

Georgia Preschool Association

The President's Corner

Nancy Bulger

Passion for Our Profession

Greetings GPA Members!

Thank you for the privilege of being your president! I am proud and happy to serve you and the association in this position. I have been a member of Georgia Preschool Association for 25 years, 11 years as a board member. I am currently the director of Apostles Learning Center in Fulton County. The mission of our association is "Dedicated to Education for All: Teachers ~ Children ~ Parents," and we continue to strive to fulfill this goal. Is our work done? Not at all! But keeping this vision in mind helps us shape what we want our goals to be. The board is currently comprised of 17 persons, each of whom is gifted with unique talents who bring energy, new ideas, different perspectives and fun to the organization. In 2017 we are fortunate to have the following persons as officers: Cathy Mercier as our president-elect (also our website administrator and board chaplain); Janis Smith as recording secretary (has served in this position

for many years, and is hostess chairperson for the annual conference); and Kristi Olterman (serving her second term as treasurer.) Several of our Board members serve as District Representatives and offer training in their area. Take a look in this newsletter for what is offered in coming months (and GPA members receive a registration discount).

During my term I will continue to support excellence in all areas of the annual conference. We attract approximately 1,000 participants each year. I look forward to it and I love seeing early learning educators of home, half-day and full-time centers share ideas, opinions, and camaraderie while they attend workshops of their choosing.

The conference is singularly one-of-a-kind. The variety of workshops is remarkable. Many of our presenters are experts in early childhood education and share the latest research and best practices. The booklet for the Annual Conference is a treasure trove of notes, ideas, and information that each GPA

Spring 2017

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President's Corner (Continued from front page)

member takes back to school to implement. Your conference evaluations are taken very seriously when preparing for the next conference that Training Committee Chair Diane Snyder and the board begin to organize a year in advance.

One of the challenges that our association faces is a need for more District Representatives. We need your help in attracting or becoming representatives for the open districts! District Representatives serve on the board. Interested and want more information? Our goal is for every district in the state to be

represented.

We will continue to seek out noteworthy statewide organizations that support the education of children and that align with the vision of the association. Click on to sightwords.com and [Get Georgia Reading](http://GetGeorgiaReading.com). We want to support organizations that promote phonemic awareness and success in language and reading.

Last, let's take a minute to reflect on our environments where we live, work, and play. These questions that may peak our desire to serve others in new or different ways...and to

fuel our shared passion for our profession.

- *What are we doing for our children?*
- *What are we doing for our families?*
- *What are we doing for our staff?*
- *What are we doing for our community?*

Again, thank you and please contact me with your ideas, questions and concerns.

With warm regards,

Nancy Bulger

nbulger@georgiapreschool.org

Chaplain's Message

This week so many of us are sneezing from the pollen outside. With the beautiful weather in the Spring comes the yellow blanket covering everything outside.

One morning as I was greeting our children arriving for preschool, two children brought beautiful flowers (dandelions) for me. They really were pretty the way they held them in their little chubby hands. I put them on my desk and all week it made me smile to think of those precious children. I came home to read a quote on Facebook "See flowers not weeds". How appropriate for the flowers as well as my attitude.

As we near the end of the year sometimes we get so bogged down in the busyness of everything that "needs" to be done before the end of the year. I challenge myself as well as all of us to remember to see the good in the experiences and the

people.

Cancer has a way of changing what "needs" to be done. I am so very thankful to say that I have finished a year and a half of surgeries, chemo and radiation to treat breast cancer. I am recovering and getting stronger every day. This year, the long list of end of year tasks have taken on a different meaning for me. Instead of a rush to summer, I am rejoicing in the people, little and big, that we get to experience each day. I am joyful for each unique individual and the opportunity to be a part of their lives. I am deeply appreciative that the parents have chosen our preschool for their children. Mostly, I am thankful for each minute of each day and that I am strong enough to be a part of a preschool family. We are blessed indeed.

One more quote to help us focus as we finish our year: "What is the

difference between a problem and an opportunity? Our attitude." (Steve Gutzler)

I hope we all have an absolutely wonderful end of the year!



Did you know...

The GPA sponsored website, Sight-
Words.com had 180,000 visitors in

March. Almost 25% were from
countries outside of the United
States.

SIGHTWORDS.com

Get Georgia Reading

getgeorgiareading.org

The Get Georgia Reading Campaign introduced a new, redesigned website to better provide community members, organization leaders, and parents with easy access to data, resources, and inspiring stories that will help get all of Georgia's children on the path to

reading on grade level. The site offers a more engaging user experience with enhanced search, navigation, and content; a cleaner design that responds to laptop, mobile devices, and tablets; and new features like a Community Locator and helpful toolkits.



The Joy of Reading Spans Generations

Radha Retnasaba, 7
Jack Graham, 90



Legislation

Hearing Aid Coverage for Children Ace, SB 206

Georgia legislature passed the Hearing Aid Coverage for Children Act, which is awaiting the governor's signature. SB 206 requires that all health plans provide coverage of hearing aids for children. The coverage is up to \$3,000.00 per ear and provides for that amount for replacement aids

every 48 months. This bill's author emphasizes the critical importance of language development in the infant, toddler, and pre-school years for later school success.

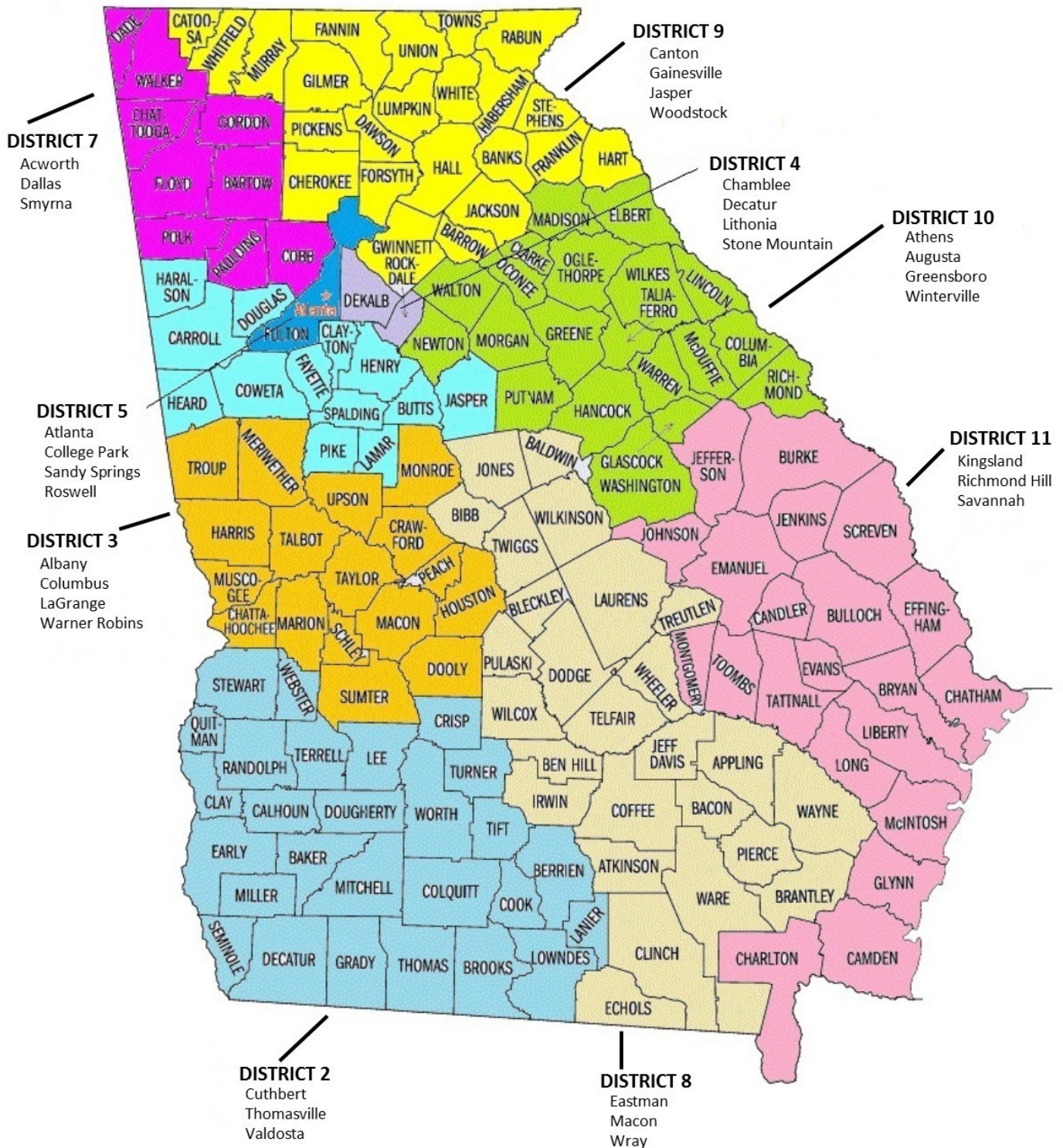
The Expansion of Georgia's Medical Cannabis Law

Children in our care who are diagnosed with particular diseases/disorders including cancer, seizures

resulting from epilepsy or head trauma, sickle cell disease may be eligible to receive low THC oil under this law. Here is a link to the Department of Public Health explaining what citizens need to know about Georgia's Medical Marijuana Law and the eight diseases covered by the law.

<https://dph.georgia.gov/low-thc-oil-faq-general-public>

GEORGIA PRESCHOOL ASSOCIATION—DISTRICT MAP



District 4 Tonie Sanders

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DeKalb and Rockdale Counties

It was great to see so many of you at the Annual Conference in March. The conference continues to be a source of excellent training as well as an opportunity for the exchange of ideas. As I sat in some of the sessions with many of you, your enthusiasm, commitment and love

for the children of Georgia were very evident. Thank you so much for the work you do each day!

Another opportunity for training is coming up for our District. On August 5th at Saint Philip AME Church in Decatur, we will again offer our "Back to the Basics"

workshop. It is a Super Saturday Session with 6 BFTS hours of training. The registration materials will be on our website in May and registration materials e-mailed to all GPA members who attended the training last year. As always, the spaces are limited.

District 5 Barbara Gordon

bgordon@georgiapreschool.org

Now that Spring Break is a memory, the end of our school year will be here before we know it. In District 5, we are already making plans for the 2017 - 2018 school year! We have scheduled a training session

for Saturday, November 11th, 9:30 am to 11:30 am at St. Peter Chanel Church in Roswell, GA. Our speaker will be Kathy Lee and the topic will be, **"If Preschoolers Had a Top Ten List, What Would They Tell Their**

Teachers?" Mark your calendars now and look for further information, which will be available in the fall.

District 6 Diane Lamb

dlamb@georgiapreschool.org

Wow! Where has this school year gone? It is hard to believe that we are finished with the month of April. I hope each of you are enjoying the beautiful new flowers blooming, the green leaves coming out and the nice breezes (forget the pollen). Spring is such a wonderful time for refreshing and renewal.

I do want to say thank you to the Georgia Preschool Association for the wonderful conference that was held on March 3 and 4. There were so many great presenters, vendors, silent auction items, and Mr. Al really did a great job with his presentations. It always amazes me that a group of volunteers puts together such a wonderful conference with so few glitches. This year finished my term as President of the GPA. I do want to say "thank you" to every member and especially

the GPA Board for supporting me. This has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve as President of such a wonderful organization.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19 will be District 6 training at Griffin First Baptist Church. This training will afford you 5 hours of BFTS training. Please mark this date on your calendar and inform your teachers before school ends. We will be sending more information as soon as we have all the workshop presenters. This is a great way to meet others in your area that are doing the same thing you are doing. You can exchange ideas and maybe find new things that you hadn't thought about and share your wisdom. If it can be done a better or different way, "why reinvent the wheel"?

Our District 6 area has been trying to get a director's association started for this area (Spalding

Crescent Preschool Association). Debby Daniel-Bryant has spearheaded this effort. Thank you Debby for your efforts. We have been meeting for over a year now. We have shared ideas and learned from each other. If you are interested in meeting with this group, call Debby at 770 468-2897. Our meetings are held at Newnan Presbyterian beginning at 10:00 a.m. We usually meet around two hours.

Let me share "The Three P's of Teaching":

Patience is the first. Most teachers experience discipline problems in their classroom. Always treat each child as an individual. Seek to understand his/her actions. Be firm and patient. The goal is to teach respect. Persist with love and patience

Preparation is the second. Don't wait until the night before or the

District 6 (Continued)

morning of your class to get prepared. You would enjoy your day so much more if you didn't have to rush around. It can bring the excitement back into your teaching if you are prepared. If you don't prepare for the child; they will prepare for you!

Prayer is the third and most

important. Make this a daily habit. We don't know what each child has been through before they come into our classroom. There is always one child that is a "puzzle piece". This habit can be the best "perker-upper" that you can have!

Again, if I can be of any service to you or your school, please feel free

to call on me. My email is diane-lamb@fbcgriffin.org and my phone number is 770 228-7880. Have a great spring and stop to smell the roses!

District 7 Helen Geesey

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Choosing Toys can be Complicated!

Most early childhood professionals give at least lip-service to the importance of play as the fundamental aspect of childhood. Many of us get bogged down in choosing toys that will enhance the quality of play. The latest Disney character may give some initial excitement but may not lead to the highest-quality play. When we have some money to spend, we often think we need to pick something overtly "educational" so it looks like we are really teaching.

What should we look for in choosing toys for our classrooms? Let's try to pick toys using the results of research that rates toys using the following:

- Will the child have the opportunity for exploration?

- Can the child engage in problem solving?
- Does the child show curiosity and ask questions when using the toy?
- Does the child show sustained interest?
- Can the child engage in creative expression?
- Can the toy be used with peers to collaborate and communicate?
- Can the child use the toy independently?

Toys and materials that meet some of these expectations may bring the most benefits. Quality play benefits children physically, cognitively, socially and emotionally. One of the coolest aspects of play is the non-stressed frame of mind a child experiences. As we pick toys for

our classrooms and structure play experiences for our students, let's make the most of this cherished aspect of childhood. Check out the NAEYC publication Exploring Play for more information.

District News

District 7 will hold a Training Event on August 3 at St. Andrew UMC. We anticipate the following presenters to be with us. Maria Abercrombie, Donna House, Victoria Spratt, Bev Galeza, Dana Coffee, Jennifer Vann, Dede Reilly, Cathy Mercier, and Kim Martin. We are still building our agenda and inviting presenters but hope to be able to post the complete list in late April. Our theme this year is "Be our Guest!"

District 9 Cassie Rasco

crasco@georgiapreschool.org

District 9 is up in full swing for the spring and summer months! We will be working hard on starting a Directors group that will be meeting quarterly to discuss issues with our current schools and help give support for others. I am look-

ing to hold our yearly district 9 conference on Saturday August 26th from 9-12. The speakers will be announced soon and I'm hoping to have a few vendors there as well to purchase products for the classrooms. If you have any questions or

would like to be involved in our Directors group, please contact Cassie Rasco at 706-253-5017 or email at preschool@fbcjasper.com.



In preparing for the 2017 Georgia Preschool Association Conference we found that there was much to be thankful for during the past several years of planning for this great gathering of educators. Being thankful for the folks who had invested unpaid time and effort in making the conference happen each year led us to the theme for this year's conference, "Take Joy in the Journey." We truly did just that as we prepared the conference for each of our members to learn and enjoy!

We had a few glitches, but all in all, the conference was one of our best yet! Mr. Al is a joy to work with and a pleasure to have as he entertains, as well as educates us, about the songs he teaches. We have been truly enriched by what he taught and will continue to learn while using his songs with the children we teach. Workshops this year were well-received and were highly effective in the things taught. Most of the evaluations proved to be very positive and great comments were made to help us plan next year's conference. We thank you for your feedback and encourage you to continue to let us know what you

would like to see each year. It truly helps us when we begin planning for the next year, so we thank you!

Lunch seemed to be the biggest area of concern we had with Friday being acceptable, while Saturday left some folks less than satisfied. To clarify a few points:

There were only two choices for contractors for this year's conference lunches.

Chick-fil-A was not an option, as they are undergoing a major reconstruction.

We offered Subway on both days last year and folks complained that they did not like having the same choices both days.

Georgia Preschool Association Annual Conference March 2 and 3, 2018 Cobb Galleria Centre

This year, several of our folks at the beginning of the line took more than one choice of lunches, leaving no lunch for those at the end of the line. The Galleria scrambled to make lunches on short notice so that all would be fed, but some folks did not hear when I explained that more food was on the way and were upset when there was only one choice.

We are well aware of the problem - I was one of those who had to wait

for food, too! The Cobb Galleria is working on a solution and we hope to have everything smoother for next year.

On a more positive note, Subway fed more than 800 people in less than 20 minutes and had several choices left at the end! Kudos to Subway!

Next year's Conference will be held on March 2 & 3, 2018 at the Cobb Galleria. As you saw this year, there are some big changes coming with the completion of the new Braves Stadium. Parking is one of those changes. Negotiations are still ongoing, so we do not yet know exactly what the charges will be, but we do know there will be charges. We will keep you informed as we receive more information. Count our blessings that those changes did not take place before this year's conference, as we fully expected them to be implemented by the time we held the conference.

We hope you enjoyed this year's conference and will continue to support an organization that is dedicated to bringing you the best training and networking we can. Thanks for being such great encouragers and look forward to what is in store for next year's conference - our 60th year!



Hostesses Make A Difference!

Janis Smith

One of Georgia Preschool's strongest characteristics is the quality of the consultants we are able to provide at our Annual Conference. One of the reasons consultants are happy to return to work with us is because of the warm hospitality we provide and our hostesses are responsible for that hospitality.

Thank you to all who served as hostesses at the Annual 2017 Conference. Not only did you

provide a warm and friendly contact with the consultants, you gave us important insight as to the quality of the workshop through your evaluations.

We especially appreciate the students from Chattahoochee Tech who volunteered their services as hostesses. This was their first time to attend the conference.

We are always in need of hostesses, if you would like to be one, please

contact Janis Smith through the GPA website.



GPA Silent Auction

Terry Graham, Barbara Gordon

The 2017 GPA Silent Auction was anything but silent! From the very first opening minutes there was a buzz of potential bidders surrounding the wide variety of items offered on the well organized and decorative tables. With over 122 "prizes" displayed, there was something for everyone! The goal is always to fund the GPA website and the \$2459 made in the two conference days, was more than adequate. We are so thankful to our generous donors, GPA board members and Exhibit Hall vendors. You made this a success.

Auction Facts:

Everything sold!

Big ticket items were:

- The FitBit Surge (\$100)
- Admission tickets to Medieval Times- \$85.00
- Playground Xylophone donated by St. Andrew Preschool- \$70
- Publix Gift Card-\$65.00

The gift cards and admission tickets to museums were all very popular.

Again, we thank everyone and we are already working on ideas for next year.

Terry and Barb

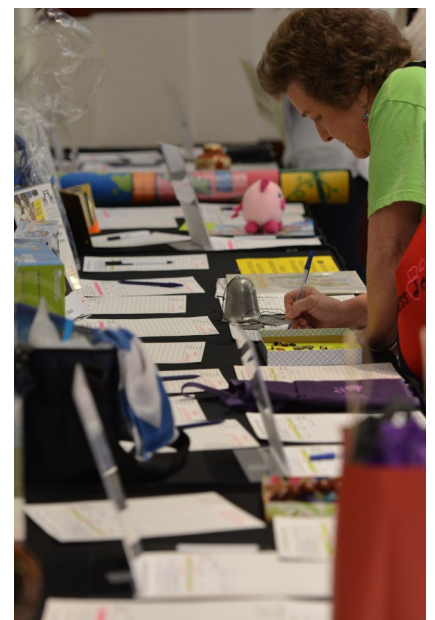
Auction Committee



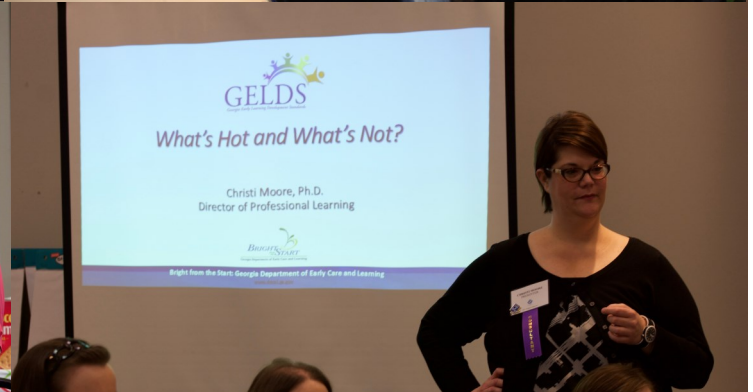
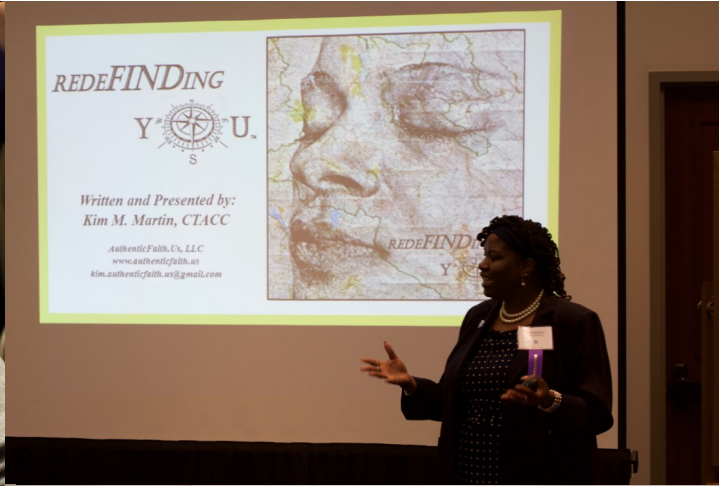
Silent Auction List of Contributors

Thank you to the following businesses who donated items for our Silent Auction! We appreciate their generosity and hope you will patronize them when you get the chance:

- Atlanta Ballet
- Atlanta Botanical Garden
- Atlanta History Center
- Atlanta Preservation Center
- Atlanta Symphony Orchestra
- Barnsley Garden Resort
- Center for Puppetry Arts
- Coca-Cola Space Science Center
- Creative Discovery Museum
- Georgia Tech
- High Museum of Art
- Historic Oakland Foundation
- Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art
- Medieval Times
- Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory
- Marietta Gone with the Wind Museum
- Ober Gatlinburg
- Rock City
- Shakespeare Tavern
- Southern Museum of Civil War & Locomotive History
- Tellus Science Museum
- Tennessee Aquarium
- Tennessee River Explorer
- Tennessee Valley Railroad
- The Georgia Ballet
- The Wren's Nest
- The University of Georgia
- Wild Animal Safari
- World of Coke
- Pike Nurseries
- Publix
- Henry's Louisiana Grill
- Houck's Restaurant
- Williamson Brothers Bar-b-que



Conference Photos (See more photos at georgiapreschool.org)



Conference Photos (See more photos at georgiapreschool.org)



Thank you to everyone who attended the conference and came in to shop and gather information in the exhibit hall. The exhibitors were happy to see you and appreciated the time you took to look at and purchase their products as well as listen to the descriptions of their services. I hope that you enjoyed the Exhibit Hall Bingo. We did! We gave away 40 prizes!

I would also like to thank all 35 of the exhibitors who had a booth in

the exhibit hall. We appreciate their support of the GA Preschool Association. The companies that were represented are included below. If you would like more information on any of these companies please check out the website: www.georgiapreschool.org or contact me at the contact information below. Also, if you have any companies that you would like to see in the exhibit hall next year, please send me their name and contact information if you have it.

We want next year's exhibit hall to be better than ever!

kcoffeen@georgiapreschool.org or 770-590-0982



Exhibit Hall List 2017

Alicia J. Turner

www.aliciajturner.com

Abrams Learning Trends

www.abramslearningtrends.com

Amerigroup Community Care

www.myamergroup.com/ga

Area 51 Family Entertainment

www.a51fun.com

Barefoot Books

www.barefootbooks.com/Sunni-williams

Busy Kid Activities

www.busykidsactivities.com

Childcare Educational Institute

www.cceionline.edu

Childcare Careers

www.childcarecareers.net

Fun Science

www.funsciencekits.com

Fundanoodle

www.fundanoodle.com

The Graduation Place

www.graduationplace.com

Gunther Thomas & Associates

www.guntherthomas.com

The Homegrown Preschooler

thehomegrownpreschooler@gmail.com

Lakeshore Learning Store--East Cobb

www.lakeshorelearning.com

Lucy the Lapdog LLC

www.lucythelapdog.com

M.A.T. Industries, Inc.

www.matindustriesinc.com

Miss Gail

www.jumpinjamband.com

Mr. Al

www.mralmusic.com

NJS Fashion Handbags

www.njsfashionhandbags.com

Opus One Music

www.opusonekids.com/atlanta

Origo Education

www.origoeducation.com

Piccadilly Puppets

www.piccadilypuppets.org

ProSolutions Training

www.prosolutionstraining.com

Pudala Uniforms

www.pudalauniform.com

Rahab's Rope

www.rahabsrope.com

Rhythm & Writing Handwriting Program

www.rhythmandwriting.com

The Reading Corner

www.thereadingcorner.org

The School Box

www.schoolbox.com

Spoiled Rotten Photography

www.spoiledrottenphotography.com

SunPlus Data Group/Ticks & Tots

www.sunplusdata.com

Tastefully Simple

www.tsbyts.com

Training on Demand

www.ectod.com

Walden University

www.waldenu.edu

Zoo Atlanta

www.zooatlanta.org

Zoo-phonics Inc

www.zoo-phonics.com

Next GPA Annual Conference: March 2 & 3 , 2018

Upcoming Training Opportunities

- District 4: August 5, 2017
6 hours BFTS credit
St. Philip AME Church in DeKalb County
(Check the website georgiapreschool.org for registration information and description)
- District 5: November 11th, 2017 (9:30 am to 11:30 am)
St. Peter Chanel Church in Roswell, GA
Kathy Lee, "If Preschoolers Had a Top Ten List, What Would They Tell Their Teachers?"
- District 6: July 19, 2017
5 hours BFTS credit
First Baptist Weekday of Griffin
(Check the website georgiapreschool.org for registration information and description)
- District 7: August 3, 2017
4 hours BFTS credit
"Be our Guest"
St. Andrew UMC Preschool, Marietta
(Check the website georgiapreschool.org for registration information and description)
- District 9: August 26
9am-12pm
(Check the website georgiapreschool.org for registration information and description)

If you are interested in becoming a District Representative or know someone who would be a great representative for your district, please contact our President, Nancy Bulger at nbulger@georigapreschool.org.

For more information or to contact your District Representative about these training opportunities please go to the GPA website at georgiapreschool.org To find out which district you are located, please go to the website *membership tab* for a district chart.