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## BRIEFINGS

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September 2018

### 2018 -2018 OFFICERS

President	Betty Castor
President Elect	Lorna Taylor
VP/Membership	Keri Eisenbeis
VP/Programs	Diane Egner
Secretary	Tina Tenret
Treasurer	Zoe Gustafson
Imm. Past President	Doretha Edgecomb

### BOARD

Bonnie Carr  
Carlye Morgan  
Fentrice Driskell  
Mary Gamble  
Dianne Jacob  
Mindy McLaughlin

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Lee Essrig  
Chantel Hevia  
Susan Leisner  
Ann Miller  
Tina Tenret  
Becca Tieder

Administrator / Editor

Johanne Castagan  
813-928-07965

administrator@Athena-Society.com

### Upcoming Meeting

**When:** Thursday, September 6th at 11:55a.m.

**Where:** [Centre Club](#)

123 S West Shore Blvd 8th floor

**Program:** Nearly half of the workforce, women earn more college and graduate degrees than men. Yet, women continue to earn considerably less than men. According to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, equal pay would reduce poverty among working women and their families by more than half and would add \$513 billion to the national economy.

Athena members Gail Golman Holtzman and Simone Gans Barefield explore the legal and business dimensions of pay inequality and offer strategies and practical tips to eliminate the barriers to pay equity for women.

**Menu:** Boursin-Stuffed Airline Chicken Breast with Black Mission Fig Port Wine Demi

Vegetarian option available upon request when reserving.

**Cost:** \$32 for guests

**RSVP:** By August 31 - Register [online](#) or email: administrator@athena-society.com

OPEN MEETING – GUESTS WELCOME

## President's Message

The New Year is upon us and our Athena sisters are already preparing for meetings and activities. These plans are occurring because Athena is an organization of talented and committed women. After carving out successful careers and caring for their families, they reach out to improve our communities. One of my goals is to help Athena recognize the skills of our members and the contributions they make.

The new members personify our talents and energy. We welcome them! Our Mentoring Committee, led by Ann Madsen, is already creating a plan to help match our new recruits within our growing organization. In addition, Lorna Taylor, President-Elect is analyzing ways to optimize our new members' considerable leadership skills for the good of our organization.

My second goal is to build on our remarkable legacy. As Susanne McCormick reminded us at the retreat and during our fun-filled Trivial Pursuit game, we are following in the footsteps of some powerful women. Our legacy extends not only to our immediate family, but also to those national leaders, like Ruth Bader Ginsburg (hope you saw RBG) and Mary McLeod Bethune whose statute will soon represent Florida in the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall!

There are two more areas of emphasis in my sight. First, members have said clearly that they want a more activist agenda. Last year Bonnie Carr led the way and now Kem Toole will help steer the Community Action Committee to identify substantive issues in which we can engage.

Finally, Athenians have shown a charitable spirit in supporting Young Women of Promise and Career Assistance Grants. Let's continue to build on those iconic programs and ask our Philanthropy Committee to find new ways in which we can enhance our philanthropic reputation.

I am inspired by the caliber of our membership and you can be sure that your Athena leadership team is energized about the potential in the year ahead.

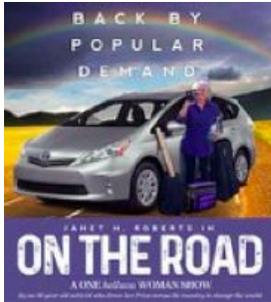
Thank you,  
Betty

There is still time to make a contribution to Athena Philanthropy  
A list of donors will be shared in our October news



## Member News and Events

**Betty Castor** and her husband, Sam Bell are being recognized for the first annual “Brian McEwen Award for Outstanding Impact on Children and Families” at the Dream Keepers Ball on *September 29th*. This is an inaugural award and recognition for exceptional leadership of someone(s) making a difference in the lives of children and families with bold ideas and a deep commitment to help make our community more caring and nurturing for families. [Get details and ticket info here.](#)



**Jan Robert's** *On The Road: A One helluva Woman Show* is back by popular demand! Jan's first showings sold out both nights so **Karla Hartley**, Athena Sister and Artistic Producer for Stageworks, scheduled another one for Sunday, *September 9th!* Get your tickets [here](#).

On Wednesday *October 10<sup>th</sup>*, join us at 5:30 pm at Cheese Please in South Tampa for a feisty roundtable with **Erin Aebel**, one of our newest members, partner at Shumaker, and co-founder of the now international Surly Feminists for the Revolution. Hear how her life changed in 2016, why she chose to be not only a feminist but an activist, and her dreams for her daughter given today's environment. All voices welcome at this interactive session to discuss what's mission critical. Limit: 30 people. We have booked the private room. Each person can order and cover her own wine and/or cheese. Please RSVP to Tina Tenret (tina@thetenretcompany.com) by October 5.

Congratulations to Janet Echelman, Daughter of Athena Sister, Anne Kantor! Tampa-born artist Janet Echelman, who has had installations around the world, has been awarded the contract to install one of her billowing pieces in the new 26-acre Pier District coming soon to St. Petersburg. [Tampa Bay Times - Echelman wins spot at St Pete Pier](#)

## Nominating Committee Election

At the Annual Meeting in June, members voted for six individuals to serve on the 2018-19 Nominating Committee. The following were elected:

Moira Burke      Katherine Essrig      Bonnie Carr  
Juel Smith      Mimi Stamps      Jeanne Tate

## A Note from Eleanor Hubbard

It's difficult to articulate my feelings for Athena and my gratitude for the warm, appreciative notes I received on my recent retirement. It really touched my heart to hear from so many of you.

As I've gotten to know you during these 34 years, I count many as dear friends. I've enjoyed our shared experiences and honestly had a great time doing it! The best part is that I can still participate, thanks to the gracious gesture of making me an honorary member. Furthermore, it pleases me to know that I'm leaving this position in capable hands.

Athena is truly a unique organization because each of you makes it that way. I'm thrilled to be a part of it and look forward to my first meeting next month!

## September Birthdays



Karen Arnold  
Maruchi Azorin  
Dore Beach  
Kathleen Betancourt  
Edna Broyles  
Kim DeBosier  
Mary Estes  
Elizabeth Frazier

Yvonne Fry  
Zoe Gustafson  
Felicia Harvey  
Chantal Hevia  
Paddy Moses  
Candy Olson  
Doris Weatherford

## Athena Store

### **Athena Scarves**

For Members ONLY

\$35

### **Athena Pins**

Sterling \$40 or Vermeil \$45

Online ordering coming soon!

## In Remembrance...

### Remembering Sylvia Marion Carley, Ph. D.

Sylvia Carley was a Tampa native, who grew up in Ybor City, graduated from Middleton Senior High School and attended Bethune-Cookman College (BA); Clark Atlanta University (MS); the University of Florida (Ph. D.); and Harvard University, where she obtained a certificate in Higher Education Management.

Fifty years ago, in 1968, she was the first African American hired to work at the Department of Health and Human Services. It would become symbolic of her perpetual role as a trailblazer, who was always keenly aware of the needs of her community and her call to serve. Later, Sylvia worked as a college professor, Dean, Vice President of Education and Student Development, and as President of the Ybor City Campus at Hillsborough Community College (HCC); the fifth largest community college in the State of Florida. Significantly, while she was at HCC, Sylvia's responsibilities included serving as the principal investigator for federal grants that focused on supporting first generation college students in their academic endeavors, assisting underprepared students in their pursuit of academic excellence and documenting best practices in the preparation of underprepared students and their success.

Her 50 year career included thirty-five (35) years at HCC; and ten (10) as a retired college administrator and President/CEO of Marion & Associates. Marion & Associates specialized in preparing institutions for accreditation and compliance visits, and in designing and coordinating events that focused on retention and the academic success of underrepresented students. Even after retirement, Sylvia continuously engaged locally and nationally in directing initiatives to enhance the lives of children and adults through education.

Deeply concerned with the plight of African American and Latino males, she founded the national summit, "*Black, Brown and College Bound: Meeting the Challenges of Higher Education.*" The summit focused on limited minority access, persistent under representation, and retention in high school and college of African American and Latino males. Over 5,000 participants from more than 25 states attended and participated in the annual national conference. In 2018, the summit was in its 12<sup>th</sup> year.

Sylvia was empowered through her work and collaborations with other women in many organizations, including the Athena Society; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (life member); the National Council of Negro Women (life member); and the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. She was also a life member of the NAACP.

Sylvia received many awards and accolades, including: the National Award in Leadership by the Chair Academy, a worldwide organization for college and university leaders; and a gubernatorial appointment to the Florida Education Fund Board of Directors. In 2015, Sylvia was installed into the Hillsborough County Commission Women's Hall of Fame.

She was a member of the Beulah Baptist Institutional Church, married to Henry and had 3 children, 6 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Sylvia was a rare and authentic community treasure, who will be missed by many.



## In Remembrance...

### Celebration of Life for Athena Sister Melinda Chavez

A celebration of life for Athena Sister Melinda Chavez is being held Saturday, October 6, 2018 from 3 pm to 5 pm at the home of her daughter, Deirdre Knapp. Rsvp: [lcriswell@ziegler.com](mailto:lcriswell@ziegler.com).

Daughter Deirdre Knapp's address:  
1908 W Morrison Avenue  
Tampa, FL, 33606  
[dknapp@beauxartsgoup.com](mailto:dknapp@beauxartsgoup.com)

Daughter Lavinia Criswell's address:  
2631 Jetton Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33629  
[lcriswell@zeigler.com](mailto:lcriswell@zeigler.com)

[Obituary](#)

## 2018-2018 Calendar

September 6 - Luncheon  
October 4 - Luncheon  
November 1 - Luncheon  
December 9 - Holiday Party  
January 3 - Luncheon  
February 7 - Luncheon  
March 7 - Luncheon  
April 4 - Luncheon (YWP)  
May 2 - Luncheon (Career Asst Grants)  
June 6 - Dinner (Annual Meeting)

Catch up on all the photos from Athena's Summer Events!

<https://www.athena-society.com/galleries/>



**Athena Society, Inc.**  
**PO Box 10813**  
**Tampa, FL 33679**  
[www.Athena-Society.com](http://www.Athena-Society.com)