

Letter from the Director

Happy New Year! Yes, 2003 is officially here, but the Leadership Sandy Springs Class of 2003 has been underway since early fall.

Sandy Springs Community Day, featuring Heritage Sandy Springs, a driving tour led by Paul Cadenhead and lunch at Glenridge Hall; Sandy Springs Business Day, hosted by HomeBanc Mortgage; and Human Services Day, coordinated by Tamara Carrera of Community Action Center, all have been extremely interesting and informative sessions.

For those of you who were unable to attend our Hispanic Perspective on Sandy Springs study session, you missed a valuable presentation and discussion on an important issue in our community. Thanks to Soraya Kenney, United Americas Bank; Maritza Morelly, ESOL parent liaison, Fulton County Schools; Pierluigi Mancini, CETPA; and Brendon Brennan, Latin American Association, for their thought provoking presentations. Thanks also goes to Lorraine Hogan, Abernathy Arts Center, for hosting our study session on Arts in Sandy Springs and to Kendrick Phillips, Fulton Arts North, for sharing her experience and knowledge with us. Ellen Stein continues to serve as hostess for our study session and we appreciate her generosity and wonderful snacks.

The discussion generated from our first Book Review sessions, hosted by Elizabeth Kelly, gave all of us much to ponder and hopefully act on as we work to build a sense of community and strengthen Sandy Springs. Thanks Elizabeth, for your insight and leadership.

Looking ahead, we have many more interesting programs in 2003. January 30, we will follow our Education Day with an evening study session focussing on issues facing the youth in our community. These issues impact all residents. As we seek to understand the myriad factors, we will discuss how we as community members can have a positive impact on providing solutions. Then, on March 6, LSS alumni will join the Class of 2003 to discuss public safety programs and concerns in Sandy Springs. Mark you calendars now and plan on joining us for these interesting evenings. They will be a worthwhile use of your busy time.

Also coming up in the New Year, watch for an updated Web site presence and improved e-mail communications. If we don't have your current e-mail address, please forward it to leadsandysprings@aol.com. Thank you to each and everyone who has helped make this past year a true success. I appreciate the support and look forward to receiving dues from each alumni member as we continue to provide more alumni functions, which keep all Leadership Sandy Springs graduates connected to the community and informed on issues of importance to all of us. 🌀

Carolyn Axt
Director, Leadership Sandy Springs



LEADERSHIP
SANDY SPRINGS

Highlights

Logo Design

You may have noticed a new Leadership Sandy Springs logo on the front and back pages of this newsletter. We felt it was time for a change, a new beginning so to speak. And when SSRI and SSBA redesigned their logos, we decided the time was now. Thank you to Beth Thomas and Dana Mabey, who created the logos for SSRI and SSBA, for creating the LSS logo. Thank you also to Ron Comancho for pulling the logo from those submitted to SSRI, identifying it as a potential logo for LSS and bringing it to our attention and to SSRI for allowing us to use it. We appreciate everyone's hard work. 🌀

Newsletter Design

You also may have noticed something different about the last two newsletters... their look, perhaps? The Public Relations Committee, headed by Marci Soran and Katherine Watson, has been hard at work, giving LSS a new look by redesigning the newsletter and a new brochure. Special thanks to Marci Soran for volunteering her design expertise. 🌀



Joint LSS Alumni and Class '03 Event

LSS joins with other community organizations to develop the Hammond Park Project

Hammond Park playground was built several years ago and, unfortunately, no longer meets federal standards for safety or handicapped access. A group of civic clubs in Sandy Springs has formed a coalition for the purpose of raising funds to rebuild a new and improved facility.

Fulton County Parks and Recreation has a great design, which will cost \$84,000, of which the county budget can support only half. Resurgeons Orthopedic group has contributed \$21,000 and the remainder is being raised from other sources.

Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, Optimist, Leadership Sandy Springs, Keep Sandy Springs North Fulton Beautiful and the Community Education Force are working together to raise the additional funds to make this much needed facility a reality for us. The goal is to have the funds raised by February 8 so that the structure can be ordered and up and ready for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Donors of \$1000 or more will receive permanent recognition on a plaque to be installed in the park site. Many LSS members already have responded with donations.

Tax deductible donations can be sent to Community Education Force at PO Box 76926, Atlanta, GA 30358, with checks made payable to The Community Education Force (designate the Hammond Park Project on the check). 🌀

Class of 2002 Hopes Class Project Will Inspire Volunteering in Sandy Springs

The Class of 2002 continues to work its class project. A printed directory of non-profit organizations in Sandy Springs has been completed and plans are underway to put the directory online.

The class staffed a booth at the Sandy Springs Festival in September to support non-profits in Sandy Springs and promote the upcoming volunteer day on March 8. The booth received a number of visitors who share our interest in improving the quality of life in Sandy Springs.

The volunteer day, "Volunteering for a Better Sandy Springs," will give people who live and work in Sandy Springs an opportunity to help a local non-profit, meet new people and get involved in the community. The event will include four or five different projects that can be completed in one day. Volunteers will have an opportunity to choose the project with which they would like to participate. The class is currently working on finalizing the list of volunteer projects. More details will be sent out shortly.

If you would like copies of the non-profit directory and/or the flyer for the volunteer day in March, please contact Katherine Watson, Class of 2002 at 404-303-3405 or katherine.watson@northside.com. 🌀

Thanks to Sandy Springs Businesses

The support and donations of Sandy Springs businesses provide much appreciated support for our Class of 2003 program days. Chicken Out, a new restaurant on Roswell Road in the Sandy Springs Plaza Shopping Center, donated lunch for our Community Day. They have delicious wraps and salads and fantastic desserts. They also feature a great eat in or take out dinner menu. My Friends Place, located in the Whole Foods Shopping Center on Hammond Drive, has wonderful sandwiches, salads and cookies, which they donated for our Human Services Day. Brooklyn Café has graciously offered to provide wine and help coordinate other LSS classes mini-reunions. We hope to schedule them soon. Any class members interested in spearheading such an activity should contact Greg Pyne at Brooklyn Café or Carolyn at the LSS office. Please patronize these establishments and thank them for their support of Leadership Sandy Springs. 🌀

Alumni Spotlight:

NANCY LEATHERS, SSRI

1. Is there anything you learned at LSS that helps you today?

I think, for me, the most helpful thing was to be able to meet and really get to know a group of people with a variety of interests and perspectives on Sandy Springs. It helped me to understand community issues in Sandy Springs, which was very helpful when I was in my position of Director of Environment and Community Development for Fulton County. It is even more helpful now when I am with Sandy Springs Revitalization, Inc. (SSRI). The team building was a great benefit as well, in addition to all the networking opportunities.

2. Are you still involved with LSS today?

It has been more than 10 years since I went through LSS. Following that I served on the Board and as president. My involvement now is as a member of the alumni group and to serve as a resource to LSS.

3. What role do you see LSS taking in the community today and in the future?

I hope that both the LSS classes and the alumni group will identify significant community issues and become involved, both as individuals and as groups. Whether these are public policy issues, social issues, economic development issues, or others of importance to the community, the skill set developed by class members should be applied to important community matters. It is especially important that class members be willing to take on positions of leadership. The whole purpose of the organization is to develop community leadership.

4. Being currently with SSRI, what are your visions for Sandy Springs and how does LSS play a role?

SSRI is an organization devoted to improving the visual and economic viability of the Sandy Springs commercial area, the protection of its neighborhoods, the improvement of the trans-



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portation system, and the enhancement of the recreational and open space inventory to serve its citizens.

Our goal is to make Sandy Springs a livable, walkable community with quality development that enhances both quality of life and people's investments. A significant part of that is to ensure that the declining Roswell Road corridor becomes an area of quality development that is walkable and enjoyable. That means selective redevelopment and enhancement of the visual appearance of the area.

Our goal is also to preserve and protect residential areas by a variety of techniques so that Sandy Springs has a full range of housing types and the needed and expected public services and amenities.

5. What are the greatest challenges facing Sandy Springs?

It seems to me that the question of governance is the first issue to be resolved on a policy level. However, the decline of the commercial core, the lack of recreation and open space, and the disfunctional transportation system are basic problems, whatever the decision on governance.

6. What are the greatest challenges facing LSS?

I think the challenge of any leadership program is to continue to modify its programming as the community evolves and changes and to ensure that the class membership truly represents all of the community. Leadership is needed in all areas. This is especially true because Sandy Springs is an urbanizing area where a lot of changes are occurring, both desirable and not so desirable.

If you have any questions, please let me know. 🌀



Donate the Wine for Class Reunion Dinners held at Brooklyn Cafe

Greg Pine at the Brooklyn Cafe has graciously offered to provide a bottle of wine for alumni gatherings at the Brooklyn Cafe.

Contact Greg Pine or Carolyn Axt for details.

Mark Your Calendars!

Evening Discussion Group

Topic: Youth – A Challenge for us all

Speakers from youth programs and as well as the Juvenile Justice System will share some of the issues facing youth and what positive and proactive steps communities can take to have a positive impact.

**Thursday, January 30; 6-8 p.m.
Courtroom 103, North Fulton Government Service Center**

Program Day ~ Government Day

Visit the Capitol – see legislation being made! Meet with state and county legislators, who will discuss current legislation impacting us. Then on to the Courts for a first hand look at our justice system.

Thursday, February 20

ALUMNI, Mark Your Calendars! Evening Discussion Group*

Topic: Public Safety

An enlightening and provocative discussion on Public Safety Issues in Sandy Springs. Hear from a panel of experts from the COPS program, special task forces and community leaders. Bring your questions, concerns and suggestions for a productive discussion following the presentations.

Thursday, March 6; 6-8 p.m., North Fulton Government Service Center

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 and what we should do.

Thursday, March 20

Evening Discussion Group

Class of '03 Project Planning

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

Program Day ~ Environmental Day

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

Thursday, April 24

Evening Discussion Group

TBA

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

Closing Retreat

A one day, culminating activity to cap off our class events.

Saturday, May 4, Location: TBA

Graduation and Alumni Recognition Dinner*

Spouses invited.

Thursday, May 20, Location: TBA

Alumni are always welcome at all Leadership Sandy Springs events.

Please let Carolyn Axt know via e-mail at

leadsandysprings@aol.com so she can plan accordingly.



DUES AND DO'S

The success of Leadership Sandy Springs is contingent on the support, both financial and physical, of alumni. The Leadership accounting and operational year is from July 1 to June 30, which coincides with the Leadership Sandy Springs class year. We finalize the class roster and programs in July and kick off the year with our opening retreat in August. May brings the annual Alumni Recognition and Graduation event to culminate one more successful year of Leadership Sandy Springs making a huge impact on our community.

What are Dues?

Didn't know we had to pay dues? Well... we don't. However, the success and strength of Leadership Sandy Springs is dependent not only on volunteer support, but also financial support from its alumni. All we ask for is \$35 a year. Dues go to help pay for scholarships, recruitment, communications, alumni activities and special programs and events. Each contribution is greatly appreciated.

If you have not sent in your dues for the LSS Class of '03 year, please do so. Please consider an additional donation to support LSS program expansion and scholarships.

Thanks to the following individuals who have given most generously by providing scholarship funds or sponsorships on top of their annual dues.

Tamara Carrera Charles Green Joey Mayson Eric Ross Ellen Stein

Those whose donations help expand programs are:

Jackie Brown Carolyn Hopper Marti Mathews Marci Soran

LSS Alumni who have paid their dues for the LSS '03 Class year are:

Jae Cosby Donna Gathers Sue Grossbeck Anne Holbrook
 Kathy Smith Sandi Stacy Mimi Brotherton Stitt Doris Von Glahn
 Dan Wilmarth Toni Winters

Thank you to those who have supported the activities of Leadership Sandy Springs through their dues in the past. We look forward to receiving your check for the current class year soon. 🌸

Missing In Action...

do you know these LSS graduates?

The following LSS graduates have disappeared from our radar. If you have any updated contact information, please send it to Carolyn Axt at leadsandysprings@aol.com or 404-256-9091.

- Eugene MacIntyre
- Gerry Austin
- H.C. and Rachael Alexander
- Dale Becker
- Steve Bram
- Judith Bramblett
- Bill Crowley
- Bill DeVane
- Vickie Garrett
- Deborah Greenshields
- Faye Halford
- Jenny Harty
- Richard Ingram
- Stan Levy
- Nancy Lundstrom
- Cecelia Mason
- John McDowell
- Mike Scott
- Bill Stafford
- Michael Solomon
- Rachel Swinford
- Jeff Wansley
- Melody Wickliffe
- Righton Willis

LSS ALUMNI, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We need your help with sponsorships, the directory and special events.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State ZIP _____

Telephone _____ Best time to call? _____

Email _____

Graduation year from LSS _____

Community organizations and offices held or initiatives spearheaded _____

I am willing to...

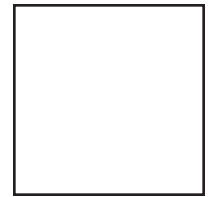
- _____ ...serve on the selection committee
- _____ ...help set up the recognition dinner
- _____ ...serve a Alumni Vice President
- _____ ...join Class of 2002 on Volunteer Day, March 8, 2003
- _____ ...make a Contribution of: \$100 _____
- \$50 _____
- \$25 _____
- Other _____

Mail to: P.O. Box 28007,
Atlanta, GA 30358



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Highlights

January 2003

This newsletter is proudly sponsored by:



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