



# Georgia Preschool Association

## The President's Corner

Nancy Bulger

*Georgia Preschool Association ~ 60 Years Young, Prepared and Passionate about Children's Growth and Development!*

Dear Members,

It has been a few months since the Georgia Preschool Annual Conference, and I hope the workshops engaged and challenged you with today's early childhood topics. Some things will always be vital to a child's development—love, safety, security, social interactions, music and movement. Today, sixty years later, the Georgia Preschool Association continues to support the importance of these priorities, as well as the most current research of a child's development from birth to age 8, crib safety, how an infant's brain develops, and the inner workings of autism. With twenty-eight workshops to choose from, there was something for everyone to gain a deeper understanding of:

- STEM in Early Childhood
- How GELDS and Developmental Monitoring Work Together
- Process Art for Infants and Toddlers
- The Benefits of Being Resilient
- Handling Emergencies
- Sight Words: the Glue Needed for Reading Comprehension
- A Climate That Supports Special Needs Preschoolers

- Big Body Play
- Classroom Management Through Music
- Helping Children Manage Upsets

Another highlight of the conference was the presentation of the Diamond Star Achievement award to Gajan Retnasaba. Gajan developed [www.sightwords.com](http://www.sightwords.com), a valuable free website tool for reading comprehension on our GPA website. Over the past 5 years, 2.9 million people have visited the site. Many educators have added it to their curricula, and we are honored to share his website with the world.

With the conference behind us, look for training supported by GPA, our board of directors, their staff and schools. Workshops will be held in Griffin, Carrollton, Marietta, Jasper, Decatur and Atlanta. Go to [georgiapreschool.org](http://georgiapreschool.org) for training dates.

Last, it was a privilege to honor GPA's past presidents, the persons who pioneered the need for early childhood educator training. It warmed my heart to see that their passion for early childhood education remains today and also, their sense of humor in participating in Steve Spangler's fun promotion of science "Best Day Ever" keynote address!

Let's keep learning together,

Nancy Bulger, President

Spring 2018

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I am not one to discuss politics or political people; however, this past week Barbara Bush passed away at the age of 92. Reporters have been honoring her memory with stories of the First Lady's family and accomplishments. I have been inspired by many of the quotes that are attributed to her and I'd like to share a few with you. I pray you will be inspired as well.

- Where will our country find leaders with integrity, courage, strength—all the family values—in ten, twenty, or thirty years? The answer is that you are teaching them, loving them, and raising them right now.
- At the end of your life, you will never regret not having passed one more test, not winning one more verdict or not closing one more deal. You will regret time not spent with a husband, a friend, a child, or a parent.
- Your success as a family... our success as a nation... depends not on what happens inside the White House, but on what happens inside your house.

- Never lose sight of the fact that the most important yardstick of your success will be how you treat other people - your family, friends, and coworkers, and even strangers you meet along the way.
- The home is the child's first school, the parent is the child's first teacher, and reading is the child's first subject.
- If human beings are perceived as potentials rather than problems, as possessing strengths instead of weaknesses, as unlimited rather than dull and unresponsive, then they thrive and grow to their capabilities.
- The future of this nation does not depend on what happens at the White House, but what happens at your house.
- Some people give time, some money, some their skills and connections, some literally give their life's blood . . . but everyone has something to give.
- The Titanic was built by professionals. The Ark was built by volunteers.

- . . . learning never ends, and as we enter the next century, it will be more and more important for all Americans to be lifelong learners. . . . every one of us can contribute in some way to a better-educated America.
- You don't just luck into things as much as you'd like to think you do. You build step by step, whether it's friendships or opportunities.
- Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others.
- Whether you are talking about education, career, or service, you are talking about life. And life must really have joy.
- I think a lot of our problems are because people don't listen to our children.

Barbara Bush

### In Memory of Jack Graham Husband of Terry Graham GPA Executive Board Member

### The Joy of Reading Spans Generations

Radha Retnasaba, 7  
Jack Graham, 90



**SB 206 The "Hearing Aid Coverage for Children Act"** was signed by Governor Nathan Deal on May 8th, 2017! It will cover...



- A maximum of \$3,000 per hearing impaired ear every 48 months
- Includes reimbursement for hearing aids and non implanted BAHAs, the cost of ear molds, repair parts, replacement parts & FM modulation systems
- Coverage will be effective January 1, 2018
- Join the [Let Georgia Hear Facebook Group](#) and email us at [info@letgeorgiahear.org](mailto:info@letgeorgiahear.org) for more information.

## Diamond Star Award

Betsy Primm

**Georgia Preschool Association Honors Gajan Retnasaba for his website [www.sightwords.com](http://www.sightwords.com)**

At the opening session of our 2018 conference, the Georgia Preschool Association proudly presented its first Diamond Star Award to **Gajan Retnasaba**. The award was in recognition of his remarkable achievement in designing, developing, and disseminating a website of materials, games, and lessons in the literacy areas of phonemic awareness and sight words. Gajan's vision in 2013 was to create an educational website for parents and educators that contained **free**, high quality content, was user friendly, and easily accessible, world-wide. Because the website's purpose to serve parents and teachers of young children matched our organization's own goal, the Georgia Preschool Association enthusiastically endorsed Gajan's project from its inception. Since that time, the [www.sightwords.com](http://www.sightwords.com) website has been visited by over 2.9 million people from a total of 185 countries!

Website users from Georgia and from around the world—from Northern India

to South Africa-- have sent hundreds of unsolicited comments about its content and materials. The two most frequent comments are "WOW" and "Thank you!" Recently a user from Ohio sent the following comment:

Comment:

"When I was teaching I spent hours making these games. The children loved playing them. For those who thought they could not read and refused to try with books, these games were the avenue to learning the necessary words to successfully begin reading.

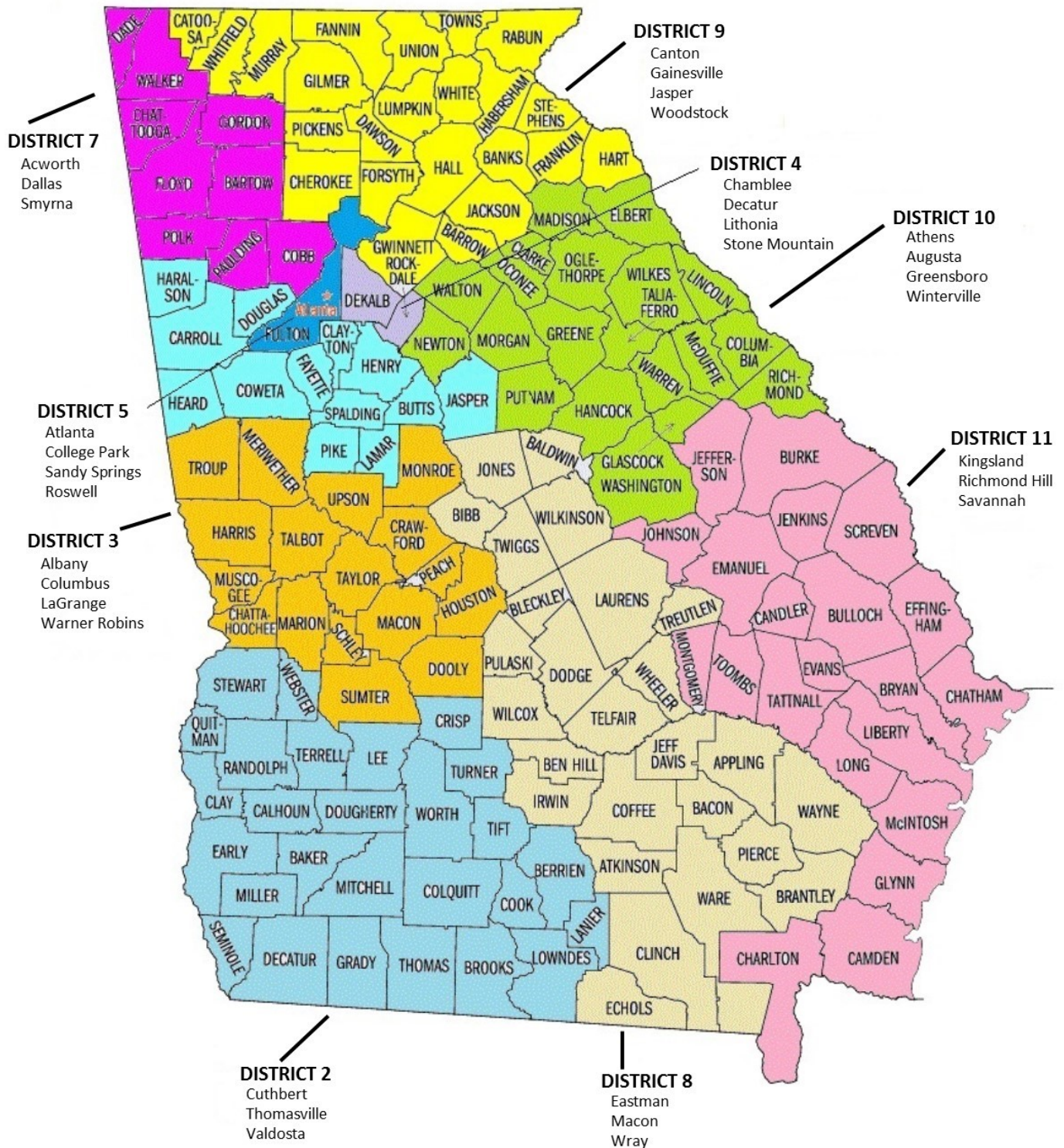
I am now retired and have great grandchildren living with me. One of them is very interested in reading everything. I have printed off some of these games to use with him. He is so excited to finish and play them. He knew most of the words from our reading together so should have no trouble playing them. I am sure that they will finish up much faster than the ones I made from scratch years ago.

Thank you for these activities."

Congratulations on an incredible accomplishment, Gajan!



# GEORGIA PRESCHOOL ASSOCIATION—DISTRICT MAP



## District 4 Tonie Sanders

[tsanders@georgiapreschool.org](mailto:tsanders@georgiapreschool.org)

The new year began with our first District 4 Director's workshop on Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was held at Saint Philip Church in Decatur. Sixteen Directors representing 14 schools gathered for a 4-hour state approved session on Staff and Parent Handbooks and Policies. Thank you to the directors who came and to Georgia Preschool for sponsoring the event.

The presenter, Dr. Shelia Lewis, led an informative workshop on issues that affect the successful management of

early childhood programs. We had a great lunch too.

Many of you also attended the Annual Conference on March 2 and 3 and commented that it was the best ever! We are so happy so many of you took advantage of this opportunity for professional development and helped us celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Georgia Preschool Association.

Please spread the word about the training that Georgia Preschool provides and

encourage others to join. Membership fees are lower than most professional organization fees and the fees provide the financial support for our annual conference and the district workshops.

We are working on plans for the 2018 District 4 Training Event. It will take place on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Check the website in May for details and registration forms.

## District 5 Barbara Gordon

[bgordon@georgiapreschool.org](mailto:bgordon@georgiapreschool.org)

Spring Break is behind us and the end of the school year will be here before we know it! But in District 5, we are already making plans for the 2018 – 2019 school year! We have scheduled a training session for Saturday, November 3rd, at

St. Peter Chanel Church in Roswell. Mark your calendars now and look for further information, which will be available in the fall. Have a restful summer!



## District 6 Diane Lamb

[dlamb@georgiapreschool.org](mailto:dlamb@georgiapreschool.org)

I know each of you that attended the Georgia Preschool Conference came back to your schools all fired up and ready to finish the school year on a high note. This year's conference had so many great presenters and I know everyone enjoyed Steve Spangler. I have already used some of the items I purchased from his sales table. One that I especially liked was the clear jelly marbles. When hydrated they completely disappear in the water. I used this as one example when I was doing a Chapel service. I would let the children see the cup and there was nothing they could see, but when they felt in the cup they could feel the jelly marbles. I talked to them about the wind we couldn't see it, but we know it is there. Then I talked to them about Jesus and we couldn't see Him, but we know He is with us. This was a great visual and very good teaching tool.

Now that the weather is warming, hopefully all the sickness is gone from your school. This seems to have been the year

of "flu, flu, flu". Make sure your children continually wash their hands, cough into their elbow, and keep items out of their mouths. We sanitize and clean on a continual basis and have not had the absences that some schools have experienced. Hopefully the warm sunshine will kill the germs and give a lot of Vitamin D to us all.

These last few weeks of school are filled with fun and excitement for all of us. It is nice to reflect on your school year and see what each child has accomplished. I had a kindergarten teacher always tell her children, "you are growing in wisdom and stature". It is very rewarding seeing children reach the moments in their lives when they recognize letters, numbers, colors and; even, one of the most exciting moments of their little lives is when they begin reading. These are seeds that we can plant in young children. What an awesome task we have! It is a joy and a privilege to be able to be a part of each child's life.

A date I would like you to remember is JULY 18, 2018 – this will be the District 6 training workshop in Griffin. We will have some very good presenters and you can earn 4 hours of BFTS training. You will be receiving more of this information in the next month. When we began this workshop we had about 90 attendees, and I am happy to say that last year we had over 200. Please come and get our school year jumped started and filled with fun and energy for the coming school year.

Again, let me say it is a privilege to serve the GPA and if I can ever be of any service to you or your school feel free to contact me.

Fondly,

Diane Lamb – Past President and District 6 GPA Representative  
[dianelamb@fbcgriffin.org](mailto:dianelamb@fbcgriffin.org)

The District 7 Training Event is planned for August 7 at St Andrew UMC in Marietta. Our theme this year is "A Whole New World" from Disney's Aladdin movie. We hope you will be inspired by the presentations including topics on

sensory processing, using music in the classroom, understanding toddlers, outdoor learning, behavior management, teaching techniques and leadership skills. A full description of presentations will be published soon and we hope you

will be able to attend. Our format includes the opportunity to attend two presentations and earn 4 BFTS staff development hours. Check your email or the GPA website for upcoming registration information.

## GPA Past Presidents Honored

GPA Past Presidents honored at our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference Celebration

We had the pleasure of honoring 12 past presidents at the 2018 Annual Conference in celebration of our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. These ladies were greeted as they registered as our guests at the Embassy Suites Hotel. Each was given welcome bags and corsages to wear identifying them as Georgia Preschool Association past presidents.

They attended the Board dinner in the Embassy Suites' Envoy dining room with the Executive Board on Thursday evening and enjoyed a wonderful time of renew-

ing friendships remembering past years they served and worked for Georgia's children.

On Friday morning the past presidents were introduced to and honored by the conference attendees at the keynote session.

Past president attending the conference celebration were:

Joyce Parks 1974-76, Ann Vining 1980-82, Katy Fletcher 1989-91, Linda Jenkins 1993-95, 2005-07, Polly Mills 1995-97, Sallie Mann 2001-03, Gail Spence 2003-05, Tonie Sanders 2007-09, Louise

Clifford 2009-11, Helen Geesey 2011-13, Karen Coffeen 2013-15, Diane Lamb 2015-17. Sending regrets were: Anne Caswell 1982-84, Glenn Ann O'Neal 1991-93, Sue Corley 1997-99.

Several of our past presidents sent letters because they could not attend the anniversary celebration, some are deceased and some we have lost contact with through the past 60 years. If you have contact information for a past president not listed, we would appreciate any updates you may have. Send to [lclifford@georgiapreschool.org](mailto:lclifford@georgiapreschool.org)



## 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 2018 Annual 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.

We are always in need of hostesses, if you would like to be one next year, please contact Janis Smith through the GPA website.

[jsmith@georgiapreschool.org](mailto:jsmith@georgiapreschool.org)



If you missed this year's conference you missed a truly great weekend and an amazing keynote speaker. Steve Spangler was captivating and awe-inspiring. He helped to motivate us to use more science in easy ways in our classroom. He instilled in us the importance of giving children an experience every day and not just on special occasions. Kids should go home every day saying it was the Best Day Ever!

We celebrated Georgia Preschool's 60th Anniversary in a big way. Many thanks to The School Box for providing each attendee with a free tote bag. Also a big thanks to all the vendors who provided items to put in the tote bags. Several of the Board members had a "wonderful" time stuffing 1200 bags Thursday night!

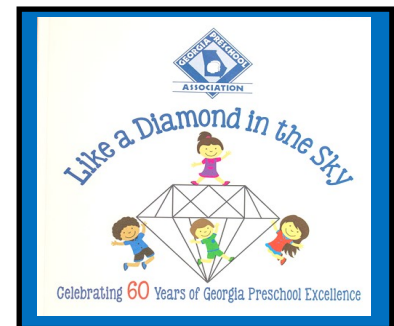
Lunches were a big success as Subway and Chick-Fil-A both served our masses in less than 20 minutes each day! Our

### Georgia Preschool Association Annual Conference March 1 and 2, 2019 Cobb Galleria Centre

vendors were great at sharing information, providing free giveaways, and great products for us to use both in and out of the classroom. All of our

presenters did a great job of providing lots of valuable information for us to become the best educators we can possibly be.

We greatly appreciate your input through the thorough evaluations you submitted and will use this information to make next year's conference even better. Thank you for a great year and we look forward to seeing you March 1-2, 2019 at the Cobb Galleria Centre.



## GPA Conference Exhibit Hall

## Karen Coffeen

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 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 included: Busy Kids Activities, Center for Puppetry Arts, Childcare Careers, Child Care Education Institute, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Early Childhood Training on Demand, Frog Street Press, Fundanoodle, Halo-ishous LLC, Julie Austin, Lakeshore Learning Materials, Marcus Autism Center, Medieval Times, Miss Gail Music, NJS Fashion Handbags, Opus One Music, ProSolutions Training, Rhythm and Writing, Rollins Center for Language and

Literacy-- Atlanta Speech School, Roylco, The School Box, Shauna Woods, Stepping Stones--Atlanta Speech School, Steve Spangler Science, Trendy Teacherz Boutique, The Wright Stuff Chics, Zoo-phonics, and Zyrobotics, LLC.

If you would like more information on any of these companies please check out the website:

<http://www.georgiapreschool.org/annual-conference-exhibitors/> 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!

Karen Coffeen, Exhibit Hall Chairperson  
[kcoffeen@georgiapreschool.org](mailto:kcoffeen@georgiapreschool.org) or  
770-590-0982



Thank you to all who supported the Silent Auction at the GPA Conference this year. We hope you are enjoying the items, tickets and gift cards that were available!

A BIG 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:

- CNN Studio Tour
- Creative Discovery Museum - Chattanooga
- Georgia Ballet
- Georgia Tech
- Henry's Louisiana Grill
- High Museum of Art
- Historic Oakland Foundation
- Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art
- Marietta Gone With the Wind Museum
- Marriott Suites Atlanta Midtown
- Medieval Times
- Michael Carlos Museum at Emory
- Ober Gatlinburg
- Rock City

- Shakespeare Tavern
- Tellus Science Museum
- Tennessee Aquarium
- Tennessee Valley Railroad
- Wild Adventures Theme Park
- Wild Animal Safari -
- Williamson Bros. Barbeque
- World of Coca-Cola
- Wren's Nest



## Embassy Suites parking fees mistake

The Embassy Suites Hotel apologizes for the mistake of overcharging hotel guest parking fees. Please check your credit

card bill and if you were charged \$12.00 each day for parking and an adjustment to \$8.00 each day has not been made,

please contact [lclifford@georgiapreschool.org](mailto:lclifford@georgiapreschool.org) for correction.



The Georgia Preschool Association is hiring an Administrative Assistant. For a full job description, go to [georgiapreschool.org](http://georgiapreschool.org).

Please contact:

[hgeesey@georgiapreschool.org](mailto:hgeesey@georgiapreschool.org)





## Upcoming Training Opportunities

- District 4: August 4, 2018  
6 hours BFTS credit  
Saint Philip AME Church in Decatur  
(Check the website [georgiapreschool.org](http://georgiapreschool.org) for registration information and description)
- District 5: November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018  
St. Peter Chanel Church in Roswell, GA  
(Check the website [georgiapreschool.org](http://georgiapreschool.org) for registration information and description)
- District 6: July 18, 2018  
4 hours BFTS credit  
First Baptist Weekday of Griffin  
(Check the website [georgiapreschool.org](http://georgiapreschool.org) for registration information and description)
- District 7: August 7, 2018  
4 hours BFTS credit  
St. Andrew UMC Preschool, Marietta  
(Check the website [georgiapreschool.org](http://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@georgiapreschool.org](mailto:nbulger@georgiapreschool.org).

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