

## Letter from the Director

I am really looking forward to the coming year, which is packed full of activities for 2003 class members and alumni. I want to start by thanking all of you for making my first year with LSS so rewarding. This next year promises to see further growth and expansion, thanks to the efforts of LSS alumni.

Our new Public Relations Committee, headed by Marci Soran and Katherine Watson, has been hard at work giving LSS a new look, redesigning the newsletter and brochure. Our Social Committee, headed by Karin Zarin, Melissa Helms-Buckner and Frances Seminara, threw a great Kick-off Picnic for this year's class and alumni, and will be providing refreshments for our expanded evening study sessions and planning other events.

You won't want to miss the 'new and improved' study sessions, which offer you a chance to learn about issues, as well as catch up with old and new classmates. On October 3, Tamara Carrera has an outstanding evening planned with speakers focusing on Hispanics in Sandy Springs. Elizabeth Kelly is spearheading our new Book Discussion Group this fall, which will first read Robert Putnam's *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*. What a great opportunity to expand our horizons.

The 2003 class is outstanding and, under the direction of program VPs Jay Boylan and Eric Ross, the program days planned are terrific. Remember alumni, you are welcome to join us for a day, if you let me know so we can plan accordingly. The schedule is printed in the newsletter.

I encourage each of you to stay connected to LSS by attending these activities. Through your involvement, LSS will continue to prosper, becoming more worthwhile for each member and the community. As always, if you have suggestions or questions, just e-mail me at [leadsandysprings@aol.com](mailto:leadsandysprings@aol.com). 🌸

Sincerely, Carolyn

## Class of 2002 Project Off & Running

The Class of 2002 is feverishly working on its class project. Much work has already been completed on the directory of non-profit organizations in Sandy Springs. Last minute information is being collected and the directory should be off to the presses by mid-September.

At the Sandy Springs Festival, September 21-22, the class will have a booth. Our purpose: represent non-profits in Sandy Springs, giving them an opportunity to meet Sandy Springs residents and distribute marketing materials. We also plan to distribute copies of the directory and promote our community volunteer day, which will be held in the spring.

Watch for more information in the next newsletter. 🌸



**LEADERSHIP  
SANDY SPRINGS**

## LSS Kicks Off Another Great Year

Leadership Sandy Springs celebrated the start of another great year with its annual picnic at the Williams-Payne House on Sept. 5. The Kick-Off, which honors new class members and LSS alumni, included fellowship, live entertainment, great food, fun and much more. Thank you to this year's sponsors: Charles Green; Fran Farias, select agent, State Farm; and Slope's BBQ. 🌸



# Welcome!

## Leadership Sandy Springs ~ Class of 2003

Patsy Acuff.....Heritage Sandy Springs  
Mark Aguilar .....Sr. Environmental Engineer,  
Georgia-Pacific  
Mary Joyce Bacon .....Corporate Development  
Coordinator, Northside Hospital  
Julia Bernath.....Board Member,  
Fulton County Schools  
Heather Duggan .....Division Director, Clinical Services,  
Saint Joseph's Hospital of Atlanta  
Keith Eigel, Ph.D.....Leadership Development Inc.  
Steve Fierro, D.C. ....Blue Stone Chiropractic &  
Rehabilitation  
Vivian Gaines.....Principal,  
High Point Elementary School  
Barbara Giamanco.....SS Rotary Club,  
Owner Dual Moon, Inc.  
Valerie Hills.....Asst. Director, Fulton County  
Dept of Parks & Recreation  
Alex Hofelich .....Traffic Engineer, Fulton County  
Public Works Department  
Elizabeth Igleheart .....Community Action Center,  
Volunteer  
Stan Lefco.....Law Offices, Stanley M. Lefco, P.C.  
Karen Meinzen McEnergy ..Sr. Asset Manager,  
Jupiter Realty Corp.  
Maritza Morelli .....ESOL Parent Liaison,  
Fulton County Schools  
Chawnn Redden .....Sandy Springs Revitalization  
David Robertson.....Willis Insurance Services of Georgia

Don Rountree .....General Manager,  
Rountree Group Communications  
Elna Sheetz .....Sandy Springs United  
Methodist Church  
Diana Sullivan, Ph.D. ....Coordinator, Cardiac Preventive  
Medicine Services, Northside  
Hospital  
Guy Taylor.....Taylor's Computer Solutions  
Debbie Van Nostrand.....Coordinator, Back, Neck and  
Stroke, Program, Northside Hospital  
Donald Woodruff .....Associate Director, Cowart Family,  
Ashford-Dunwoody YMCA



## Book Discussion Dates Set Don't Miss This New Alumni Benefit!

Leadership Sandy Springs is launching a new opportunity for all alumni this fall. As many of us have completed our class year, we've wished there were some way to continue the kind of issues exploration and dialogue that is so much a part of the programs and study groups. Well, now there's a way for you to do just that!

Join your fellow alumni for a three-session book discussion starting in October. All three sessions will be held at the Sandy Springs Library on Mt. Vernon Highway. Dates and times are as follows:

**Tuesday, October 8; 6-7:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday, November 12; 6-7:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday, December 3; 6-7:30 p.m.**

Light refreshments will be available. You can come to all the sessions or just one or two.

The first book to be discussed is *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*. The author, Robert Putnam, is a professor at Harvard who has written extensively about how our sense of community has eroded since World War II. The book is provocative and timely for us as individuals and particularly for Sandy Springs, as we strive to build a viable and vibrant community. It's a long book, but you can participate in the discussion by reading a chapter or two or by just bringing your own ideas on community. Check Amazon.com. or local bookstores to purchase a copy. The retail price for paperback is \$16.00. It's also available at several library branches (unfortunately not at Sandy Springs, but they can tell you where to find it).

RSVP by calling LSS at 404-256-9091 or via e-mail at leadsandysprings@aol.com. If you have questions, call Elizabeth Kelly (Class of 2002) at 770-988-9289 or e-mail at eskelly@mindspring.com.

## ***Alumni Spotlight: Hans A. Von Spakovsky***

It is hard to believe that it has been only six years since I graduated from Leadership Sandy Springs in the Class of 1996. LSS really made me aware of the history of Sandy Springs, giving me a perspective on it that I have never lost. It introduced me to all of the great community organizations that constitute the "unofficial" government of Sandy Springs.

I went from graduation to serving on the boards of many of those organizations, like the Sandy Springs Historical Community Foundation, which is responsible for the Williams-Payne House and the best park in the heart of our community. I also became president of the Sandy Springs Civic Roundtable, which for a long time was the only place in Sandy Springs where homeowners associations, government and businesses could meet in a neutral setting and try to work out their differences and discuss common objectives.

I helped found a homeowners association in my neighborhood and was its first vice president, and we worked hard to unite our neighborhood and represent it before county government so that we could make sure that our voices were heard. One of the things I am proudest of is that we were able to cajole, persuade, and badger the county into finding the money to install a new playground at the Abernathy Arts Center for the children in our neighborhood. And we had a hand in helping shape the new arts center building whose original design called for clear cutting the trees in the park and putting in a new parking lot. This did not happen because of our involvement and public voice in the process.

Where else could we have an organization like Sandy Springs Revitalization, on whose board I served, that was started as a project by an LSS class and now has obtained millions of dollars in grants to help rebuild our business district? That is why I consider Sandy Springs such a magical place. The friends I made in my LSS class are all individuals I am proud to have known and served with in the community. They are the unsung heroes and volunteers

Make room on your calendar for this informative and thought provoking evening!

There will be a panel discussion with Hispanic leaders in our area just for Leadership Sandy Springs Class members and Alumni.

### ***The Impact of Hispanic Presence in Sandy Springs and the Atlanta area.***

Bring your questions, concerns, information and ideas and join us for this exciting learning opportunity. It will be held at Holy Innocents' Church, Hearth Room, 805 Mt. Vernon Highway, on October 3rd from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm.

Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP: [leadsandysprings@aol.com](mailto:leadsandysprings@aol.com) or 404-256-9091

who have kept our community together during times of rapid change, development, and neglect by our county government.

After living in Sandy Springs for 12 years, we sold our house at the end of last year and moved to Washington where I have taken a job with the U.S. Department of Justice. We were saddened about leaving our community, our friends, the Springs at the Williams-Payne House, and our beautiful house in a wonderful neighborhood. We miss Sandy Springs but we know that as long as Leadership Sandy Springs keeps going, preparing and training the volunteers and community activists that constitute the heart of Sandy Springs, it will be a beautiful place to come back to when my job in Washington ends in a few years.

So I won't be at any of the LSS Alumni parties for the next few years, but I hope to hear from any LSS alumni who visit Washington! 🌹

*Hans A. Von Spakovsky  
Voting Reform Initiative  
Civil Rights Division - Voting Section  
U.S. Department of Justice*

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Mobile (571) 215-5448  
Facsimile (202) 514-7821  
Email [Hans.Von.Spakovsky@usdoj.gov](mailto:Hans.Von.Spakovsky@usdoj.gov)*

## Mark Your Calendars!

### Program Day ~ Community Day

Visit inside Sandy Springs history and heritage. With on-site tours and through the eyes of those who know, you will gain a new appreciation for the cultural background of Sandy Springs.

*Thursday, October 17*

### Program Day ~ Business Day

What's it like doing business in Sandy Springs? Learn about the challenges and opportunities from "Pill Hill" to the heart of the business district and in between.

*Thursday, November 21*

### Program Day ~ Human Services Day

Experience the resources in Sandy Springs. Learn about the agencies that provide services and the challenges our citizens face. This highly interactive day will long be remembered.

*Thursday, December 12*

### Program Day ~ Education Day

Become a student for a day. See educational facilities and special programs first hand, meet students and learn of the challenges facing educators in our community. How do the governor's reform, funding issues, educational initiatives and more impact our schools and our community?

*Thursday, January 16*

### Program Day ~ Government Day

Visit The Capitol and see legislation being made!

Meet with State and County Legislators who will discuss current legislation impacting us. Be thinking of questions you want answered. We will make time for them! Then on to the Courts for a first hand look at our Justice System.

*Thursday, February 20*

### Program Day ~ Infra-Structure Day

This day focuses on transportation and planning issues. Meet with representatives from GRTA, MARTA, DOT and ARC and learn what they are doing to solve the challenges facing Sandy Springs.

*Thursday, March 20*

### Program Day ~ Environmental Day

Wear your walking shoes for a first hand look at some of Sandy Springs' greenspace treasures. Hear what is being done to expand and improve much needed parkland and help improve our environment.

*Thursday, April 24*

### Evening Discussion Group

Topic: Hispanic Perspective on Sandy Springs \*

*Thursday, October 3; 6-8 p.m.*

### Evening Discussion Group

Topic: Arts and more in Sandy Springs

*Thursday, November 7; 6-8 p.m.*

### Evening Discussion Group

Topic: Youth: A Challenge for us all

*Thursday, January 30; 6-8 p.m.*

### Evening Discussion Group

Topic: Public Safety \*

*Thursday, March 6; 6-8 p.m.*

### Evening Discussion Group

Class of '03 Project Planning

*Thursday, April 3; 6-8 p.m.*

### Evening Discussion Group

Topic & Location: TBA

*Thursday, May 1; 6-8 p.m.*

\* *Joint LSS Alumni and Class '03 Event*

### Closing Retreat

A culminating one day activity to cap off the class events.

Location: TBA

*Saturday, May 4*

### Graduation and Alumni Recognition Dinner

Spouses invited.

Location: TBA

*Thursday, May 20*



## **Alumni Invited to Participate in Evening Study Sessions**

Attention LSS Alumni: If you want to continue your involvement with Leadership Sandy Springs, here's your chance! New this year, alumni are invited to participate in two of the Class of 2003's Evening Discussion Groups. Mark your calendars and watch for more details on these programs to come.

**Hispanic Perspective  
on Sandy Springs  
Thursday, October 3, 2002**

**Public Safety  
Thursday, March 6, 2003**

### **MIA's... do you know where these graduates are?**

If you know how to contact any of the following alumni, please email Carolyn at [CarolynAxt@aol.com](mailto:CarolynAxt@aol.com)

H.C. and Rachael Alexander  
Steve Bram  
Judith Bramblett  
Gayle Rishak Bremer  
Bill Crowley  
Patrice Dunn  
Patrick Leonard  
Nayef Haddad  
Sherry Henderson Melta  
Scott Nottingham  
Sally Smith  
Eugene Mac Intyre  
Alan Tomlin  
Vickie Garrett  
Jenny Hardy  
Richard Ingram  
Carol Williams Hindman  
Joyce Limbird  
Ceila Mason  
Melissa Meadows  
John McDowell  
Mike Scott  
Rachel Swinford  
Jeff Wansley  
Melody Wickliffe  
Righton Willis

## **Class of 2003 Opening Retreat**



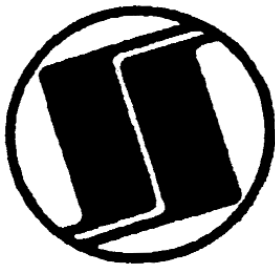
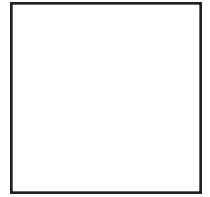
### **2003 Class Members and Alumni enjoy the annual Kick-Off Picnic**





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SANDY SPRINGS**

*P.O. Box 28007  
Atlanta, GA 30358*



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*Highlights*

### *Inside This Issue...*

- ☼ Letter from the Director*
- ☼ Class of 2002 Project Off & Running*
- ☼ LSS Kicks Off Another Great Year*
- ☼ Welcome! Class of 2003*
- ☼ Book Discussion Dates Set*
- ☼ Alumni Spotlight: Hans A. Von Spakovsky*
- ☼ Mark Your Calendars!*
- ☼ Alumni Invited to Participate in Evening Study Sessions*
- ☼ Class of 2003 Opening Retreat*