the Women's Economic Status in the States (2014). African American women have increased their educational attainment more quickly than white women have (Adams 2001), and they have moved into increasingly stable, diverse and well-paying jobs. The pay gap for Hispanic/Latino women is expected to show a slight decrease (1%) for 2015. Also, as was noted in a recent Athena newsletter article on women entrepreneurs, African American women represent the fastest growing segment of entrepreneurship.

Race and ethnicity present additional challenges in addressing gender inequities in pay. Comparative data on parity by race and ethnicity is imperative to identifying and fully addressing the issue of pay equity for all women. While the overall gender pay gap is approximately 21%, the gap widens to at least 40% when comparing earnings of women of color to earnings of white men. Transparency, accountability, legislative actions and better negotiations are needed to improve gender pay equity.

Bonnie Carr



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As soon as you decide on a nominee, please submit the name and your co-sponsors to **Eleanor Hubbard** (ewhubbard@aol.com).



News About Members

Jan Cornelius has been elected to the Executive Council for the Hillsborough County Dental Association.

Congratulations to **Yvonne Fry** who has been named one of the 2016 Women of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida. She'll be honored on March 29 at the Hilton Tampa Downtown. Tickets are \$75 and may be purchased online at www.gswcf.org. If you'd like to join your sisters at an Athena table, contact Eleanor Hubbard.

In addition, the organization has selected four previous winners from the WOD alumnae to induct into their initial Hall of Fame; two are Athenians: **Betty Castor** and **Jan Platt**. Our warm congratulations to them as well.

And also to **Tina Tenret** who recently received the Woman of the Year Award from the Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce.

We extend our condolences to **Diane Egner** whose mother, Virginia H. Egner, passed away on January 29 in Safety Harbor. A Celebration of Life is planned for March 29 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Green Springs Bistro in Safety Harbor.



Athena Housekeeping

We still have a small inventory of Athena pins and pendants on hand. Produced at Magnon Jewelers, they're available in sterling silver for \$40 and in vermeil (14K gold over sterling) for \$50. To order, state your preference and send your check payable to Athena to P.O. Box 10813, 33679.

We also have the revised and updated softback edition of *Real Women of Tampa & Hillsborough County* by **Doris Weatherford**. Price is \$15 and will be available at next week's lunch if you'll contact **Eleanor Hubbard**.

March Birthdays

Birthday wishes to the following members who celebrate in March:

Linda D'Aquila

Judy Dato

Fentrice Driskell

Sandy Frye

Dianne Jacob

Bonnie Saks

Susan Steen

Gwynne Young

Directory Changes/Additions

Jan Cornelius – Dental Implant Center, 2401 So. Dale Mabry, 33629,
jcornelius@implanttampa.com, 254-4568

Diane Egner – H: 2611 Bayshore Blvd. #907, 33629

Andrea Zelman – B: 401 E. Jackson St. #2400, 33602

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813/251-9172
ewhubbard@aol.com

ATHENA SOCIETY

P.O. Box 10813
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33679

Upcoming Meeting

- WHEN:** Thursday, April 7
11:55 a.m.
- WHERE:** Centre Club - Westshore at Kennedy
- PROGRAM:** Dr. **Sylvia Richardson**
Young Women of Promise – Class of 2016
- MENU:** Blackened Chicken Cobb Salad
Veg plate available on request when reserving.
- COST:** Guests - \$25
- RSVP:** By April 4 – Register online
or email ewhubbard@aol.com

OPEN MEETING – GUESTS WELCOME

Since 1981 Athena has identified young women of promise across Hillsborough County, and this year's program continues this fine tradition. Ten very special young women will be introduced, each outstanding in her own way. See page 3 for a list of those to be recognized.

Each honoree will comment on an accomplishment that has given her great satisfaction. You'll be inspired and impressed by their stories. Please join us and bring friends who would enjoy meeting some truly incredible teens.

Calendar

April 14-18 – Retreat Cruise
May 5 – Luncheon
June 2 – Dinner (Annual Meeting – TYCC)

www.athena-society.com



President's Message

Near the top of my to-do list today is registering for my shore excursion for the first-ever Athena retreat at sea. The planning process has been a demonstration of three of Athena's admirable attributes. First, our willingness to try something new and different. Tradition means a lot to Athenians, so the notion of a cruise for our retreat was definitely out of the box as were the ideas of a longer weekend and an April event. We embraced that deviation from tradition and nearly as many members are registered for this retreat as our typical Florida retreats. The second trait I saw in action was acceptance. Some members don't care for cruising, and some cannot attend retreats in April due to schedules such as children's school, but on the whole we went along for the ride. There was not dissension or undue criticism. And finally, the tireless and creative efforts of the Retreat Committee under **Tina Tenret's** incredible leadership has displayed our dedication and commitment to making each event something special to celebrate Athena and our purpose. I am so grateful to all of you for your contributions to making Athena such a vibrant group of amazing women.

In recognition of the fact that not everyone can attend this retreat and the tradition of a July retreat, the idea of an Athena Bonus weekend in latter July has been floated. I welcome everyone's thoughts on that possibility and if you are interested in leading the planning effort, please let Bonus Chair **Renee Vaughn, Jeanne Tate** or me know. It would be a fun way, as in years past, to kick off Jeanne's year as Athena President.

Last year's retreat in Winter Park was very memorable. Unfortunately, one of our new members who was planning to attend was unable to due to a family emergency. For those of you who have not had a chance to get to know her, here's a bit of information about the very accomplished **Jacantha Buggs, M.D.**

Jacantha is a procurement and research physician and is a core member of the Tampa General Medical Group Transplant Surgical Team. She performs procurements of abdominal organs for transplantation and oversees data needs related to clinical studies and research.

Jacantha understands the challenges that women face in balancing the needs of family and a professional career. During the four years she took leave to be a full-time stay at home mom for her three children, she founded and directed an annual summer enrichment camp for young girls. The aim of the camp is to cultivate and nurture their self-confidence while providing courses in public speaking, etiquette, reading, journaling and music appreciation, just to name a few. She holds a BS in Biology from Tulane University, a Post Graduate Certificate in pre-medical sciences from Columbia University and a doctorate of medicine from Wayne State University School of Medicine. Jacantha was proposed by **Mimi Stamps** and co-sponsored by **Bonnie Carr** and **Anne Strozier**.





2016 YWP Recipients

Marcella Benner ~ Joe E. Newsome High School
Meghana Bhimreddy ~ Hillsborough High School
Mary Deschler ~ Steinbrenner High School
Elizabeth Dolan ~ The Academy of Holy Names
Erin Hanson ~ Earl J. Lennard High School
Alexi Longo ~ Sickles High School
Gillian Minnehan ~ H B Plant High School
April Olson ~ Wharton High School
Heta Patel ~ C. Leon King High School
Mira Rajani ~ Berkeley Preparatory School



Two Athenians to Be Honored in May

Lee Leavengood will be inducted into the Hillsborough County Women's Hall of Fame at a luncheon on Friday, May 6, at the Tampa Convention Center, 333 So. Franklin St. Registration information will be available soon at www.HillsboroughCounty.org/COSW or call Renee Warmack, 813/274-6803.

On May 11 **Moira Burke** will be the recipient of the Remark-a-Bull Award presented by The USF Women's Health Collaborative. Also receiving an award will be Gayle Sierens, the keynote speaker. The annual Leading the Way Awards luncheon will be held at the University Club; tickets can be purchased at www.usf.edu/ua/rsvp. For additional information, contact Ashley Messer at 813/974-8276. We'll reserve Athena tables at both events. If you like to sit at one, please notify **Eleanor Hubbard**.

Community Action Committee

Focus on Children and Families in Florida and the U.S.

The Anne E. Casey Foundation publishes annual data on overall well-being of children in each of the 50 states. The Foundation gives a ranking by state, which is based on 16 indicators across four major domains: (1) economic well-being, (2) education, (3) health, and (4) family and community. The Foundation released its *2015 Kids Count Data Book* on July 15, 2015. The ratings are based on 2013 data.

Florida ranked 37 among the states, meaning that 36 states did better than Florida in providing for the needs of children. The top states were: Minnesota, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Iowa, and Vermont. Interestingly, three of the five were in the New England area. It is instructive to look at Florida's performance in each of the domains and to compare our scores on the 16 indicators with the average scores across all states. Below we recap the percentages/rates in each of the four domains. The asterisks (*) indicate the 10 areas in which Florida scores have improved over the last five years (since 2008). The numbers in parentheses indicate the comparable figures for the U.S. as a whole. *Lower*

continued on next page



Community Action Committee *continued*

percentages and rates indicate a better situation for children and families. The number signs (#) indicates the four areas in which Florida's percentages are better than the US as a whole.

Economic Well-Being – Florida's overall rank is 45 of the 50 States

- Children in poverty — 24% (US – 22%)
- Children whose parents lack secure employment – 33% (US – 31%)
- Children living in households with a high housing cost burden – 42%* (US – 36%)
- Teens not in school and not working — 9%* (US – 8%)

Education — Florida's overall rank is 27 of the 50 States

- Children not attending preschool – 51% (US – 54%) #
- 4th graders not proficient in reading – 61%*(US – 66%) #
- 8th graders not proficient in math – 69%*(US – 66%)
- High school students not graduating on time – 25%* (19%)

Health — Florida's overall rank is 38 of the 50 States

- Low-weight babies – 8.5%* (US – 8%)
- Children without health insurance – 11%* (US – 7%)
- Children and teen deaths per 100,000 – 25* (US – 24)
- Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs – 6%* (US – 6%)

Family and Community — Florida's overall rank 34 of the 50 States

- Children in single-parent families – 40% (US – 35%)
- Children in families where the household lacks a high school diploma – 13% (US – 14%) #
- Children living in high-poverty areas – 14% (US 14%)
- Teen births per 1,000 – 25* (US – 26)# -

As noted above, Florida's performance improved in 10 areas. Trend data, however, indicate that Florida's scores worsened over the period from 2008 to 2013 in four areas: children living in poverty (from 18% to 24%), children whose parents lack secure employment (from 28% to 33%), children living in single-parent families (from 36% to 40%) and children living in high-poverty areas (from 8% to 14%). Interestingly, these indicators also worsened in the US as a whole over the five year period. There were two indicators on which Florida showed no change over the period examined: children not attending preschool and children where the household lacks a high school diploma.

Clearly, there is much work to be done in the United States, and particularly in Florida, to improve the overall well-being of children. Notably, Hillsborough County is taking the lead to improve our communities through Safe & Sound Hillsborough. This initiative, created for the purpose of reducing violence and creating healthier communities, was spearheaded by Commissioner Beckner and embraced by Mayor Buckhorn, key decision makers in the criminal justice system, court administration, law enforcement, Hillsborough County School Board, Children's Board of Hillsborough County and Florida Department of Health. More than 70 people from key agencies met for approximately a year to develop a strategic plan which is now in its second year of implementation. Four goals were adopted, which include: (1) supporting the health and well-being of all families, (2) cultivating a strong, connected community, (3) improving conditions in neighborhoods most impacted by violence, and (4) coordinating efforts to maximize impact. Please consider getting involved. For further information, see **Kathleen Heide** and/or google "Safe & Sound Hillsborough."

Kathleen M. Heide and Eldra P. Solomon



News About Members

Our best wishes to **Linda Goldstein** on her marriage to Larry Schwartz on March 20. The outdoor wedding was held at the Safety Harbor Spa Resort and the happy couple is now honeymooning in Hawaii.

We extend our condolences to **Doretha Edgecomb** whose mother, Sarah Stroud Wynn, passed away on March 22. Visitation with family will be from 6 to 7 p.m. on April 1 at Wilson Funeral Home, 3000 No. 29th Street. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at 11 a.m. on April 2 at Mt. Sinai AME Zion Church, 2909 No. Nebraska Avenue.

At last week's celebration of City of Tampa Women's History Month, **Jeanette LaRussa Fenton** was honored with the Josephine Howard Stafford Memorial Award. The award, named for a former Athena member, is presented annually to an outstanding female who is a current or former City of Tampa employee.

Operation Road Trip: How a video camera, a bottle of rum and a car renewed my faith in the future written by **Jan Roberts** has been published on Amazon. After the death of her husband from Alzheimer's, she hopped in her Prius at the age of 76, threw a video camera in the back seat, hid 1.75 liters of rum under the floorboard and hit the road on a solo venture to capture stories of passionate people around the country truly making a difference in their communities. The book is the story of her personal experiences on the road for 2 ½ months and an introduction to the 51 change-makers she interviewed along the way. The videos are at <http://operationbonappetit.org/videos-list/> and her book can be purchased in soft cover or on Kindle at Amazon.

Luanne Panacek has accepted the position of Interim Director at New Life Village, an intergenerational community that supports families who adopt children from foster care.

Laura Waller has been awarded a \$3,000 grant from the Arts Council of Hillsborough County. The grant program is designed to provide support for the professional growth of accomplished local artists. Laura, the highest scoring, also received the Carolyn Heller Visual Arts Award, providing her with an additional \$1,000.

April Birthdays

Birthday wishes to the following members who celebrate in April:

Marsha Lewis Brown
Robin DeLaVergne
Anne Gormly
Maria Howey
Pam Iorio
Shannon Reid

Jan Roberts
Linda Saul-Sena
Eldra Solomon
Tina Tenret
Susan Zimmer



Athena Society



B R I E F I N G S

May, 2016

2015-2016 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....KIM DeBOSIER
PRESIDENT-ELECT.....JEANNE TATE
VP/MEMBERSHIP.....AMANDA SANSONE
VP/PROGRAMS.....GAIL HOLTZMAN
SECRETARY.....KERI EISENBEIS
TREASURER.....SUSAN CASPER

BOARD

KAREN ARNOLD (IMM. PAST PRESIDENT)
DORETHA EDGECOMB
YVONNE FRY
LORRAINE LUTTON
MINDY McLAUGHLIN
TINA TENRET
GWYNNE YOUNG

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

SIMONE BAREFIELD
BONNIE CARR
KATHERINE ESSRIG
CHANTAL HEVIA
DIANNE JACOB
SUSAN STERN
ALTERNATE: JEANETTE FENTON

ADMINISTRATOR/EDITOR

ELEANOR HUBBARD
813/251-9172
ewhubbard@aol.com

ATHENA SOCIETY

P.O. Box 10813
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33679

Upcoming Meeting

- WHEN:** Thursday, May 5
11:55 a.m.
- WHERE:** Centre Club - Westshore at Kennedy
- PROGRAM:** Transportation Developments in Hillsborough County: Focus on Enhancing Quality of Life for Women
- MODERATOR:** **Kim DeBosier**
- PANELISTS:** Mike Merrill – Hillsborough County Administrator
Lucia Garsys – Hillsborough County Chief Development and Infrastructure Services Administrator
Beth Alden, AICP – Executive Director, Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Katharine Eagan – CEO, Hillsborough Area Regional Transportation Authority
- MENU:** Tarpon Springs Greek Chicken Salad
Veg plate available on request when reserving.
- COST:** Guests - \$25
- RSVP:** By May 2 – Register online
or email ewhubbard@aol.com

OPEN MEETING – GUESTS WELCOME

Beth Alden will discuss the Vision Zero Action Plan designed to effect zero traffic fatalities. She'll also describe the first collaboration with the Florida Dept. of Health regarding a health impact assessment of a Complete Streets Feasibility Study in Town & Country. Mike Merrill will speak about Go Hillsborough while Lucia Garsys will focus on the mobility fee work. Katharine Eagan will bring us up-to-date on HART activities.

The 2016 **Phyllis Marshall** Career Assistance Grant recipients will also be introduced. See page 4 for details.



President's Message

Resilience. Perseverance. Mentorship. Sisterhood. These are among the themes running throughout the conversations, panel discussions and reflections at Athena's first international retreat at sea. For those of you who were able to attend, thank you for your fun and friendship. For those who were unable to join us, we missed you and hope you view our photos when they are compiled to get a glimpse of the atmosphere and happenings. And remember that we plan on a mini-retreat in July, and we are hoping everyone can join us for this shorter, local funfest. A number of wonderful ideas for future activities and initiatives were suggested over the weekend, and President Elect **Jeanne Tate** (my retreat roomie!) plans on moving several of those forward in her year as President. Particularly meaningful were the stories and information shared during Sunday morning's STEAMship discussion. It seemed to make all of us reflect on how we got where we are today, remember our mentors who helped along the way and inspire us to do more to mentor the next generation of young female leaders.

It was such a treat to have **Lee Leavengood** on the cruise. There are simply not enough superlatives to describe her influence, her character and her commitment. And she's a heckuva lot of fun, too! We should be so proud that Lee is being inducted into the Hillsborough County Women's Hall of Fame on May 6th. As a leader in the founding of the University of South Florida, Lee forged a trail for women and seniors through her commitment to education, volunteerism and philanthropy. I hope you are planning to join us for the induction ceremony and luncheon.

And now we highlight a shining example of the next generation of unbelievably accomplished young women, our "new" member **Fentrice Driskell**. Fentrice is a shareholder in the national trial practice group at Carlton Fields Jordan Burt, P.A. where she represents financial services institutions and sophisticated business clients in a variety of civil litigation matters. She assisted in pro bono representation of a Florida death row inmate in post-conviction proceedings. She was recognized as "Pro Bono Hero" for her volunteer efforts in 2006-2008 and 2010-2013. Prior to joining Carlton Fields, she served as a law clerk in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida and was a student lawyer for the Georgetown University Law Center Domestic Violence Clinic.

Fentrice has devoted many hours to mentoring female students through the college and law school application process. She has mentored several female associates in her law firm and serves as president of the George Edgecomb Bar Association. She received her AB in government from Harvard University where she was the first black woman to have been elected president of the University's Undergraduate Council and only the 3rd woman to serve in that capacity and received her Juris Doctorate degree from Georgetown University Law Center. Fentrice was proposed by **Mary Scriven** and co-sponsored by **Linda D'Aquila** and **Angela Crawford**.





News About Members

Leslie Stein was recently honored at the Hillsborough Association of Women Lawyers luncheon with the Trail Blazer Award. The award recognizes an established female attorney who has exhibited throughout her life and career a pioneering spirit, courageous leadership and outstanding contributions to the legal community. The ceremony was especially meaningful as Leslie was introduced by her attorney son Michael who lovingly explained his Mom's career from his perspective.

Anne Kantor will be leaving for Boston May 20 to see her daughter, Janet Echelman, receive an honorary doctorate from Tufts University. You may recall that Janet was our retreat speaker last July and is a former Young Woman of Promise.

Mary Key has written a blog you might enjoy reading on Women's History Month and **Helen Gordon Davis**. Click link below.

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/her-story-takes-leading-courage-mary-key?trk=prof-post>

After 30 years in the staffing business, **Holly Tomlin** has sold her agency and established a new real estate firm with her husband and daughter. Tomlin St Cyr Real Estate Services will be located at 3907 Henderson Blvd. Athena members are enthusiastically invited to the grand opening set for Tuesday, May 10, noon to 6 p.m.

On May 6 **Arthenia Joyner** will be receiving the 2016 Luminaries Award from the Junior League of Tampa. In partnership with WEDU, the League is hosting the luncheon "to recognize outstanding individuals who have, through their inspiring leadership, made a lasting impact in Hillsborough County." For ticket information call 813/254-1734.

Community Action Committee

We Need 21st Century Transportation

Currently there's a proposal called TBX, Tampa Bay Expressway, before Hillsborough County's MPO, the group that makes transportation decisions. On June 22 they could vote to expand the interstate with pay lanes with variable fees...for a total cost of \$6 billion. Governor Scott thinks that this is the best way to address our mobility challenges. I served on the MPO for 24 years and strongly disagree.

TBX is short-sighted, too costly, solely focused on highway widening to the detriment of our urban core, historic neighborhoods and the heart of a city. It will only lead to more car congestion. TBX is the exact wrong choice for a city and region poised to make a critical turn toward true multi-modal transportation that will drive an unprecedented economic boom. Transit and multi modal transportation drives economic growth, attracts next century employers, attracts and retains talent and helps relieve congestion. That's what makes a region grow. Variable rate toll lanes and highway widening do not.

Tampa can make better choices! Please join me in fighting this step backward for our community. Go to the website StopTBX.com and get involved in this critical issue.

Linda Saul-Sena





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

Catherine Lynch

Winnie Marvel

Mindy McLaughlin

Ann Miller

Jane Peppard

Anne Strozier

Elaine Terenzi

Ven Thomas

Louise Thompson

Rhonda Trainor

JoAnn Urofsky

Vicki Vega

India Witte

Phyllis Marshall CAG Recipients Announced

We are excited to announce the 2016 **Phyllis Marshall** Career Assistance Grant recipients. As this announcement comes just one month after the Young Women of Promise luncheon, it is difficult not to compare the two programs, both of which evolved through the vision and leadership of Athena members. Young Woman of Promise just celebrated its 36th award ceremony – amazing! It uplifts us each year with a hopeful vision of the future. This is what it looks like when young women's raw talent is married with supportive families and dedicated educators. It is wonderful to see their accomplishments and we celebrate these young women and those who support them. The world is a better place with these incredibly talented women on the brink of adulthood.

Almost twenty years ago (April 2017 will mark the 20th anniversary) the Career Assistance Grant program was started under the leadership of **Paddy Moses**, then president of Athena, along with the founding committee members **Nancy Ford, Linda Hanna, Juel Smith** and **Susan Bucklew** to help striving and struggling adult women establish a more hopeful life for themselves and their families. It was renamed to honor Phyllis Marshall and her commitment to women and education. It is the perfect complement to the Young Women of Promise program and puts the Athena vision to "improve the status of women" front and center in a very personal way.

Each year the Phyllis Marshall CAG Committee reaches out to approximately 25 community organizations and schools to identify motivated and deserving local women struggling to succeed. The obstacles they face often seem insurmountable, but they strive. At the awards luncheon we focus on their accomplishments and their goals but it is their backstories that move us.

In January, the NY Times ran an article "Over 50, Female and Jobless Even as Others Return to Work" on the front page. The article highlights the particular struggles that older women face when they become unemployed. Forty-eight percent of long-term unemployed women are between the ages of 55 and 64. This year many of our applicants were displaced unemployed older women trying to retool their skills to earn a living. You will see this trend reflected in our recipients.

Mary, one of our award recipients, was employed for 20 years until three years ago when a legislative mandate privatized the work performed by the Children's Medical Services. She initially survived on unemployment benefits and applied unsuccessfully for many jobs. When her benefits ran out, her children helped. Mary, desperate to reenter the workforce "as a new and better producer,"



Phyllis Marshall CAG Recipients Announced *(cont.)*

signed up for classes at Erwin Technical College to earn a certification as a medical coder. She applied for a Career Assistance Grant right before spring break. As a result of a clerical error, her application, tax returns and letters of recommendation were shredded before being scanned for our review. Mary tracked down Eleanor through our website to request an extension to get her application in. She re-did the application, got four new letters of recommendation (although only two were required) and re-submitted the application through our liaison, who verified the clerical error and identified Mary as one of their most deserving students. I was particularly excited to call Mary and inform her of her award but was quickly hit with a dose of reality when her phone could not receive calls because she was unable to pay her phone bill. Mary has been invited to the Athena luncheon in May where we will celebrate her achievements and enthusiastically support her efforts.

Another recipient, Charmaine, was referred to us by Metropolitan Ministries' Uplift-U Transitional Housing Program, which is designed to provide families and single women with food, housing and education to combat homelessness. Charmaine is working toward a certification as a Child Development Associate and hopes to secure employment in a Head Start program. She has been in the program for nine months and is described as kind, compassionate and inspiring by her teachers and counselors.

We have a returning grant recipient, Alicia Bishop, who some of you may remember as a 2012 Young Woman of Promise. Alicia was recommended by her mentor from Bay Area Legal Services who was matched to Alicia through Hillsborough County "Take Stock in Children" and later through the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program. Alicia spent a good portion of her life in foster care and has essentially been on her own financially since age 16, although she has the emotional support of her father and grandmother. Alicia is a young woman who wants to be an engineer and is working hard to achieve that goal. Recipients often say that the encouragement they receive with our grants is priceless, and this is certainly the case with Alicia.

This year's recipients were referred to us by Hillsborough Community College, Erwin Technical College, Bay Area Legal Services and Metropolitan Ministries. Twenty-three women were eligible and deserving of grants. We were able to give out seven because we partnered with two awesome organizations. **Marlene Spalten** was on our committee this year and was so moved by our applicants that the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, Inc. committed \$2,000 to our effort. Also the **Beth Waters** Friendship Fund again honored our late Athena sister with a \$2,300 contribution.

The following striving and deserving women will each receive Phyllis Marshall Career Assistance Grants of \$1200 to assist with their education.

Mary Velasquez-Scullock – Erwin Technical College
Mary Earline Presley – HCC Ybor
Marie Jean-Louis – Erwin Technical College
Alicia Bishop – Florida Polytechnic University
Markeosha Burgess – HCC
Christina Rowe – Erwin Technical College
Charmaine Caines – Brewster Technical Center

Since 2014 we have encouraged and supported eighteen women with Career Assistance Grants. Next year is the 20th anniversary of the Phyllis Marshall Career Assistance Grant Program and with your generous support we can help to improve the lives of even more women.

Elaine Terenzi

Athena Society



B R I E F I N G S

June, 2016

2015-2016 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....KIM DeBOSIER
PRESIDENT-ELECT.....JEANNE TATE
VP/MEMBERSHIP.....AMANDA SANSONE
VP/PROGRAMS.....GAIL HOLTZMAN
SECRETARY.....KERI EISENBEIS
TREASURER.....SUSAN CASPER

BOARD

KAREN ARNOLD (IMM. PAST PRESIDENT)
DORETHA EDGEComb
YVONNE FRY
LORRAINE LUTTON
MINDY McLAUGHLIN
TINA TENRET
GWYNNE YOUNG

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

SIMONE BAREFIELD
BONNIE CARR
KATHERINE ESSRIG
CHANTAL HEVIA
DIANNE JACOB
SUSAN STERN
ALTERNATE: JEANETTE FENTON

ADMINISTRATOR/EDITOR

ELEANOR HUBBARD
813/251-9172
ewhubbard@aol.com

ATHENA SOCIETY

P.O. Box 10813
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33679

Upcoming Meeting

WHEN: Thursday, June 2
5:30 p.m. – Cash bar
6:15 p.m. – Dinner



WHERE: Tampa Yacht & Country Club
5320 Interbay Blvd.
Valet parking available

MENU: Fresh Gulf Grouper Piccata
(If you prefer Chicken Piccata or a veggie plate, please indicate.)

PROGRAM: Business Meeting – Agenda to include:
Introduction of new members
Approval of 2016-17 budget
Election of officers/directors
Passing of the gavel; Installation

RSVP: By May 30 – Register online
or email ewhubbard@aol.com

CLOSED MEETING – MEMBERS ONLY

Please join us to show your support for those who have led this year and those who will lead during the next 12 months.

Sunday, June 12 – Party Time!

Our annual party to honor new members is scheduled for Sunday, June 12, 5 to 7 p.m. at the lovely new South Tampa home of **Elizabeth Frazier**, 2808 W. Terrace Drive. The Hospitality Committee - under the direction of **Yvonne Fry** - will present its usual delectable spread. There's no charge for members and one guest; additional guests are \$25. RSVP online or email **Eleanor Hubbard** prior to June 8. If you're bringing a guest, please leave a name.

www.athena-society.com



President's Message

As I write this final President's Message, I remain honored and humbled to have been your President this past year. It has been immensely rewarding – more than I could have imagined. Last year as I shared my thoughts about the year ahead, I set five challenges as we promote equality and opportunity for women in an effort to make a greater impact each year, and I'd like to report on those.

1. Maintain our Athena Education Fund at the Community Foundation at a value of over \$100,000 as the corpus to support the **Phyllis Marshall** Career Assistance Grants. Our balance as of 3/31/16 was \$103,390.82. Thanks to all of you who contributed to the Fund this year.

2. Double our Career Assistance Grants this year through individual contributions and other philanthropic efforts. While we did not double them, this year we increased our giving and awarded seven Career Assistance Grants of \$1,200 each. Stay tuned for some upcoming recommendations to allow us to further increase this life-changing grant program.

3. Underscore Athena's position statements. The Programs Committee, under **Gail Holtzman's** leadership, did incredible work, developing substantive and fascinating programs that aligned with our positions.

4. Explore the issue of pay equity at the local and state levels. The Community Action Committee, chaired by **Carlye Morgan**, tackled this issue and several others, conducting research and developing approaches to move the issue forward. Their work has been valuable and I hope it continues into next year so we can take affirmative action on this continuing issue that was, in fact, a major factor in the founding of Athena. In April, we passed a resolution for Equal Pay Day in support of pay equity.

5. Explore the transportation situation in Tampa Bay and its impact on women. This work began later in the year and, based on the transportation initiatives in the community, will be worthy of continued attention. The May luncheon program featured female executives from three of our major transportation agencies. The Community Action Committee has presented issues related to Tampa Bay Express via the newsletters. As this issue continues to be center stage, there is a unique opportunity to raise awareness of how our lack of transportation options disproportionately impacts women and children. I would encourage us as an organization to continue to explore this issue and consider whether it is worthy of an Athena position statement.

I want to express my sincere thank you to all my Athena sisters for their support this year. In particular, the Board, committee chairs and Presidents' Advisory Council have provided invaluable guidance, wisdom and uplifting support. A special thank you to **Jeanne Tate, Karen Arnold, Susan Casper, Keri Eisenbeis, Tina Tenret, Amanda Sansone, Gail Holtzman, Doretha Edgecomb, Gwynne Young, Yvonne Fry, Lorraine Lutton, Mindy McLaughlin** and **Elaine Terenzi** for their commitment this year. Look forward to another inspiring year under Jeanne Tate's leadership – she already has some wonderful ideas for moving our programs and agenda forward. And I'm sure I speak for all of us when I express appreciation to our administrator, **Eleanor Hubbard**, whose devotion to Athena is unmatched and keeps everything in control behind the scenes.

I appreciate this opportunity to serve this incredible organization and its remarkable members.



New Members to be Introduced

We're pleased to announce the following women have accepted Athena's invitation to membership and will be formally introduced at the June 2 meeting:

Marisa Belote - Faculty of USF College of Nursing - Proposed by Linda D'Quila; co-sponsored by Michelle Schofner and Kathy Betancourt

Rose Brempong – Development Director at Bay Area Legal Services - Proposed by Patti Breckenridge; co-sponsored by Gwynne Young and Rachelle Bedke

Ana Cruz – Managing Partner at Ballard Partners - Proposed by Betty Castor; co-sponsored by Lorna Taylor and Libby Jenkins

Karla Hartley - Producing Artistic Director at Stageworks Theatre – Proposed by Cynthia Zinober; co-sponsored by Susan Grady and Linda Saul-Sena

Sandy Murman - Chair of the Board of Hillsborough County Commissioners - Proposed by Denise Chavez; co-sponsored by Yvonne Fry and Dena Leavengood

Bemetra Simmons - Hillsborough Market President of BB&T – Proposed by Karen Arnold; co-sponsored by Jane Castor and Robin DeLaVergne

Barbara Twine Thomas - Circuit Court Judge for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit - proposed by Jeanne Tate; co-sponsored by Amy Farrior and Leslie Stein

Natalie Thomas - Partner at Holland & Knight - proposed by Adelaide Few; co-sponsored by Susan Bucklew and Renee Vaughn

Nancy Vaughn - Principal, PR & Marketing Director, White Book Agency - proposed by Diane Egner; co-sponsored by Susan Dellinger and Nancy Walker

WELCOME! WELCOME!



Plan to Retreat!

As noted previously, we've changed our plans for the Petit Retreat from the original 1½ days to one full day: 12 hours of planning, fun and camaraderie..... with a bit of a French flavor. It's a chance to get a head start on the year ahead, gain some insight into what you'd like to see in the way of activities and programs and an opportunity to spend time with our new members. We'll convene at the Safety Harbor Spa on Saturday, July 16; registration fee of \$100 will include a continental breakfast, lunch and dinner. You may register online or with **Eleanor Hubbard**. Members registered and paid at the close of our annual meeting on June 2 will be eligible for the drawing of a spa-inspired basket.



Community Action Committee

Important Regional Transportation Investment

Tampa Bay Express (or TBX) is a series of projects comprising nearly 50 miles of roadway improvements connecting the Pinellas Gateway, Westshore Business District, downtown Tampa and the University of South Florida areas. It includes replacement of the northbound Howard Frankland Bridge and reconstruction of I-275/State Road 60 Interchange in Westshore and the I-275/I-4 interchange, also known as the Downtown Tampa Interchange. TBX is a part of a comprehensive transportation plan that introduces dynamically-tolled express lanes within the median of I-275 and I-4 and transit opportunities throughout the system. During the original Tampa Interstate Study, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) made numerous commitments to mitigate this project's impacts to the local community as a result of the public outreach and agency coordination. The FDOT is working with the communities in downtown Tampa to better define these commitments in context of the community's vision and these will be carried forward in the design-build contract.

Why is TBX needed?

The Tampa Bay area ranks high for traffic delay and overall congestion costs and the region is expected to grow exponentially over the next several decades. Many sections of the interstate are at or near capacity and need to be reconstructed. Reconstructing the interchanges and adding express lanes will improve the flow of traffic and provide transit opportunities throughout the region. Average drive time may be shortened by 15–35 minutes depending on distance traveled and time of day.

The project will enhance regional economic development by actively managing congestion and enhancing trip reliability for commuters, commercial drivers, transit, and public school buses.

Tampa Bay Express will not only provide a new travel lane choice for drivers but will also allow public express buses to use the system without paying tolls. All of the overpasses will be designed to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian amenities on the local road underneath. In addition, adding capacity on the interstate and through the interchanges would improve traffic conditions on adjacent local streets allowing for more complete street projects.

Tampa Bay Express will restore some of the community connections that were impacted by the construction of I-275 in the 1950s and 60s by extending numerous streets that were dead-ended at that time. To learn more about TBX go to <http://www.tampabayexpress.com>



Michelle Schofner, PE, PTOE



News About Members

Our very belated best wishes to **Susan Grady** on her marriage to Dr. Tony Morrison last December 28. The ceremony was performed by the Honorable **Katherine Essrig** in front of four generations of their families gathered for the Christmas holidays. The bride and groom had known each for over 34 years and were brought together by Susan's daughter who needed to see an endocrinologist who turned out to be Tony. And, as Susan stated, the rest is history! They honeymooned in the Spring on a National Geographic trip around the world.

Last month **Arthenia Joyner** was honored as the 44th Lightning Community Hero of the season for being at the core in the fight for equal rights. She's been a leading advocate for individuals who have been unlawfully imprisoned and has passed legislation to provide them compensation. With the honor comes a \$50,000 gift for the charity of her choice; Arthenia designated five to share the gift.

Last week **Sandy Freedman** was honored as the 48th Lightning Community Hero of the season for her years as Mayor of Tampa during which she "permanently changed the landscape and togetherness of a growing community." With the honor comes a \$50,000 gift for the charity of her choice; Sandy designated The Centre for Women.

Congratulations to **Amanda Sansone** who has been appointed to the position of United States Magistrate Judge effective June 6. Her appointment is to fill the position vacated by **Libby Jenkins**. (See item below.)

On April 30 **Libby Jenkins** retired after more than 30 years as a U.S. Magistrate Judge but will continue to serve on the bench in federal court in a recall capacity. Losing no time to plunge (pun intended!) into retirement, on May 1 she competed in the US Masters National Short Course Swimming Championships in Greensboro, NC and placed among the top 10 swimmers in her age group in the 100 yard breaststroke; the 50 yard butterfly and the 200 yard freestyle.

Maruchi Azorin has been appointed by Governor Rick Scott to serve as a commissioner on the Florida Commission on the Status of Women. She joins the current chair of the state commission, **Yvonne Fry**.

Vicki Vega has just launched another in a series of projects she'd like to share with her Athena sisters. It's a blog at www.SuccessAfter60.com where she's building a community of Baby Boomers exploring options beyond traditional retirement. She and her crew have augmented it with a series of programs being televised in the Sarasota-Bradenton area. Here's the link to the latest show: <https://youtu.be/4Qp6a96-aII>. Vicki would like to talk with any members who may be interested in helping develop this project for the collective good.



2016-17 Proposed Board of Directors

* Those denoted with an asterisk are continuing in their terms of office and are not standing for election.

President	Jeanne Tate*
President-Elect	Doretha Edgecomb
VP/Membership	Dianne Jacob
VP/Programs	Tina Tenret
Secretary	Mindy McLaughlin
Treasurer (2-yr. term)	Shannon Reid

BOARD MEMBERS

Second year of 2 year term	Two year term:
Lorraine Lutton*	Simone Barefield
Gwynne Young*	Jane Castor
	Amanda Sansone
	Yvonne Fry (one year term)
Imm. Past Pres. Kim DeBosier*	

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Second year of 2 year term:	Two year term:
Bonnie Carr*	Jeanette Fenton
Katherine Essrig*	Keri Eisenbeis
Susan Stern*	Denise Jordan
Alternate: Becca Tieder	



Hospitality Committee Needs YOU!

Yvonne Fry, Jeanette LaRussa Fenton and **Linda D'Aquila** are working to make the New Member Party on Sunday, June 2, a success 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 to step up. For those not wanting to cook but could easily pick up an item, we have some ideas for you as well.....just let us know your willingness to help.

We're utilizing a system that members found helpful last year. To sign up to bring a dish, please go to the New Member Party page on the Athena website and click on the link to the food sign-up page. The page will appear showing the various food categories and what others have signed up for. Go to the category of your choice, click on "Take," enter the information and click Sign-up. Done! Many thanks to **Jean McNally** for automating the process in a very user friendly way.

Athena Society



B R I E F I N G S

September, 2016

2016-2017 OFFICERS

PRESIDENTJEANNE TATE
PRESIDENT-ELECTDORETHA EDGECOMB
VP/MEMBERSHIPDIANNE JACOB
VP/PROGRAMSTINA TENRET
SECRETARYMINDY McLAUGHLIN
TREASURERSHANNON REID
IMM. PAST PRESIDENT.....KIM DeBOSIER

BOARD

SIMONE BAREFIELD
JANE CASTOR
YVONNE FRY
LORRAINE LUTTON
AMANDA SANSONE
GWYNNE YOUNG

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

BONNIE CARR
KERI EISENBEIS
KATHERINE ESSRIG
JEANETTE FENTON
DENISE JORDAN
SUSAN STERN
ALTERNATE: BECCA TIEDER

ADMINISTRATOR/EDITOR

ELEANOR HUBBARD
813/251-9172
ewhubbard@aol.com

ATHENA SOCIETY

P.O. Box 10813
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33679

Upcoming Meeting

WHEN: Thursday, September 8
11:55 a.m.

WHERE: Centre Club
Westshore at Kennedy

PROGRAM: 2016 – What an Election!

SPEAKER: Dr. Susan MacManus
USF Distinguished Professor
Dept. of Government & International Affairs

MENU: Southwest spiced salmon salad
Veg plate available on request when reserving.

COST: Guests - \$30

RSVP: By September 5 – Register online
or email ewhubbard@aol.com



OPEN MEETING – GUESTS WELCOME

We've all certainly heard plenty from the candidates, their supporters, TV pundits and the man on the street. NOW we're going to hear from someone who really knows what's happening behind the scenes and elsewhere.

Dr. Susan MacManus is a well known and respected political analyst locally as well as nationally. She'll discuss shifting demographics, Florida's status as an important swing state, an update on the primary election results and what they mean, her general election predictions and more!

This will be a very popular meeting (a great one for guests), so please get your RSVPs in by Labor Day evening.

www.athena-society.com



President's Message

I am excited to be your Athena President, I am energized by you, my sister members, and your extraordinary intellect and commitment. Together we shall accomplish much and, in so doing, not only shall we honor the legacy of our Athena sisters, now of blessed memory, but we also shall continue their tireless devotion and dedication to Athena and its vibrant work.

May I first, please, offer my heartfelt thanks to **Kim DeBosier**, who as our former President has been invaluable to me in making this transition a seamless one. Kim's term as our President was an outstanding one and should be commended. I know I speak for all our members in saying thank you, thank you. I shall continue to seek Kim's trusted guidance and wise counsel.

I also very much look forward to working over the course of this year with our President-Elect, **Doretha Edgecomb**, and our entire stellar team of Board of Directors and Officers. We are resolute, as individuals, Board members and officers, to make a lasting difference in the communities in which we and our families, our loved ones, work and live.

Each of us has had role models as we grew up, matured and found our way to adulthood and our respective professions and life choices. These are the individuals who imbued in us core values, work ethic and a moral code. These individuals had a profound effect on us, be they near or far, family or family friends, public figures or literary characters. I am grateful to have had these individuals in my orbit throughout my life and still do. I am passionate that this same experience be one that our Athena family extends to young women in our community.

Among the Outreach Goals of Athena's Long Range Plan, one is to provide mentoring opportunities for interested Athena members. Many of us discussed this at our Sunday morning, STEAMship discussion while at sea last spring; in fact, Kim wrote of our out to sea discussion in her penultimate President's Message in May 2016. Mentorship also was featured prominently in my opening remarks at our June 20, 2016, Board of Directors Meeting and at our July 16 Petit Retreat. The Board has resolutely approved a stand-alone committee focused exclusively on Mentoring, with co-chairs, **Gail Holtzman** and **Amy Farrior**, already identified. Frankly, we have a ready pipeline for this with our Young Women of Promise and its alumnae as well as our Career Assistance grant recipients.

In closing, a wise federal judge who cajoled me into accepting the position as Athena's President, reminded me that Athena is about YOU. I want you to love Athena the way I do, to know what is going on, to feel your voice is being heard and to get involved. To facilitate this objective, we are increasing communication to membership by (a) attaching our Board minutes to this Newsletter (in addition to posting them on the website); (b) uploading our income statement, balance sheet and financials to the website quarterly as well as providing the proposed budget and summary of important changes to you in advance of our annual meeting; and (c) adding a "Dear Goddess" section to our newsletter to answer any questions of interest to our membership. Questions can be e-mailed to **Eleanor Hubbard**.

I look forward to a great year!





Nominating Committee Election

At the June meeting members voted for 12 individuals eligible to serve on the 2016-17 Nominating Committee. The final election will take place at the September 8 meeting at which time six members will be elected to serve until the annual meeting in 2017. As the result of the preliminary ballot, these are the nominees:

**Karen Arnold
Rachelle Bedke
Amelia Campbell
Bonnie Carr
Robin DeLaVergne
Linda Devine**

**Lorraine Lutton
Miriam Mason
Candy Olson
Carolyn Reed
Lorna Taylor
Elaine Terenzi**

If you do not plan to attend the September meeting, you may implement Article V, Section 10 of the bylaws: Proxies. If you plan to utilize a proxy, **please email your selections to Eleanor Hubbard by 5 p.m. on September 7.**



Dear Goddess

Q - If I want to be an officer or director of Athena, may I serve on the Nominating Committee?

A – No, that is not permitted so if you have a desire to serve as an officer or director, please ask Eleanor Hubbard to remove your name from the nominating committee slate.

Q - What year was Athena incorporated and who were her founders?

A - Athena was incorporated in 1977 and founded by **Nancy Ford, Susan Leisner, Suzy McLain** and **Irene Hadley.**

Q - How many members serve on Athena's Board of Directors?

A – Thirteen which includes current officers, the immediate past president and directors at large.



Thank you Dear Goddess, the Greek Goddess of Wisdom.





Philanthropy Scores!

The call went out and you responded fabulously.....with the usual Athena enthusiasm! Our “ask” in June resulted in contributions of over \$4,500 which will enable us to provide Career Assistance grants to a greater number of deserving women. With one exception, this sum is the most ever received in a single year from members. Our thanks to Philanthropy Chair **Elizabeth Frazier** for her leadership in this undertaking and to these 71 members who answered the call.

Emmy Acton
Jean Amuso
Dore Beach
Ruth Bell
Kathy Betancourt
RoseAnne Bowers
Patti Breckenridge
Edna Broyles
Susan Bucklew
Betty Castor
Kathy Castor
Marva Crenshaw
Molly Crews
Kim DeBosier
Susan Dellinger
Linda Devine
Doretha Edgecomb
Mary Estes
Amy Farrior
Jeanette Fenton
Adelaide Few
Elizabeth Frazier
Katherine Frazier
Susan Freeman

Cynthia Gandee
Judy Genshaft
Anne Gormly
Zoe Gustafson
Kathleen Heide
Maria Howey
Pam Iorio
Dee Jeffers
Mary Key
Lee Leavengood
Miriam Mason
Margaret Miller
Luanne Panacek
Jane Peppard
Donna Petersen
Jan Platt
Carolyn Reed
Shannon Reid
Barbara Romano
Ann Ross
Gayla Russell
Bonnie Saks
Amanda Sansone

Linda Saul-Sena
Casey Shear
Caroline Sikorske
Jane Siling
Deborah Skyrms
Eldra Solomon
Marlene Spalten
Leslie Stein
Lorna Taylor
Tina Tenret
Elaine Terenzi
Stella Thayer
Lara Tibbals
Kem Toole
Rhonda Trainor
Betty Tribble
Renee Vaughn
Belinda Wilson
Pam Wolf
Katherine Young
Andrea Zelman
Xiao Zhang
Susan Zimmer
Joan Zinober

WLP to Honor Betty Castor

The 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to **Betty Castor** by Women in Leadership & Philanthropy at lunch on October 6 at the Hilton Tampa Downtown. WLP honors visionary leaders doing extraordinary things to make the Tampa Bay region a better place for women to live and work. Luncheon speaker will be Claire Shipman, author and Peabody, Emmy and DuPont Award-winning TV journalist. Tickets are \$125 and can be reserved at 813/974-4070 or wlp@usf.edu. We encourage members to attend though it's unfortunate that our own meeting is at the same time. Betty, know that those not with you will certainly have you in their thoughts.





News About Members

On September 10 **Doris Weatherford** will be honored by the Tampa Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in conjunction with their 100th anniversary celebration. Established in 1916, it's the oldest branch in the state and its chief mission is raising scholarship funds for women and girls. The event will be held at Tampa Palms Golf and Country Club, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Reservations may be made with Joyce Ellsworth, 813/933-1160, by September 2.

During the summer several Athena families suffered great loss: **Stacy Frank** passed away June 25; **Andrea Zelman's** mother Dottie passed away July 9 and **Joanne Lighter's** husband Bill on July 26. We extend our sincerest condolences to all the family members.

After many years as Executive Director of Northside Mental Health Center **Marsha Lewis Brown** is retiring with plans to “do something new and different” and to be more active with Athena. She can now be contacted at marshalewisbrown@hotmail.com and 813/977-8700.

With great joy **Margaret Miller** announces the birth of her first grandchild, a boy! Cyrus Field Fifer, born on July 4th at St. Joseph's Women's Hospital, is named after a distant relative and American businessman, Cyrus Field. Margaret's daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth and Nicholas Fifer, moved to Tampa last fall from New York City where Elizabeth was Executive Director of Ballet Next. They are living in their newly renovated home in Ballast Point.

As previously announced, **Doretha Edgecomb** is retiring from the Hillsborough County education system after 52 years of service as a teacher, principal and School Board member. If you missed the excellent story recently aired on Bay News 9, you can see it now by clicking on this link: <https://youtu.be/6RB4D3rAR08>.

Pam Wolf has just launched a new group coaching/mastermind program - Christian Women of Influence. If anyone would like more info, they can contact her at pam@identityanddestiny.com. She, too, is a grandmother and the most recent addition is grandbaby #7, a little boy for her son Nick and wife Nicole: Chase Timothy Topp.

There was a really wonderful article in the TAMPA Magazine last month paying tribute to **Arthenia Joyner** who recently retired from the legislature after 16 years of service. To access it, click this link - <http://thetampamagazine.com/arthenia-joyner/>

Alene Mahin is currently in Pennsylvania to be near her daughter while recuperating from some medical issues. She'd love to hear from her Athena sisters and may be contacted at 217 W. Montgomery Avenue, #215, Haverford, PA 19041, 610/896-3240.

Another proud moment awaits **Anne Kantor** when daughter Janet Echelman receives the International Artistic Achievement Impact Award presented by the Tampa Bay Businesses for Culture & the Arts. (Janet, you may recall, is a former Young Woman of Promise and was the keynote speaker at our July 2015 retreat.) The presentation will be made on October 20 at a two-part venue: The Dali and the Mahaffey Theatre. Tickets are \$300 each; reservations may be made prior to September 24 by calling 813/221-2787. **Lorna Taylor** is COB of TBBCA and Chair of TBBCA's Impact Awards.



Bonus Activity

The first organizational meeting of the Bonus Committee, chaired by **Carolyn Reed**, took place at the July retreat with a great attendance and excellent ideas. They are meeting today to finalize plans for upcoming events.

The first Bonus of the year will be rather unique: St. Joseph Hospital's Tampa in Scrubs, a behind the scenes look at what it's like to work in a fast paced medical environment. It's set for Friday, September 9, from 7:15 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. and you can register at TampaInScrubs.org. Our thanks to **Lorraine Lutton** for this special invitation.

2016-17 Calendar

September 9 – Bonus – Tampa In Scrubs
October 6 – Luncheon
November 3 – Luncheon
December - Holiday Party
January 5 – Luncheon
February 2 – Luncheon
March 2 – Luncheon
April 6 – Luncheon (YWP)
May 4 – Luncheon (Career Asst. Grants)
June 8 – Dinner (Annual Meeting)

September Birthdays

Birthday wishes to the following members who celebrate in September:

Karen Arnold	Marva Crenshaw	Felicia Harvey
Maruchi Azorin	Kim DeBosier	Chantal Hevia
Dore Beach	Mary Estes	Paddy Moses
Kathy Betancourt	Elizabeth Frazier	Candy Olson
Rose Brempong	Yvonne Fry	Jan Platt
Edna Broyles	Zoe Gustafson	Doris Weatherford



Members' Projects

Kem Toole would like to encourage members to consider supporting “Cross Out Cancer,” a nonprofit organization created by Elizabeth Dolan, a 2016 Young Woman of Promise. For complete information see the website at XCcancer.org or contact Elizabeth at 727/272-0892.

Athena Society



B R I E F I N G S

October, 2016

2016-2017 OFFICERS

PRESIDENTJEANNE TATE
PRESIDENT-ELECTDORETHA EDGECOMB
VP/MEMBERSHIPDIANNE JACOB
VP/PROGRAMSTINA TENRET
SECRETARYMINDY McLAUGHLIN
TREASURERSHANNON REID
IMM. PAST PRESIDENT.....KIM DeBOSIER

BOARD

SIMONE BAREFIELD
JANE CASTOR
YVONNE FRY
LORRAINE LUTTON
AMANDA SANSONE
GWYNNE YOUNG

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

BONNIE CARR
KERI EISENBEIS
KATHERINE ESSRIG
JEANETTE FENTON
DENISE JORDAN
SUSAN STERN
ALTERNATE: BECCA TIEDER

ADMINISTRATOR/EDITOR

ELEANOR HUBBARD
813/251-9172
ewhubbard@aol.com

ATHENA SOCIETY

P.O. Box 10813
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33679

Upcoming Meeting

- WHEN:** Thursday, October 6
11:55 a.m.
- WHERE:** Centre Club
Westshore at Kennedy
- PROGRAM:** Bringing Unity to Our Community
- PANELISTS:** Tony Holloway, Police Chief
City of St. Petersburg
Adam Tebrugge, Staff Attorney
ACLU of Florida
Dr. Carolyn Collins, Member
Tampa's Citizens Review Board for police
- MODERATOR:** Dr. Roy Kaplan, Civil Rights Equity Officer
- MENU:** Portabella & Steak Salad
Veg plate available on request when reserving.
- COST:** Guests - \$30
- RSVP:** By October 3 – Register online
or email ewhubbard@aol.com



OPEN MEETING – GUESTS WELCOME

A panel of police and community organizations will address solutions to current racial division. Panelists include St Petersburg Chief Tony Holloway, ACLU of Florida Staff Attorney Adam Tebrugge, and Dr. Carolyn Collins, former President of the Hillsborough County branch of the NAACP and member of Tampa's Citizens Review Board for police. The panel will be moderated by Dr. Roy Kaplan, the US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights Equity Officer for the Pasco County School District. He also teaches courses on racism at USF.

This is a topic of significant interest throughout the nation; you're encouraged to invite guests.



President's Message

Shortly after penning my initial President's Message to you, I was blessed to usher in a birthday, one which many would label a milestone birthday, given its numerical significance. I was enveloped that magical evening by the tender embrace of cherished family, grandkids included and an array of exquisite family friends. Loved ones from afar weighed in, as well, with their own wonderfully unique expressions of love. And, gazing skyward or just in reminiscing, I felt the presence and warmth of dearly departed loved ones smiling down at me. I felt that night, as I still do today, awash with gratitude. It is my heartfelt wish that each of us, my Athena sisters, enjoy our milestone events, healthy and together with family and friends.

The celebratory joy from my birthday stood in stark contrast to the election season which certainly is upon us, with Florida (again) the grand prize, swing state. These are the days of the 24/7/365 news cycle and, regrettably, its many hyper-partisan voices/personalities. Leave it to politics for me to learn the term, bloviator. In refreshing contrast to the white noise of the media pundits/prognosticators, Athena welcomed as our September luncheon speaker, USF Distinguished Professor, Dr. Susan MacManus—the embodiment of erudite understatement. The topic, no surprise, 2016-What an Election!

Dr. MacManus, whose expertise is government, international affairs and elections, spoke to us in both language and tone, with some humor tossed in, in a way that was easy to listen to and absorb. No bombast here. Seamlessly Dr. MacManus wove together facts, trends, demographics, statistics and the effect of social media, just to name a few. It indeed is a brave new world for elections. Mainstream media is on the decline, social media is on the way up and up, and a whopping 80% of millennials and gen-Xers have a disdain for both of the two main candidates for President. My take-away was WOW. Thank you, Dr. MacManus, this was the quintessential “Lunch and Learn;” love your speaking style and proud you are local!!

Like all of you, my Athena sisters, I took more than a moment - much more - to reflect upon the events of 9/11. Incomprehensible still, I take solace in seeing how our country has rallied and stood steadfast. NYC's Freedom Tower stands as a beacon of light to the whole world. I am so very proud to live in our country and to enjoy all its freedoms.

If you are in need of a beyond feel good true story, I commend you to your local IMAX cinema, where the uplifting and compelling film, *SULLY*, is showing. The film in fact culminates just up the Hudson from the Freedom Tower. Clint Eastwood makes movies like no other. Our next luncheon is October 6th. For those of you attending the October 6th Women in Leadership & Philanthropy Lunch, where **Betty Castor** will be presented the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award, please enjoy. We are with you in honoring Betty.





COSW Seeks Nominations for Hall of Fame

The Commission on the Status of Women is accepting nominations for the 2017 Women's Hall of Fame Class; deadline is 5 p.m. October 31. Athena has had inductees every year since its beginning in 2011 and we know there are many more Athenians who are worthy! For additional information and for the nomination form, visit the website at hcflgov.net/COSW. The induction luncheon will be held on March 24, 2017.

Retreat Planning to Begin

Good news.....**Jeanette Fenton** has accepted the chairmanship for Retreat 2017! If you'd like to participate in early planning and wish to be on the committee, please notify Jeanette (jlfen@verizon.net) or **Eleanor Hubbard** ASAP as a meeting will be scheduled during October. It'll be tough to top the Spring cruise, but rest assured that under Jeanette's leadership anything is possible.

Celebrate 40 Years of Leadership by Example!

The women of Athena have collectively and individually demonstrated that women can rise to the highest levels of business, education, law, healthcare, journalism, media, the arts, and all other professions while maintaining dignity and the respect of others in the community.

Please join our 40th anniversary committee as we celebrate the past four decades and look forward to the next forty years. Athena was incorporated in October of 1977, and we'd like to hear where you were and what you were doing then. Your stories may make it into a part of the program. For those of you born after 1976, our 50th anniversary will take care of that. Vice Chair **Judy Dato** and I look forward to hearing from you soon: judithdato@aol.com or czinober@ut.edu. Please contact us to be part of this exciting and fun committee. The date of our 2017 celebration is yet to be determined.

Cynthia Gandee Zinober

Chair, 40th Anniversary Celebration

Dear Goddess

Q. Visting time at lunch is over in a flash, and I'm wondering if there's a better way to make announcements so that we can spend more quality time with our Athena sisters?

A. You are in luck! Our current President has decided she doesn't like reading all those announcements either, so we will be passing out a sheet of announcements as you check in for our monthly lunches. Only significant announcements (like **Betty Castor's** recent achievement award) will be orally presented. Wednesday noon will be the deadline for submitting announcements to **Eleanor Hubbard**.

Q. I noticed that two raffle prizes (each awarding a massage or facial and breakfast at the historic Tahitian Inn) were given away at last month's lunch. How do I qualify?

A. All you need to do is attend the monthly lunches where a random drawing from our lunch attendees is made.





News About Members

Doretha Edgecomb is ending 52 years of dedicated service to the Hillsborough County School System and invites Athena members to her retirement celebration on October 13. Organized by the East Tampa Community Revitalization Partnership and Hillsborough County Public Schools, it will be held at Middleton High School (4801 No. 22nd Street) from 5 to 7 p.m. For additional information and to RSVP, click on this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/doretha-wynn-edgecombs-retirement-celebration-tickets-27593783750>

Donna Petersen, in addition to being Dean of the USF College of Public Health, is now also Interim Dean of the USF College of Nursing.

Jane Castor will be the keynote speaker for the Exceptional Women Scholarship Fund luncheon on October 11 at the Centre Club. Tickets are \$50 and can be reserved at networkexecwomen.com/events.

An excellent article highlighting **Lorraine Lutton's** management skills appears in the August/September issue of TAMPA Magazine. To access it, click this link – <http://thetampamagazine.com/lorraine-lutton/>

Former Member **Renu Khator**, President of the University of Houston, will be inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame on October 21.



Nominating Committee Election

At the September meeting members voted for six individuals to serve on the 2016-17 Nominating Committee. The following were elected:

Karen Arnold
Bonnie Carr
Linda Devine

Lorraine Lutton
Candy Olson
Lorna Taylor

October 21 Bonus - VOTE?

Are you disenchanted with the current political climate? Need a break from the partisan political bickering? Here's your chance to become inspired again by the reason for it all – VOTING! Join us for a fun evening of good food and theatre on Friday, October 21. We begin with dinner at 6 p.m. at Acropolis Restaurant, then proceed to Powerstories Theatre for an 8 p.m. performance of VOTE?, a riveting story about WHY we cast our vote and the hard fought battles throughout history to secure that precious right. The restaurant and theatre are located an easy driving distance to each other on W. Kennedy Blvd. Mark your calendars now and check the Athena web site shortly for more details and registration information. Please contact **Jeanette LaRussa Fenton**, 813/610-2653 or jlfen@verizon.net with any questions.



2016-17 Calendar

October 21 – Bonus – Powerstories
November 3 – Luncheon
December 11 - Holiday Party
January 5 – Luncheon
February 2 – Luncheon
March 2 – Luncheon
April 6 – Luncheon (YWP)
May 4 – Luncheon (Career Asst. Grants)
June 8 – Dinner (Annual Meeting)



October Birthdays

Birthday wishes to the following members who celebrate in October:

Gail Auerbach
Barbara Bachman
Marisa Belote
Beth Bernitt
Diane Bostow

Moira Burke
Linda Devine
Diane Egnor
Amy Farrior
Lee Leavengood

Judy Lisi
Jean McNally
Mary Scriven
Susan Stern
Lara Tibbals

Becca Tieder
Louisa VanEepoel



AthenaVoices

“I’m a woman Phenomenally.” – Maya Angelou

In celebration of Athena Society’s upcoming 40th Anniversary, we want to hear from our phenomenal Athena members. We plan to create a short compilation video asking Athena women to share when and how they found their voice. *Athena Voices* will document the story of our accomplished women and inspire the future generation. The video will be showcased at the end of the year meeting and on our website. If interested to participate, please contact **Michelle Schofner**, mschofner@iconconsultant-group.com. Look forward to hearing your voice!

Members’ Projects

Mary Estes invites Athena members to support Bridging Freedom for A Trip To The Far East taking place on October 8. The evening at Pepin Hospitality Center will consist of dinner, a fashion show featuring Al-Amwar Fashion, Bollywood dancers, raffle and much more! To purchase tickets and/or become a sponsor, visit <http://www.bridgingfreedom.org>. Bridging Freedom is raising money to build a campus community in Tampa to ensure the safety of victims of human trafficking and provide them an opportunity for treatment.

Athena Society



B R I E F I N G S

November, 2016

2016-2017 OFFICERS

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DENISE JORDAN
SUSAN STERN
ALTERNATE: BECCA TIEDER

ADMINISTRATOR/EDITOR

ELEANOR HUBBARD
813/251-9172
ewhubbard@aol.com

ATHENA SOCIETY

P.O. Box 10813
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33679

Upcoming Meeting

WHEN: Thursday, November 3
11:55 a.m.

WHERE: Centre Club
Westshore at Kennedy

PROGRAM: Women in Religion

PANELISTS: Sister Anne Dougherty, Franciscan Retreat
Rev. Loli Reiter, Seffner Presbyterian Church
Pilar Saad, Teacher at Universal Academy
of Florida
Rabbi Debrah Shenefelt, founder of Or
Ahavah community

MODERATOR: Doris Weatherford

MENU: Pomegranate Glazed Chicken
Veg plate available on request when reserving.

COST: Guests - \$30

RSVP: By October 31 – Register online
or email ewhubbard@aol.com

OPEN MEETING – GUESTS WELCOME

November's program will be a panel discussion on the status of women in religion, as well as changes on the horizon. Each of the panelists will share her personal path, as well as what she sees for women in her faith regarding ordination, leadership opportunities, relative restrictions on male vs. female behavior and entrance of young women into the vocation.

Please feel free to bring questions and to invite guests.

www.athena-society.com





President's Message

Writing on deadline presents a unique set of challenges, to say the least, one of which is tailoring my message to timely gain traction with you, knowing full well my words will not be read for a good number of days, post editing.

For the month upcoming, this means dissemination of our November newsletter dovetails not only within a week of our country choosing a new President but also within days of my daughter Mandi getting married. Rather than wade into the cauldron that is this year's Presidential election, other than to say may it soon be over, please indulge my focus on Mandi and her fiancée Patrick and share with you the depth of feeling and emotion accompanying this life cycle nuptial event as I am sure many of you can relate. The poignancy of the moment and the magnitude of the event will resonate with me for time immemorial; it already has.

To quote Harry Chapin's *Cat's in the Cradle*, seems our Mandi "arrived just the other day, came to the world in the usual way," and that was almost 30 years ago. As a working mom, time races by and before you look up, your child is crawling, walking, talking, running, and reaching normal milestones. Yet, in November, 1995, just three (3) months shy of her 9th birthday, Mandi's heart unexpectedly failed and she went through a harrowing and ominous time, culminating in a heart transplant. That date, seared forever into my brain, was December 15, 1995.

The maternal instinct to protect one's child and nurture her/him is woven into every fiber of our DNA. As a mother, it is paramount, above all else, our *raison d'être* (reason/justification for existing). I jumped into this enormous challenge head first, along with my husband Mark and our entire family. Has it been a whirlwind? Of course and frightening at times, too, but worth every solitary moment. Today Mandi is vibrant and beautiful and has never shied from her medical situation either. For over a decade, Mandi has been an upper tier champion fund raiser for the American Heart Association Heart Walk, also in November, and I thank each of you who have supported her (and me) over the years.

I trust anyone you love safely rode out Hurricane Matthew or, better yet, rather than tempt fate, came to you for sanctuary during the storm. Mother Nature asserting herself with events like Matthew shines a light on the dangerous work our first responders and law enforcement officers do in these storms. These are our individual municipality's local heroes, who care not about your skin color, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion or political bent. They just know you need help, to be out of harm's way, and their selfless sacrifices are often overlooked, especially in these turbulent times.

It was law enforcement officers, in fact, who were front and center at our October "Bringing Unity to Our Community" luncheon. Our distinguished panelists spoke candidly, assisted ably by the Moderator, Dr. Roy Kaplan, the program's nuances and details impeccably choreographed by our program chair, **Tina Tenret** and her able assistant, **Jane Castor**. Thank you, one and all. My takeaways from this discussion include: the urgent need for a community focus on solving the growing dissention between the public and law enforcement; body cameras are here to stay, use them and promptly release video to the public to stave off (hopefully) rioting and vandalizing; the effect media can play in skewing public perception of law enforcement by illuminating to a fault any supposed misdeed while ignoring or downplaying law enforcement's everyday good deeds, decency; and how labels (read *Black Lives Matter / Blue Lives Matter*) can do more to polarize than harmonize. Let the dialogue continue locally, statewide, nationally and in homes, houses of worship, coffeehouses, courthouses, ball fields, on-line, everywhere.

November promises another compelling Lunch and Learn gathering. Our topic is "Women in Religion," which I am sorry to miss. The date is Thursday, November 3rd and I will be at the wedding destination!



Lorraine Lutton Departs

It is with mixed emotions that I announce that I have accepted the position of CEO and President of Roper St. Francis Health Care in Charleston, SC. Roper St. Francis is a private, not for profit health system with three hospitals across the greater Charleston area. I will miss Tampa and the wonderful women of Athena, but it is an excellent growth opportunity for me. We will continue to keep a house in Tampa and I hope to see you often. Thank you each for being such a blessing in my life. And let me know if you will be visiting Charleston.

Athena Housekeeping

The departure of **Lorraine Lutton** left two important positions open: a slot on the Nominating Committee which will be filled by **Rachelle Bedke**, the next highest vote getter. **Lorna Taylor** has been elected to fill Lorraine's unexpired term on the Board of Directors.

Work will soon begin on the updated edition of our pocket directory to be distributed at the January luncheon. Because all information is captured from your webpage, **please make sure it has been updated by November 15.**

If you don't yet have an Athena pin or pendant, you might consider gifting yourself during the holiday season. Those in sterling silver are \$40; vermeil (14K gold over sterling) are \$50. Please mail your check payable to Athena to P.O. Box 10813, Tampa 33679.

The Commission on the Status of Women is accepting nominations for the 2017 Women's Hall of Fame Class; deadline is 5 p.m. October 31. For additional information and for the nomination form, visit the website at hcflgov.net/COSW.

Bonus Activities

Our second Dine-Around of the year is set for 6 p.m., Friday, November 11, at Grattzi's in St. Pete. Besides classic Italian food in a classy environment, the main attraction will be **Lisa Robbins'** informal discussion of climate change issues and how they affect the ocean. No one is more qualified to speak on this topic than Lisa. She's spent months on the ocean and has fascinating tales to tell about her adventures as Senior Research Scientist at the U.S. Geological Survey. If you'd like to join your sisters at Grattzi (211 Second Street So.), contact **Bonnie Saks**, brs331@gmail.com.

If you'd like to launch the holiday season early, treat yourself to the ever-popular *The Great Gatsby* at Stageworks Theatre, 8 p.m., Thursday, December 1. For those who'd like to come early and enjoy an elegant dinner, we've arranged a prix fixe meal at Cena just a block from the theatre. Gatsby ticket is \$15; with dinner at Cena, it's \$65. Contact **Karla Hartley** (stageworkspad@gmail.com) for theatre tickets and dinner reservations. Additional details on our website.

Members' Projects

Save the date! *Mama Rwanda* film premieres in Tampa on November 29, 7 p.m. at the Straz. The Akilah Institute for Women is thrilled to partner with award-winning filmmaker, Laura Waters Hinson, for this release of her newest film which follows two Rwandan women and highlights the roles of education and access to capital in empowering women to overcome poverty through entrepreneurship. If you're interested in sponsorship, please see **Susan Freeman**. Here is the link to purchase VIP or regular tickets: https://akilah.secure.force.com/events/cnp_paas_evt_ExternalRegistrationPage?Site_Id=a1z31000000efy8AAA.



Dear Goddess

Q. Does Athena have an anti-nepotism rule?

A. No, in fact we're proud of our eight mother-daughter member combinations: **Pat/Stacy Frank; Alice Luckey/Gwynne Young; Lee Leavengood/Ann Giles; Betty/Kathy Castor; Linda Gibbs/Shannon Reid; Paulette Gross/Becca Teider; Helen/Denise Chavez; Cecile/Lee and Katherine Essrig.**

News About Members

Our deepest sympathy to **Stella Thayer** for the recent loss of her mother, Louise Lykes Ferguson, lifelong Tampa resident and community activist.

Diane Bostow is a candidate for the US House of Representatives in Michigan's First District (the upper portion of the lower peninsula and the entire upper peninsula.) She is a Libertarian who is a feminist, supports reproductive rights and continues to support the principles of the Equal Rights Amendment. She would be the first woman to represent that district and the first Libertarian in the Congress. Her cousin, Gary Johnson, is the third choice for President on all ballots in the country.

2016-17 Calendar

November 11 – Bonus – Dine Around in St. Pete
December 1 – Bonus – Theatre: The Great Gatsby
December 11 – Holiday Party (5 to 7 p.m.)
January 5 – Luncheon
February 2 – Luncheon
March 2 – Luncheon
April 6 – Luncheon (YWP)
May 4 – Luncheon (Career Asst. Grants)
June 8 – Dinner (Annual Meeting)

November Birthdays

Birthday wishes to the following members who celebrate in November:

Amelia Campbell
Jeanette Fenton
Pat Frank
Julia Freeman
Susan Freeman

Kassie Grizzard
Libby Jenkins
Anne Kantor
Margaret Mathews

Luanne Panacek
Amanda Sansone
Caroline Sikorske
Renee Vaughn
Andrea Zelman



Community Action Committee

A child's learning experiences from birth through the first five years shape their future in every way possible. Young children's brains are still developing and building the foundations for complex reasoning, coping, and learning that increases the likelihood of positive futures. Indeed, study after study has shown the benefits that modest investments in education during the early years produce better outcomes for children that last into adulthood.

Parents are their child's first teacher and learning begins in the home. Children flourish in a loving setting with secure bonds and attachments to parents and caregivers. Homes with predictable routines, low stress and language rich environments help children to learn and grow. Parents who use every day experiences to touch, talk, play and read with their children help lay the foundation for success.

In addition, quality early education programs can produce higher IQ's, boost future academic and economic achievement and even help prevent incidences of chronic diseases and obesity in adulthood. Early learning programs also build socio-emotional traits which have greater effects on later life outcomes than most other cognitive skills a child will learn. Aside from the obvious benefits to our children – there are economic incentives too. Every public dollar spent on quality early education returns \$7 through increased productivity and savings on public assistance and criminal justice. In a 2010 report the Institute for a Competitive Workforce found that for every dollar invested in pre-kindergarten today, savings range from \$2.50 to as much as \$17 in the years ahead.

In Hillsborough County, since there are more than 900 licensed early education providers, including child care centers and family child care homes, I think it is best to list our key partners. They include:

- United Way and the Children's Board (similar mission focus and provide match funds, Children's Board funds Quality Counts For Kids).
- School Board of Hillsborough County, partnership for School Readiness services including enrollment and eligibility and developmental assessments and supports for children.
- Hillsborough County BOCC for partnership with Child Care Licensing and quality funds.
- Early Childhood Council for connecting families with services for children and working with providers.
- Champions For Children – parenting and school readiness education for families.

The providers must meet and maintain criteria established by the state and regulated locally by Hillsborough County Child Care Licensing to become a licensed provider. The Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County works with these child care providers to improve the quality of the care provided to children and child outcomes. The Coalition has a robust training program for providers that includes in-person and online training for the child care practitioners, onsite coaching and technical assistance and mini-grants for improvements that complement their instructional growth. For parents and caregivers, the Coalition's Family Services can provide guidance in recognizing and selecting a high quality early learning program best suited to meet the family's needs.

Through parents, providers, local early learning experts and community organizations working together, we can provide the comprehensive high quality education for our young children that builds successful futures for all children and our community.

Advocate with your state legislators to fully fund the state's voluntary pre-kindergarten. Donate your time, treasure and/or talent to support organizations that provide services to young children and their families. Read to a child at a nearby school, donate books and other resources, including money, to organizations such as these mentioned or serve on a Board or Committee working on early education issues.

Sandy Murman, Hillsborough County Commissioner

Athena Society

B R I E F I N G S

December, 2016

2016-2017 OFFICERS

PRESIDENTJEANNE TATE
PRESIDENT-ELECTDORETHA EDGECOMB
VP/MEMBERSHIPDIANNE JACOB
VP/PROGRAMSTINA TENRET
SECRETARYMINDY McLAUGHLIN
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GWYNNE YOUNG

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

BONNIE CARR
KERI EISENBEIS
KATHERINE ESSRIG
JEANETTE FENTON
DENISE JORDAN
SUSAN STERN
ALTERNATE: BECCA TIEDER

ADMINISTRATOR/EDITOR

ELEANOR HUBBARD
813/251-9172
ewhubbard@aol.com

ATHENA SOCIETY

P.O. Box 10813
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33679

Upcoming Meeting – Holiday Party

WHEN: Sunday, December 11
5 - 7 p.m.

WHERE: Home of **Sandy Murman**
410 Blanca, Davis Islands

COST: Member and one guest – complimentary
Additional guests - \$30

RSVP: By December 6 – Register online
or email ewhubbard@aol.com



Note from Hospitality Chair **Gwynne Young**: 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 Davis Islands home of **Sandy Murman** on Sunday, December 11, 5 - 7 p.m.

Come prepared for an elegant holiday atmosphere, festive setting on the water and a delicious buffet. There will be outdoor seating for those who want to enjoy what is expected to be still-perfect weather.

As an added attraction, the Davis Islands Civic Association is having their annual toy drive that night and we've arranged for their sleigh to stop by Sandy's house. To get in the spirit of the evening, please feel free to bring an unwrapped new toy for a child of any age.

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.

www.athena-society.com



President's Message

Athena Sisters, I suspect many of us are absorbing the unexpected outcome of our country's Presidential Election. I have never been a fan of rancorous partisanship and, frankly, hope that dynamic fades, if not completely, then at least into the backdrop. As I pen this message, however, seems the election's outcome still is reverberating on our streets and inner cities, those displeased with the result expressing their indignation and displeasure; may these demonstrations of free expression stay peaceful.

What I always have found repugnant, and what sadly was in full bloom this campaign, is the vitriol, the bombast, the denigrating of anyone who dares hold, let alone express, a contrary view. Both in my home life and office practice - along with my business and social interactions - I favor a more conciliatory and respectful direction. This is not tantamount to capitulation or weakness but rather establishes an air of mutual respect and decency toward one and all, which in turn promotes outcomes that are considerate and respectful to all.

That is why I was so heartened the first two (2) days, post-election, by the messages of unity issued by the election's three (3) principals, namely, President-Elect Trump, Secretary Clinton and President Obama, respectively, each of whose comments I found pitch perfect, both in word and tone.

Secretary Clinton spoke with her own call for unity, her plea to a legion of dyed-in-the-wool supporters to get behind the new duly elected Commander in Chief, of whom the Secretary instructed her acolytes, "*We owe him an open mind and the chance to lead.*" Plus, the Secretary spoke directly to all women and young girls of our country, empowering one and all to keep reaching skyward, "*never doubt that you are valuable and powerful and deserving of every chance and opportunity in the world to pursue and achieve your own dreams.*" That, indeed, is a message that should resonate with all women and one that is a non-partisan clarion call to action and engagement.

Regardless of which side of the aisle you find yourself, these initial comments forging unity, promoting coalescence, give me confidence that our great country shall move inexorably forward, its vibrancy and freedoms on display for all.

Last month's "Women in Religion" luncheon came off, I am told, without a hitch and proved popular, the speakers dynamic and the dialogue scintillating. Thank you to **Doris Weatherford** and **Mary Gamble** for taking the laboring oar with this luncheon. The four panelists spoke in order of the age of their religion, with Rabbi Debrah Schenefelt appearing first. She aspired to be a rabbi from childhood, a time when that was not possible for women, and the story of her professional path included praise for the mentorship of Tampa's Rabbi Rose, the father of Athenian **Eldra Solomon**.

Next was Sister Anne Dougherty, a Franciscan who took her vows in Allegheny, New York, but has served Tampa for many years, including work at St. Joseph's Hospital, a mission for people with AIDS, and currently operating the Franciscan Retreat on the Hillsborough River. She also served as a police chaplain for Athenian **Jane Castor**.

Islam began in the early 600s and Pilar Saad spoke to that faith. She grew up in Tampa with a Danish father and a Colombian mother. While studying in Paris, she met and admired Muslim families and converted after deciding to marry a Lebanese man. She now teaches at a Muslim academy in Tampa. Pilar was thrilled to reunite with Athenian **Jeanette LaRussa Fenton**; they had been cheerleaders together at Tampa Catholic.

continued on next page



President's Message - continued from previous page

Rev. Lolimarta Ros Reisner represented Protestantism, which began in the 1500s and also had an interesting life story. Of mixed-race heritage, she was born in Puerto Rico and came here when her church sent her father as a missionary to the US! She graduated from seminary in South Carolina and served a church there before accepting a call to Seffner Presbyterian Church, where her congregants include Athenian **Alex Sink**.



Directory – December 8 Deadline

Because of the holiday activity and everyone's busy schedules, we've extended the directory update deadline to December 8. As all the information is taken from your webpage, please make sure that yours is accurate, especially email and phone contacts. If you need help, contact **Jean McNally** (jmcnally@revtrans.com) or **Eleanor Hubbard**.

Athena Housekeeping

Bonus Committee meeting today (November 28) at 6 p.m. at the home of **Carolyn Reed**. Questions? Contact her at docreed@gmail.com.

Please join Athena on Facebook! We have a closed member group called Athena Society Inc. that will provide our members with a way to connect and share photos and mementos. As **Becca Tieder** said, it is a great way to support one another in real time. You must be an Athena member to join. We are close to 100 members already!

Deadline for membership nominations is March 4; any questions should be directed to Membership VP **Dianne Jacob**. All members can participate in the sponsorship process with the exception of members inducted in 2016.

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

No luncheon meeting in December; January 5 is the date of our next one.

News About Members

Betty Castor has been elected Chairman-Elect of the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay; **Susan Grady** has been elected Secretary.

Nancy Hutson, formerly at Busch Gardens, has been promoted to Corporate VP of Events & Entertainment at SeaWorld in Orlando. She can be reached at 407/226-5172 or Nancy.Hutson@seaworld.com



Community Action Committee

Making High-Quality Early Learning Affordable to Everyone

Last month the CAC provided you with information on how important early childhood learning is to the future success of our children. Providing quality early learning experiences – both at home and at daycare - sets kids up for healthier minds, bodies, relationships, and economic success later in life. This is pretty much undisputable.

However, quality early learning programs are expensive. Very expensive. You may have read about a report by *The Care Index* that came out this year that said that daycare is more expensive than college! As the mom of a two-year old, that is a daunting thought. And I know my son has advantages some kids don't – two parents with advanced degrees, a loving, stable home life, rich and diverse life experiences, and enrollment in one of the best daycares in our community.

So what about our littlest neighbors who don't have those same advantages? In many cases, the cards are stacked against them even before they step into their kindergarten classroom. Too many families in Tampa Bay – and around the country – face one of these two barriers to giving their children the best academic start: they can't afford the tuition to the daycare they desire or there aren't high-quality childcare options nearby. State licensing requirements for daycares are minimal, and they do not measure the quality of the learning experiences. (They look at indicators like student to teacher ratio, classroom size and required safety features.) And an unfortunate fact for the poorer neighborhoods in our community is that there just aren't enough (or *any*) high-quality daycares to match the number of families who need them.

A few ways to help bring equity to early learning options across socio-economic statuses include increasing funding for programs like Early Head Start and Head Start, Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten and subsidized childcare, requiring learning indicators be included in daycare licensing, and increasing opportunities for affordable, high-quality early childhood training programs. There are many organizations and community champions working hard to increase access to high-quality, affordable daycare options for Tampa Bay families, but there is still much to be done.

Carlye Morgan



**Please save the afternoon on Friday, February 17, 2017
For an Athena "Time & Talent" activity
At the Helen Gordon Davis Centre for Women**



December Birthdays

Birthday wishes to the following members who celebrate in December:

Jane Castor
Susan Dellinger
Katherine Essrig
Lorraine Lutton
Carlye Morgan

Donna Petersen
Gayla Russell
Stella Thayer
Kem Toole
Pam Wolf

2016-17 Calendar

December 1 – Bonus – Theatre: The Great Gatsby

December 11 – Holiday Party (5 to 7 p.m.)

January 5 – Luncheon

February 2 – Luncheon

March 2 – Luncheon

March 4 – Membership nomination deadline

April 6 – Luncheon (YWP)

May 4 – Luncheon (Career Asst. Grants)

June 8 – Dinner (Annual Meeting)



Members' Projects

Gift of Adoption Fund is celebrating 20 years and grants to over 1,800 families with a Walk and Celebration on November 30th. They'll have a one-mile nature walk at 5:00 p.m. at Carillon in St. Petersburg representing the final mile in a child's adoption journey. At 5:30 they'll celebrate at the Courtside Grille with a family that received a grant. The first 50 to register at <http://giftofadoption.org/flmile/> and arrive get a free drink ticket! **Jeanne Tate** invites anyone touched by adoption and all who care about improving the lives of children to join them. Find out more at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1306546996035986/> Parking available: 300 Carillon Parkway, Saint Petersburg, 33716.

Jeanne also asks that you please consider supporting Tampa Bay charities during your holiday shopping through Amazon Smile. If you don't have a charity, Heart of Adoptions Alliance, Inc. would be pleased to have your support so they can create permanent adoption options for special needs children.