

Athena Society

BRIEFINGS

February 2019

2018 -2019

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VP/Programs	Diane Egner
VP/Community Action	Kem Toole
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Administrator / Editor

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Upcoming Meeting

When: Thursday, February 7th at 11:55 a.m.

Where: [Centre Club](#) 123 S. Westshore Blvd, 8th floor

Program Details:

What's New, What's Next and What More is Needed in the Entrepreneurial and Technology Ecosystem in Tampa Bay

Come hear from the four leaders of the most impactful tech incubators/accelerators/co-work share entities in the Tampa Bay area, all of whom are women! Innovation, creativity and technology will drive not only our community but all great cities.

The Tampa Bay entrepreneurial ecosystem is alive and well, as our panel members will share with you. An entrepreneurial ecosystem is largely driven by tech accelerators and incubators, which house these start-up, technology-based companies.

We envision a conversation about these business accelerators/incubators in the Tampa Bay Tech community as well as the role of women in this space. We will discuss the investment gap that women and people of color have long faced in raising capital to fund their tech start-up businesses. We will also get an update on the state of the market and how Athena members can be supportive to this community.

Program Moderator will be [Penny Parks of Links Financial](#).

Our esteemed Panelists are:

Lakshmi Shenoy, [Embarc Collective](#)

Rachel Marks Feinman, [Florida-Israel Business Accelerator](#)

Tonya Elmore, [Tampa Bay Innovation Center](#)

Linda Olson, [Tampa Bay Wave](#)

Menu: Boursin and Macadamia Nut-Crusted Mahi

Vegetarian option available upon request when reserving.

RSVP: February 4th - By email to
administrator@athena-society.com or [Online](#)
OPEN MEETING – GUESTS WELCOME (\$35 pp)

President's Message

Athena members are always busy and this month is no exception. However, you won't want to miss our February 7th luncheon which will focus on entrepreneurs, innovation and new Ideas. Key women in these areas will walk through emerging opportunities for women in technology fields and related professional activities. These leaders and influencers, identified by Program Chair **Diane Egner** and her sharp-eyed committee colleagues, are prepared to share their expertise and I look forward to learning a thing or two from the attendees, as well.

This year's Black History Month is full of events and celebrations featuring our members. One very special presentation will unfold on February 10th at the former Tampa Bay Hotel where Maggie Stroud, an African American woman was employed as a laundress during the 1920s. Maggie Stroud's granddaughter is our own **Doretha Edgcomb**, who will share personal memories of her grandmother at the event. Thankfully, opportunities for Black women and men have changed significantly in the last 100 years. We can always strive to do better and many Athena sisters are part of that effort.

February will highlight a number of our long- held *Position Statements*, including the Equal Rights Amendment, the signature issue in the beginning days of Athena. Our Programs and Community Action Committees are discussing the ERA. Why now? It's because the 2019 session of the Florida Legislature, set to convene on March 5th, could very well be the setting for hearings on resolutions dealing with the passage of the ERA – one in the House (HCR 209) and its companion in the Senate (SCR 266).

Under Nancy Ford's leadership in the mid 1970s, Athena vowed to play a role in passing the ERA. Florida is yet again positioned to become the last state in this long struggle for approval of this crucial constitutional amendment. Senator **Arthenia Joyner** led legislative efforts in past years and the renewed endeavor is a continuation of her fight. However, it won't be easy. We'll learn more and add our collective voice once again. Stay tuned.

Other issues will be debated by the Legislature including funding education, protecting women's rights and addressing sexual harassment. Following our last luncheon presentation on reducing violence and limiting access to guns and assault weapons, the Board of Directors approved a letter to all members of the Hillsborough and Pinellas legislative delegations informing them of our concerns. In this regard, legislation has already been filed to ban assault weapons. We're pleased and proud that Athena member Representative **Fentrice Driskell** will be among others voting on some of these measures in the House.

But wait . . . there's more! March 5th is Election Day in the City of Tampa. If you are a Tampa resident, you will play a role in determining who will lead the City for the next four years. Vote by mail ballots are already out and must be returned by March 3rd. Early voting is February 25 to March 3. Remember to vote. While it may be seen as just a "Tampa Election," there's a lot at stake for all of Tampa Bay. But then, savvy Athena sisters already know that.



Bonus Committee

Upcoming Get to Know the New Members Events:

- February 13th Get Together and Get to Know One of Our Newest Members: Claire Lessinger
5:30PM at Cheese Please
- March 27th Get to know New Member Kathleen Moore
6pm at Cheese Please

April 6th Tour of the Harbor and Tampa Bay

Limited to 30

Your Athena Bonus committee is planning a tour of the harbor and Tampa Bay. It will be led by Carolyn Kurtz, Athena Member and Harbor Pilot, and Dr. Kathleen Heidi, Athena member, who is with Operations with the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Current Plan is: Meet on Davis Island where the boat will pick us up Saturday morning, April 6th at 10:00 AM. After the tour the boat will drop us off at Rick's on the River for lunch, and then return us to Davis Island. Estimate of the experience is 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Estimated cost for the boat is \$25.00 plus your lunch. Let us know if you are interested by emailing Miriam Mason at MiriamMason1@gmail.com

Tampa Airport & Operations Tour on January 16

Athena sisters received an update from TPA followed by words from **Adelaide Few**, the first woman to be appointed to The Hillsborough County Aviation Authority. **Margaret Miller** described the selection process for some of the amazing artwork. The evening concluded with visits to Airside F and the Rental Car Facility (via the new SkyConnect) for a tour of the art installed as part of TPA's billion dollar expansion. For more details on the art installations at Tampa Airport, visit their [website](#).



Membership Committee

Athena Sisters:

Our membership process has begun for 2019! Please consider nominating or co-sponsoring strong candidates from our community.

Download the form from our website [here](#)

Note on the form that you need to check that: 1) The candidate supports the Purposes of Athena, 2) The candidate has read the Position Statements of Athena.

Submissions are due by close of business on **March 1**.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Keri Eisenbeis or Becca Tieder.

Member News

In celebration of Black History Month, **Doretha Edgecomb** will appear during Historical Interludes at the Henry Plant Museum on Sunday, February 10, 2019. She will discuss her grandmother Maggie Stroud, who was a laundress at the Tampa Bay Hotel in the 1920s. The program begins at 2 pm with a 30-minute performance by Amber Forbes as Maggie Stroud. Following the performance, Doretha will lead an interactive question and answer session, and will bring a new understanding of and appreciation for the work of her grandmother and other African-American women of the time period. The program is free with Museum admission.

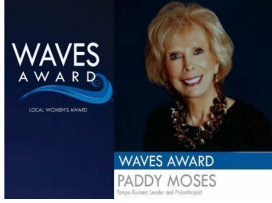
Congratulations to **Kathy Castor** on her appointment as Chair of the new Select Committee on the Climate Crisis by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Thank you to the Athena Bridge Club!

Funds for philanthropy were collected in honor of those in attendance at their December 16th gathering: Patti Breckenridge, Noni Brill, Denise Chavez, Susan Dellinger, Zoe Gustafson, Eleanor Hubbard, Candy Olson, Judy Ryan, Alex Sink, Betty Tribble and Doris Weatherford



Invitations



Tampa Business Leader and Philanthropist **Paddy Moses** will receive this year's WAVES award which honors a local leader for her work in the community. Paddy is the former CEO/Owner of Norrell Temporary Services. She serves as Chair of the Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees and the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce Liaison to MacDill AFB and Chair of the Private Industry Council, Tampa Bay. And, of course, a member of the Athena Society!

The 2019 Waves of Change Luncheon is being held on Friday, March 29th, at the Tampa Marriott Waterside.

If you would like to purchase a ticket and sit at one of the Athena tables, please contact Ann W. Madsen at amadsen@thencentre.org or on her direct line 813-210-9707.

40th Anniversary Person of Vision Award Dinner 2019 honoring H. Lee Moffitt is being held Monday, February 11, 2019 at the Hilton Downtown Tampa. [Preserve Vision Florida](http://PreserveVisionFlorida.org) is pleased to invite Athena Society members to join them at the special rate of \$150 per person. Please RSVP to Carol Eisman at ceisman@pvfla.org or call her at 813-494-6200.



Ruth Bell
Mary Gamble
Stephanie Ferrell
Nancy Huston
Arthenia Joyner
Susan Leisner
Marlene Spalten

2019 Directories

2019 Directories have arrived! If you have not received yours yet, they will be mailed out after our February luncheon.

Contact info updates:

Susan Casper's email is sgcasper@gmail.com

Lee Leavengood's email is leeleavengood@gmail.com

Maria Howey's address: 4000 E Fletcher Ave, G113, Tampa, 33613

Michelle Schofner's email: mschofne@tampabay.rr.com

More detail on our February Program

What is a business accelerator / incubator? A business accelerator/incubator is a program that gives developing companies access to mentorship, investors and other support that help them become stable, self-sufficient businesses. Companies that use business accelerators are typically start-ups that have moved beyond the earliest stages of getting established. Often these accelerators help new and start-up companies to develop by providing services such as management training, operational development and workspace.

The National Business Incubation Association (NBIA) defines business incubators as a catalyst tool for either regional or national economic development. NBIA categorizes their members' incubators by the following five incubator types: academic institutions; non-profit development corporations; for-profit property development ventures; venture capital firms, and a combination of the above.

2018-2019 Calendar

February 7 - Luncheon

February 28 - PAC Meeting

February 13 - Athena Bonus: Get to know New Member Claire Lessinger

March 7 - Luncheon

March 27 - Athena Bonus: Get to know New Member Kathleen Moore

April 4 - Luncheon (YWP)

April 6 - Athena Bonus: Tour of the Harbor and Tampa Bay

May 2 - Luncheon (Career Asst Grants)

June 6 - Dinner (Annual Meeting)

July 19 - 21 Athena Retreat



Athena Society, Inc.

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Do you have some news to share with your Athena Sisters?
Please send to Johanne at administrator@Athena-Society.com