

Senior News

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Holiday Open House at Sacred Heart Cultural Center!

Story on page 5

November 2016
Vol. 30, No. 11

Taking Care

Caring for Caregivers is a Special Gift!

by LISA M. PETSCHÉ

The holiday season is a hectic time for many people, due to the preparations and festivities that typically take place. Staying sane, not to mention enjoying this time of the year, is even more of a challenge for those providing care to a chronically ill relative.



Lisa Petsche

Lighten the Load

The following are some suggestions for lightening the load of a caregiver in your life.

- Bake extra holiday treats to share with them.
- Let them know when you are heading out to the grocery store or on other errands, and ask if there's anything they need.
- Offer respite for an hour so they can get their hair done, or for a longer stretch so they can

go shopping or to a holiday event.

- Offer to decorate, wrap gifts or perform other seasonal tasks. If they enjoy some of these activities, occupy their relative so they can engage in them without interruption.

- Offer to address greeting cards and take them to the post office, or assist the person in preparing and sending a newsletter to update family members and friends.

- If they plan to entertain, offer to help with preparations and cleanup, or to attend to the care receiver during the event so the caregiver can concentrate on hosting duties and mingle with guests.

- If the person doesn't drive, offer transportation to the mall, a church event or somewhere else that they (and perhaps also their relative, if feasible) would like to go.

- Encourage the caregiver to practice self-care by eating nutritiously, exercising and getting

sufficient rest. Do whatever you can to help make this happen.

For example, bring over a meal or offer to sit with their relative so they can take a walk.

- Surprise the person with a treat, such as a rented movie (perhaps a holiday classic) or a poinsettia plant or other seasonal decoration. If you're on limited income, sign out magazines, books, movies or music CDs for them from the public library.

- Ask, rather than guess, what kind of practical help the caregiver could use most; perhaps it's dusting and vacuuming or running errands. If they decline assistance, continue to express your desire to help. Meanwhile, take it upon yourself to deliver a casserole or baked goods and, if you're a neighbor, to sweep both walks or bring in both sets of garbage cans. Encourage the person to ask for help if they are trying to do it all alone.

Keep in mind that emotional support and your time are the two most valuable gifts you can give a caregiver.

Thoughtful Gifts

- Booklet of IOUs for one or more of the following: home-cooked meals, baked goods, respite care, household chores or repairs, yard work, chauffeuring, running errands.

- Answering machine or cordless phone.

- Wall calendar with plenty of space for noting appointments.

- Caregiving binder for keeping records and organizing paperwork.

- Membership in a caregivers, organization or non-profit organization associated with their relative's disease (for example, the Alzheimer's Association or Parkinson Foundation).

- Gift certificate for a home healthcare agency, medical supply store or cleaning service.

- Book of tickets or gift voucher for accessible transportation, if the care receiver is unable to ride in a car, so they can go out together.

- Inspirational book (choose a collection of verses or short stories if the caregiver doesn't have much time for reading).

- Subscription to a caregiving periodical, or a magazine that reflects an interest (such as nature) or favorite pastime (gardening, for example).

- Hardcover journal for recording their experiences, thoughts and feelings.

- Relaxation tapes or miniature water fountain.

- Bird feeder and seed, or binoculars for bird watching.

- Hobby or craft supplies.

- Writing paper and envelopes, or a set of all-occasion note cards, along with stamps.

- Scented items: hand and body lotion, cologne, bar soap, bath salts or shower gel, drawer sachets, potpourri or candles.

- Basket of sweets, gourmet coffees and teas, jams and jellies or dried fruit and nuts.

- Gift certificate to a restaurant with takeout and delivery service, a dry cleaner with pickup service or a pharmacy or grocery store that delivers.

- Two tickets to a cultural event – so a friend can accompany them – and an IOU for respite care.

For higher-cost items, pool resources with family members or friends.

Lisa M. Petsche is a medical social worker and a freelance writer specializing in boomer and senior health matters.



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Georgia Retired Educators Day 2016

Special to Senior News

Georgia Retired Educators Day 2016 is Sunday, November 6, 2016. Both Governor Nathan Deal and Mayor Hardie Davis proclaim this observation annually. All citizens are urged to recognize the lasting contributions of retired teachers,

administrators, and other educators. Mrs. M. McDonald, President of the Richmond County Retired Educators Association, encourages all churches, social, educational, and political organizations, public agencies, and other groups to observe this special recognition day. Contact 706-925-8616 for additional information.

New study shows accreditation is a significant predictor of nursing home quality

Special to Senior News

JAMDA Study: Joint Commission Nursing Home Accreditation Predicts Quality (Oakbrook Terrace, Ill. – October 11, 2016) Joint Commission accreditation is a significant predictor of nursing home quality, according to a new study published online September 2, 2016, in "JAMDA, the official journal of AMDA - The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine."

New study shows @TJCommission #nursinghome accreditation predicts #quality. The new study, "Comparing Public Quality Ratings for Accredited and Non-accredited Nursing Homes," compares 711 Joint Commission accredited nursing homes with 14,926 non-accredited nursing homes using public data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Nursing Home Compare data set. After controlling for the influences of facility size and ownership type, Joint Commission accredited nursing

homes with Post-Acute Care Certification performed statistically better on the CMS star rating, and Joint Commission accredited nursing homes had better performance than non-accredited nursing homes on each of the star rating component subscales. Joint Commission accredited nursing homes also had fewer deficiencies than non-accredited nursing homes, were less likely to have deficiencies associated with immediate jeopardy or widespread deficiencies, and they had fewer payment denials and lower fines.

"The results confirm findings from prior research in the literature, demonstrating a consistent pattern of superior performance among nursing homes accredited by The Joint Commission," said Scott C. Williams, PsyD, director, Health Services Research, The Joint Commission, and lead author of the study. "We conducted the study following the redesign of The Joint Commission's Nursing Care Center Accreditation program in 2013 and the addition of a Post-Acute Care Certificate option, which took place around the same time that CMS modified the Nursing Home Compare Five-Star Quality Rating

System in February 2015. So it was gratifying to see that the results continue to validate the value of Joint Commission accreditation and certification, first and foremost for the residents who deserve the best quality care and second for the organizations who seek accreditation."

The Joint Commission's (NCC) Accreditation program is designed to help providers achieve, maintain and demonstrate consistent excellence for those they serve. The NCC Accreditation program combines an enhanced patient- and resident-centered quality framework with collaborative on-site evaluation to help nursing homes proactively identify and address vulnerabilities to safeguard patients and residents. Accreditation also helps to minimize the risk of readmissions from nursing homes to hospitals that are critical to the success of their strategic partnerships.

Joint Commission accredited NCC organizations also have the option to become certified for Post-Acute Care (PAC) or Memory Care. PAC recognizes organizations that provide advanced, rehabilitative services to patients or residents

within the nursing home setting and Memory Care recognizes organizations that demonstrate competency in advanced dementia care services.

For more information on Joint Commission NCC Accreditation and Memory Care or PAC Certification contact Gina Zimmermann, executive director, Nursing Care Center Accreditation, The Joint Commission, at (630) 792-5020.

The Joint Commission

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value. The Joint Commission accredits and certifies nearly 21,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. An independent, nonprofit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. Learn more about The Joint Commission at www.jointcommission.org.

Vintage Gardens At Sweetwater



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Senior News & Views of Georgia

Poets' Corner

Editor's Note: If you have written a "well-worked" poem which you would like considered for publication, please email it to seniornewsga@cox.net or mail it to Senior News, 214 Wilsons Creek Bend, Bonaire, GA 31005. Please include your name and address on your poem. We will publish selected poems (or excerpts) as space permits.

ARE YOU READY TODAY by Terrie Price (Dedicated to Les Smith)

*Have you read your Bible,
Have you read it today?
What chapter, what verse,
What lesson in life came your way?*

*Have you read your Bible,
Have you read it today?
Where did it take you,
What did it say?
Have you found Jesus along your
way?*

*Have you read your Bible,
Have you read it today?*

*Oh, for the wisdom of His way,
For only in Jesus can we surrender
and obey.
And only through our personal
relationship,
Can we follow His way.*

*Have your ready your Bible,
Have you read it today?
Did you read of His coming,
No hour, no day.*

*Have you read your Bible,
Are you ready today?*

A PRAYER FOR AMERICA by Shirley Glisson

*Our Father, God, with humble hearts
We petition Thee today,
Forgive our sins and heal our land.
Free may she always stay.*

*Protect her by Thy might power
That all the world may see,
Faith in Thee has made us great,
And given liberty.*

Old Glory, may you always wave,

*Above the land and sea,
And may The Lady ever stand
To raise the torch of liberty!*

THE FOUR UPS by Cynthia Underwood

*Get Up... Venture out; explore
your options.
For the idle mind leaves much
to wonder about.
So ponder the brain for fresh ideas.
Remember! Every day brings
something new.*

*Man Up... Admit to wrong doing.
Let honesty and truth prevail.
Then be available to carry out
your mission.*

*Face Up... To each task ahead;
For today comes but once.
So be ready to tackle the issues
at hand.*

*Rap Up... All that is evil.
Put yourself in the driver's seat;
Wipe out the negative and
implement the positive.*

Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® helps reclaim the future for millions

Participants raise critically needed funds for Alzheimer's Care, Support and Research

Special to Senior News

The Alzheimer's Association is inviting Augusta area residents to unite in a movement to reclaim the future for millions by participating in the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's®. Walk to End Alzheimer's will take place on Saturday, November 5 at the Columbia County Amphitheater in Augusta, and is expected to attract more than 900 participants.

Walk to End Alzheimer's is more than a walk. Participants in Augusta will learn about Alzheimer's disease and how to get involved with this critical cause, from advocacy opportunities and clinical studies enrollment to support programs and services. In addition to the 2-mile walk, participants also will honor those affected by Alzheimer's disease with the

poignant Promise Garden ceremony.

"There are 130,000 Georgians living with Alzheimer's and that number is expected to grow in Georgia by 46 percent in the next 10 years," said Casey Corley, director of constituent events for the Alzheimer's Association, Georgia Chapter's Coastal Georgia office. "Not only are we raising awareness for Alzheimer's disease, but we are raising critical dollars to fund programs for families who are suffering and are funding research to one day find a cure."

To learn more about the disease and available resources, call the toll-free Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900.

Alzheimer's disease is a growing epidemic and the nation's sixth-leading cause of death. As baby boomers age, the number of individuals living with Alzheimer's disease will rapidly escalate, increasing well beyond today's more than 5 million Americans to as many as 16 million by 2050.

Alzheimer's Association Walk

to End Alzheimer's®

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Since 1989, the Alzheimer's Association mobilized millions of Americans in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk®; now the Alzheimer's Association is continuing to lead the way with Walk to End Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's Association®

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. It is the largest non-profit funder of Alzheimer's research. The Association's mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research, to provide and enhance care and support for all affected and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Its vision is a world without Alzheimer's. Visit alz.org/Georgia or call 800-272-3900. Connect on Facebook and Twitter.

On the Cover

Let's attend the Holiday Open House!

by CAROLYN BRENNEMAN

Let's join in on the fun and attend this year's fabulous annual gift shop Holiday Open House at Sacred Heart Cultural Center in Augusta on Thursday, November 17th. During this fabulous and extremely popular event, we can enjoy cooking demonstrations, browse the fabulous gift shop, attend a book signing, and purchase some delicious home-baked goods, specialty breads, and homemade savory treats from the Guild bake sale. "The bake sale, which occurs every year, helps raise monies for the Guild which is used for the preservation of the Cultural Center including the display cases in the historical room," says Judy Evans, the manager of the Gift Shop and Art Hall. "Everything that is raised from the events at Sacred Heart, goes into funding to perpetually care for this historic center."

This year the open house will present feature Sid Mullis, around author of *Sid Sez – Grow it in Augusta*, who will have a book signing from 10 to 12:30 pm. Then around 1:00 pm, we will delight in a cooking demonstration presented by Havird Usry from Fat Man's Café who will share with us some great holiday tips and

cook up some delicious samples. Complimentary coffee will be served by Buona Caffè during the day and the Guild will offer free gift wrapping for all purchased items from the gift shop.

Sacred Heart's Gift Shop, tucked away downstairs at Sacred Heart Cultural Center, offers local artisans many opportunities to show and sell their works. Looking for something unique to the CSRA? This holiday season, the gift shop features attractive wreaths and Nativity sets, homemade jams and jellies, original art, many beautiful wall plaques, wall hangings and beautifully crafted and colorful gift items. Come to this fabulous and unique shop for browsing and purchasing gifts for your family and friends.

So mark your calendars and plan on attending this marvelous open house this year at Sacred Heart Cultural Center in downtown Augusta.



Judy Evans, Manager of the Gift Shop



Baked goods for sale



Baked goods for sale



Christmas gifts for your friends and family



Christmas ornaments and gifts on display at the Gift Shop

Additional Senior Services & Events Information Available at www.seniornewsga.com

**AUGUSTA/CSRA METRO AREA
Senior Services & Events Directory**
For additional Services & Events listings, please visit our website at:
www.seniornewsga.com.

The Senior Citizens Council
4210 Columbia Road, Suite 13A,
Martinez, GA 30907; 706-868-0120
www.seniorcitizenscouncil.org

The Senior Citizens Council is open Monday through Friday for the following services:

- Advocacy Programs Department – including: Caseworker Services - Caregiver Respite, Referral Information and Support (CRRIS); Bill and Money Management (MAP); Senior Health Insurance and Education (SHINE) - the Center for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation.
- The Senior Corps Department: Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) and Senior Companion Program (SCP) for income-eligible persons age 55 and older who "serve up to 20 hours a week with special needs children or adults." Call us at 706-868-0120 for complete details. The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) for individuals looking for "fun and rewarding ways to make a difference in the community" or just get out-of-the-house a few hours a month. RSVP recruits individuals age 55 and over for the opportunity to apply their skills, expertise, and experience to help meet critical community needs while meeting other like-minded folks in our community. RSVP pairs talented volunteers with a variety of local nonprofit, health care, governmental, and faith based organizations to assist these groups with meeting the needs of those they serve. Please call us at 706-868-0120 for details on any of our programs or make an appointment for a needed service. Our physical address is 4210 Columbia Road, Suite 13A, Martinez, GA 30907, Monday through Friday, 8:30

a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

CSRA Senior Centers

Over 60? Enjoy socializing, parties, cards, crafts, Bingo and travel? Interested in staying healthy and active? Tired of eating lunch alone? If you answered YES to these questions, then you need to check out a Senior Center near you!

- Blythe Area Recreation Department Patricia Strakosch; 3129 Highway 88, Blythe, GA 30805; 706-592-6668
- Carrie J. Mays Recreation Center Sheryl Jones; 1015 11th Ave., Augusta, GA 30901; 706-821-2831
- East View Community Center Roberta Sullivan; 644 Aiken St., Augusta, GA 30901; 706-722-2302
- HH Brigham Senior Center Heather Kooms; 2463 Golden Camp Rd., Augusta, GA 30906; 706-772-5456
- McBean Community Center Willamae Shaheed; 1155 Hephzibah-McBean Rd., Hephzibah, GA 30815; 706-560-1814 or 706-560-2628
- Sand Hills Community Center Lillie Rosier; 2540 Wheeler Rd., Augusta, GA 30904; 706-842-1912 or 706-842-1916
- New Bethlehem Community Center, Inc. Millicent E. West; 1336 Conklin Ave., Augusta, GA 30901; 706-722-0086
- Bessie Thomas Community Center Jeff Asman; 5913 Euchee Creek Dr., Grovetown, GA 30813; 706-556-0308
- Burke County Senior Center Jackie Brayboy; 717 W. 6th St., Waynesboro, GA 30830; 706-437-8007
- Glascock County Senior Center Anita May; 568 Brassell Park Ln., Gibson, GA 30810; 706-598-3050
- Grovetown Senior Center Jennifer Thomas; 103 W. Robinson Ave., Grovetown, GA 30813; 706-210-8699
- Betty Hill Senior Citizens Center Cathie Birdsong; 330 Waters Work Rd., Sparta, GA 31087; 706-444-7532
- Harlem Senior Center Tina Sidener; 405 B West Church St., Harlem, GA 30814; 706-449-8400
- Jefferson County Senior Center Marie Swint; 209 E. 7th St., Louisville, GA 30434; 478-625-8820
- McDuffie Senior Center Melinda Hill; 304 Greenway St., Thomson, GA 30824; 706-595-7502
- Jenkins County Senior Center Shirley Chance; 998 College Ave., Millen, GA 30442; 478-982-4213
- Lincoln County Senior Center

Pam Parton; 160 May Ave., Lincolnton, GA 30817; 706-359-3760

• Sylvania Senior Center

Cathy Forehand; 209 E. Ogeechee St., Sylvania, GA 30467; 912-564-7727

• Taliaferro County Senior Center Allene Oliver; 119 Commerce St., Crawfordville, GA 30631; 706-456-2611

• Warren County Senior Center Gwanda Murray; 48 Warren St., Warrenton, GA 30828; 706-465-3539

• Washington County Council on Aging Jane Colson; 466 Maurice Friedman Rd., Sandersville, GA 31082; 478-552-0898 (Mon., Tues. and Thurs.)

478-552-0013

• Wilkes County Diana Hall; 108 Marshall St., Washington, GA 30673; 706-678-2518

• Shiloh Comprehensive Community Center Elizabeth Jones; 1635 15th St., Augusta, GA 30901; 706-738-0089

H. H. Brigham Senior Center

2463 Golden Camp Rd., Augusta

Contact: Patricia A. Jenner

706-772-5456; 1 a.m.-3 p.m.

Aiken County Parks, Recreation & Tourism

902 Vacluse Rd., Aiken, SC 29801;

803-642-7559;

www.aikencountysc.gov/tourism

Courtney Senior Center

49 Roy St., Wagener, SC; 564-5211

• Senior Bingo: 3rd Fri., 2 p.m., Free

• Canasta Club: Wednesdays, 12 noon, Free

Harrison-Caver Park

4181 Augusta Rd., Clearwater, SC; 593-4698

Aiken County Recreation Center

917 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Graniteville, SC; 663-6142

Roy Warner Park

4287 Festival Trail Rd., Wagener, SC;

564-6149

Academy for Lifelong Learning, USC-Aiken

Information: 803-641-3288

Hearing Loss Association of Augusta

Meetings are normally

held on the 3rd Saturday,

11 a.m.-1 p.m., September-

April except for December,

at University Hospital,

1350 Walton Way, Dining

Rooms 1-3. For informa-

tion on the organization please contact Gayle Tison at g.m.tison@wowway.com.

Hephzibah Lions Club

Meets the 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7 p.m., Jesse Carroll Community Center,

Windsor Spring Rd., Hephzibah. For additional information contact Lion

Frank Spinney, President, at 706-592-5618 or Jon Winters at 706-592-9622 or 706-833-0458.

Morris Museum of Art

1 Tenth Street at Riverwalk in Augusta Riverfront Center. Call 706-724-7501

for more information or visit the Museum's website at www.the-morris.org.

• *American Ballads: The Photographs of Marty Stuart* is on exhibit through Nov. 27

• *The Travelin' McCourys*: Fri., Nov. 11

Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art

Located at 506 Telfair Street, Augusta. Call 706-722-5495 for information.

Caregiver Support Group

Are you caring for a spouse or parent? Join other caregivers to share experiences, gather practical resources and find the support you need. The group meets the 3rd Monday of each month at

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Missed your copy of Senior News?

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EVENTS

from page 6

6:30 p.m. at the Friedman Branch Library located at 1447 Jackson Road in Augusta. For more information contact Georgia Jopling, Caregiver Specialist, Area Agency on Aging, 706-210-2000 or 888-922-4464.

Augusta Museum of History
560 Reynolds Street in downtown Augusta. Call 706-722-8454 for events information.

• October's Brown Bag History Series
Lecture: *The Hispanic Community's Cultural and Political Impact in the CSRA*: Nov. 9. Call for complete details.

Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History
www.lucycraftlaneymuseum.com
Call 706-724-3576 for events information.

USA DANCE Augusta Chapter 6074
Every Third Saturday of the Month

The USA Dance is a National Dance Organization. Our Chapter 6074 focuses on the Augusta and Aiken areas. Our dances are held on the THIRD SATURDAY of each month. The dance is held at American Legion Post 63, 90 Milledge Rd., Augusta, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. Lessons at 8 p.m. If you are able, please bring something sweet or savory for the goody table. Tasty food, the best dance floor in the CSRA, great music, a friendly and welcoming atmosphere all add up to a perfect Saturday evening experience. Cost is \$8.00 for USA Dance members or \$10.00 for non-members. For additional information call Kay Cooke at 706-210-8780 or Rudy Brostrom at 803-442-9337. Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship! Monthly dance details below:
• Nov. 19: Thanks-giving West Coast Swing

• Dec. 17: Christmas (No Dance Instructor)

Augusta Christian Singles Dance

Dances are at 7:30 p.m. with complimentary dance lessons at 6:30 p.m. Admission will be \$10.00 for guests and \$8.00 for members. Light refreshments will be served.

Located at The Ballroom Dance Center, 525 Grand Slam Drive, Evans, GA 30809.

Friday Night Dance

Every Friday, 8-11 p.m., American Legion Post 63, 90 Milledge Rd., Augusta. With band or DJ. \$10 cost. Free coffee and cake. Everyone welcome. Call 706-733-5184.

Phinzy Swamp Events

706-828-2109

Pieceful Hearts Quilt Guild

Meets on Monday nights, 7-9 p.m., and Thursday mornings, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Martintown Rd., North Augusta. For details call 803-279-6456 or 706-790-4975.

Augusta Chapter Of The Embroiderers' Guild Of America

Anyone with an appreciation of embroidery is welcome. Chapter consists of women with diverse backgrounds, experience, and ages who share an interest and pleasure in needlework. Meetings include a review of local needlework activities, some hands-on stitching, refreshments, and socialization. Meets the 1st Mon. of each month at Alliance Missionary Church, 2801 Ingleside Dr., Augusta. For additional information call Natalie Farrell at 706-736-5508.

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group
Meets 3rd Tues., 6:30 p.m., Brandon Wilde Retirement Community, Evans. For

details call 706-854-3591 or 706-854-3501.

CSRA Parkinson Support Group

Meets monthly, St. John Towers Dining Room, 724 Greene St., Augusta. For details call 706-364-1662.

Area Agency on Aging Offerings

Learn through a 30-Minute session, 3rd Thurs. each month, 1 p.m., KROC Center Augusta, Senior Lounge, 1833 Broad St. Registration not required. Contact Lee Walker, Resource Specialist, 706-922-8348 or 706-210-2018.

Harmony River Chorus of Sweet Adelines International

Local chapter includes the Augusta, North Augusta and Aiken area of women ages 18 to 80 who love singing Barbershop style music. Open rehearsals are every Thurs., 7-9 p.m., at the North Augusta Church, 600 W. Martintown Rd., North Augusta, SC. For additional information contact Judy Tobin at 706-877-2715 (GA) or Connie Waiswiles at 803-522-0552 (SC) or visit website: harmonyriverchorus.org.

ENOPION Theatre Company presents CREATION based on Genesis

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plan from the beginning to reconcile man back to Himself through His Son Jesus Christ. Tickets available. Show Dates & Times: Fri., Nov. 4, 7 p.m. and Sat., Nov. 5, 3 p.m. Adults, \$16, Seniors, Children and Groups of 10 or more, \$12 per person. Call 706-771-7777 or visit www.enopion.com.

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Augusta Museum of History invited to MuseumNext International Conference: Museum Escape Program

Special to Senior News

The Augusta Museum of History is pleased to announce that it has been invited to attend and present at the international conference, MuseumNext, February 15-17, 2017 in Melbourne, Australia. Staff member, Amy Schaffman, our Education Manager, will be explaining AMH's newest innovative series: the Museum Escape Program. We will be taking the stage with presenters from 12 countries who will cover everything from risky exhibitions to the latest IP challenges to co-developing education programs with teachers to the latest VR tech and beyond.

MuseumNext is a global conference on the future of museums. Since 2009 it has acted as a platform for showcasing best practice today to shine a light on the museum of tomorrow and as a catalyst for change within the museum sector, covering a broad range of subjects including, audiences, design, technology, skills, collections, conserva-

tion, purpose and leadership.

In September 2016 the Augusta Museum of History opened the first Museum Escape Room in Augusta, Georgia and the United States. Escape Rooms are interactive game rooms in which participants solve a series of clues and puzzles to escape the room. The industry has become an international phenomenon and mainly attracts millennials and young professionals. It also provides excellent opportunities as a team-building exercise for the business community. The Augusta Museum of History is the first museum in the U.S. to join the small but growing ranks of museums utilizing their exhibits in this innovative and educational way. Although some museums in the United States have contracted with existing escape rooms for pop-up style games, the Augusta Museum of History is the only one to have a permanent escape room program. To date, there have only been three other museums (State Library of Western Australia in Perth, Australia, the Polar Museum in Cambridge, United Kingdom, and the Diefenbunker in Ottawa, Canada)

world-wide to implement escape rooms within their museums, and the Augusta Museum of History is the only history museum to have created the clues in addition to running the room.

The Museum Escape Program has resulted in an increase in engagement with the public and especially with millennials for the Augusta Museum of History. Within five days, the Murder at the Mill Museum Escape Room sold out and the public is eagerly anticipating the new 2017 spring version. Attracting new audiences is important but also critical is that the program is based on a true story which directly ties into the history of the region and the educational mission of the institution. This presentation seeks to examine this program's impact and most importantly to answer the question, how can current popular trends be integrated in a substantive way into a museum environment, while also increasing engagement?

MuseumNext showcases the best in museum practice today to shine a light on the museum of tomorrow.

About Augusta Museum of History and the 1797 Ezekiel Harris House

Augusta Museum of History, the only Museum in the CSRA accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, was established in 1937 for the purpose of preserving and sharing the material history of Augusta and the region. From a

10,000 year-old projectile point to a 1914 locomotive, to James Brown memorabilia the collections chronicle a rich and fascinating past. The museum is located at 560 Reynolds Street in downtown Augusta. Please call (706) 722-8454 for more information or visit www.augustamuseum.org.

Hours: Thursday - Saturday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; Sunday 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm; Closed Monday-Wednesday

Admission: Adult: \$4 * Senior: \$3 * Child (6-18): \$2 * Child (5 under): Free

The 1797 Ezekiel Harris House, said to be "the finest eighteenth-century house surviving in Georgia", is located at 1822 Broad Street and is an excellent example of early Federal architecture. Fully restored in 1964 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Ezekiel Harris House is a reminder of the days when tobacco was the primary cash crop of Georgia. For more information, call (706) 722-8454 or visit www.augustamuseum.org.

Hours: Guided tours by appointment Tuesday - Friday, with the last tour beginning at 4:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, with the last tour beginning at 4:00 pm; Tours by appointment only Tuesday - Friday; Closed Sunday Monday. To schedule tours call (706) 722-8454.

Admission: Adult and Senior: \$2 * Child: \$1



USA National Miss 2016 Georgia Pageant scheduled for November 6th

Special to Senior News

The USA National Miss Georgia pageant will be taking place Nov. 6 at the Henry County Performing Arts Center where they will crown their 2017 state queens to advance to the national pageant in Florida. The national USA National Miss Scholarship Pageant, held July 10-15 in Boca Raton, Florida, has awarded over half a million dollars in cash scholarships, full ride college scholarships and prizes since

2015.

The newly crowned Georgia state queens will represent the state at the national competition, as well as travel throughout the state promoting the organization's anti-bullying platform, The Crown C.A.R.E.S. (Creating A Respectful Environment in Schools.)

For more information on USA National Miss, please go to www.USANationalMiss.com. Tickets to the USA National Miss Georgia pageant are \$20 and are available at the door.

Public Hearing:

Services for Age 60 and Older
and Persons with Disabilities



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Wednesday, December 7, 2016

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Henry H Brigham Senior Center

2463 Golden Camp Rd.

Augusta, GA 30906

The CSRA Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging invites you to attend a public hearing that will provide an opportunity for seniors and individuals with disabilities to voice their input regarding services in our community - what is needed, missing or needs to be improved.

Written remarks may be submitted as part of the official record and sent to: jcummings@csrarc.ga.gov or mailed to:

Area Agency on Aging

3626 Walton Way Extension, Suite 300

Augusta, GA 30909.



For more information or to register for testimony, contact Jeanette Cummings, Director, at 706.210.2013 or toll free at 866.552.4464.

Email at jcummings@csrarc.ga.gov.