

Senior News

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Massee Lane Gardens 2017 Festival of Camellias!

by CLAIRE HOUSER-DODD

As Celeste Richard is the Director of The American Camellia Society at Massee Lane Gardens just seven miles south of Fort Valley on Highway 49, she is receiving many accolades about this year's "Festival of Camellias" that ran all the way through February with many programs and activities. Celeste has been one very busy lady this last month overseeing and being in charge of everything.

When we finally reached her on the phone, she said, "I've been with ACS and Massee Lane Gardens for eight years and this is one of the finest camellia seasons that we have had in my time here. Planning began a year ago for our 'Festival of Camellias.' All of our events were successful and I couldn't be more pleased. I'm so proud of our volunteers, they went above and beyond this season as well.

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Coliseum Center for Behavioral Health launches S.T.A.R. Military and Veteran Wellness Program

Special to Senior News

Coliseum Center for Behavioral Health has launched the S.T.A.R. (Stress, Trauma, Addiction, Recovery) Military and Veteran Wellness Program at Coliseum Medical Centers. The S.T.A.R. Program was created as a resource for service members and veterans who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, transition issues, drug or alcohol addiction, or other mental health issues. The S.T.A.R. Program is the first of its kind in the middle Georgia area.

The S.T.A.R. program will allow qualified service members and veterans to receive treatment in their own dedicated unit. The ten-bed unit provides 24-hour care for both personal mental health issues and combat-related trauma. The S.T.A.R. program offers board certified psychiatrists, licensed therapists, nurses and mental health technicians

with military experience and specialized training in working with soldiers and veterans.

Jessica Hatcher, Assistant Vice President for Coliseum Center for Behavioral Health, said, "Coliseum Center for Behavioral Health served over 180 active duty military and serv-

ice veterans in 2016 and we are honored to partner with our military and veteran providers to offer this new service. The STAR program was developed in response to requests from providers in our community and to meet the needs of our service men and women who have served our country."

For more information about the S.T.A.R. program at Coliseum Center for Behavioral Health, call Life-Line at (478) 741-1355 or (800) 548-4221. Life-Line is a 24-hour, seven days a week service offering information, assessment, referral and crisis intervention at no cost.

Pilot International adds three staff members

Special to Senior News

Pilot International, Inc. is pleased to announce the addition of three new staff.

Tess Harper joins Pilot International as Communications Director. A graduate of Mercer University, she is responsible for internal and external communications and branding and marketing. Donna Rainwater is Anchor Specialist. Donna, a Georgia Southern graduate, is responsible for the operational success of the youth division of Pilot through

Anchor Clubs in schools and communities internationally. Stephanie Calder joins Pilot as Membership Specialist, and is responsible for maintaining accurate international membership records.

Pilot International is a community-based volunteer service organization founded in 1921 in Macon, GA on the principles of "Friendship and Service." With more than 7,200 members in almost 300 Pilot Clubs, Pilots can be found across the U.S., the Bahamas, Japan and South Africa. Pilots carry out their mission to "Do More, Care More and Be More" by providing financial and hands-on support for national and

local initiatives in keeping with its causes of youth development & leadership; brain safety & fitness; and caring for families in times of need. In addition, there are over 7,500 school-level Anchor Club members worldwide. Through a professionally developed curriculum and strategic partnerships, Pilot encourages and provides opportunities for youth development & leadership.

Pilot remains headquartered in Macon, where its staff serves its international constituency. The name "Pilot" was inspired by the mighty riverboat pilots of that day who represented leadership and guidance.

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Warner Robins Little Theatre presents



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Truwy's
Directed by Crystal O'Leary-Davidson
Produced by Bill Fehan
March 3-5 and 8-11, 2017
Through special arrangements with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.



Let us entertain you

by CLAIRE HOUSER DODD

If you're not happy with what you have now, You'll never be happy with what you think you want.

We had the Study Club in Warner Robins a couple of Tuesdays ago at the beautiful new home of Becky Redick who is a Fort Valley person and a longtime member of the Fort Valley Study Club. Our programs vary from what we want to know to what we need to know to have entertainment. This last meeting was for enjoyment, and we hope it was. We were asked to read "Warning" which is a poem by Jenny Joseph who is now in her 80's, hates purple, but beat out Dylan Thomas' poem "I'll not Go Gentle Into That Good Night" in 1996 at British Broadcasting Company as the most popular post war poem. If you haven't seen it in a while, here it is:

"When I am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple"

By Jenny Joseph

*When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat which doesn't go,
and doesn't suit me.
And I shall spend my pension on
brandy and summer gloves
And satin sandals, and say
we've no money for butter.
I shall sit down on the pavement
when I'm tired and gobble up
samples in shops and press
alarm bells
And run my stick along the public
railings
And make up for the sobriety of
my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in
the rain
And pick flowers in other people's
gardens and learn to spit.*

*You can wear terrible shirts and
grow more fat
And eat three pounds of sausages
at a go
Or only bread and pickle for
a week
And hoard pens and pencils and*

beermats and things in boxes.

*But now we must have clothes that
keep us dry
And pay our rent and not swear in
the street
And set a good example for the
children.
We must have friends to dinner
and read the papers.*

*But maybe I ought to practice a
little now?
So people who know me are not
too shocked and surprised
When suddenly I am old, and start
to wear purple.*

Did you know Abraham Lincoln was an Aquarius? He was, and so are we. He'd have turned 208 February 12th and we're not mentioning our turning point. We still say, "Pick out the age you had the most fun and relive it!" We chose twelve, and are sticking to it: skates, bicycles, baton, and badminton and "Gone With the Wind." We had a great party at home, and at the Cane River Vineyard with roses, cookies, flowers, and balloons. Many thanks to daughter and son and many close friends.

We're not telling any little known facts about ourselves, but Lincoln, why not? Did you have any idea he was a licensed bartender or a wrestler who lost only one in 300 matches? And was honored in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and hated his nickname "Abe?" We didn't either. If interested, three more books are out: "Lincoln's White House," "Six Encounters with Lincoln," and "Lincoln in the Bardo," a first novel by George Saunders.

Mardi Gras kicked off February 28th and howls for a while. As far as we're concerned, New Orleans always howls. Having been to Mardi Gras several times, twice we took the Debate Team from FVSU down, and, of course, with Dr. Dodd as that was one of his favorite stomping grounds. He loved the jazz, the restaurants, especially The Palm Court Café owned and operated by George Buck (owner of

Jazzology) and wife, Nina. Great place!

Our favorite TV shows are NCIS Whatever. The new one being NCIS New Orleans with Scott Bakula playing Special agent Dwayne Pride, a real hair raiser with exciting shots of NOLA making remissness of memories are wonderful. We loved the paddle boats going up and down the Great Mississippi at night. Sometimes we'd take the luncheon trip and turn right around and take the dinner trip – going up to Natchez and back and eating good food, listening to great jazz and meeting fascinating people. Often times, Dr. Dodd would be playing piano, and we'd get to meet his old musical buddies. Memory is everything!

While visiting Betty Lou Groover in Macon the other day, we went down Arlington Place, behind Wesleyan Conservatory (now the new Post Office) and were so excited to see most of the old homes still had their Christmas decorations up! We enjoy them so much we like to leave them up till Valentine's Day. At least the colors are correct! Guess it's about time to think about taking them down now. Maybe Grand Matthew will

help this weekend!

What fun at the Camellia Gardens Workshop a couple of Saturdays ago. There were many venues offered, but the only one we got to watch was Jo Ann Dankle's two sessions on how to wax Camellias. One was in the auditorium and the other took place after lunch in the Fetterman Gallery. Both indoors, you see!

Jo Ann made it look so easy, just add wax and mineral oil and heat to 138 degrees, roll the bloom in and out and roll again in ice cold water. Simple. Oh, yes, with Jo Ann doing everything for you! Not so easy if you have to set it all up and keep everything at an exact temperature, etc. However, we managed to make one, (Jo Ann even brought the Camellias for us to use). Some will last for two weeks or a little longer. So beautiful. We wish ours would last forever. It did make the two week expectant time, and we enjoyed every day as we passed the marble top table where it was displayed.

We wouldn't worry so much about what other people think of us, if we knew how seldom they actually did.

Anonymous

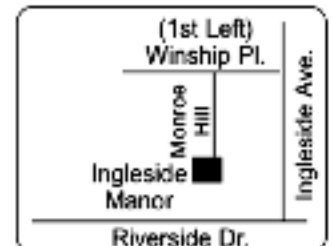
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Senior News & Views of Georgia

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.

STAND STRONG

by Joy Mitchell-Booker

*The people of God are often tested
Through trials and tribulations
Our Faith cannot waiver
Our belief must sustain us*

*Once we get saved, it is in God
we must trust*

*We can no longer live by the
world's standard*

*It is no longer applicable to us.
The word of God is all we need
To survive in life and succeed*

*To live by the principles quoted
in the Word*

*To stand fast in the light of His
marvelous love*

*Stand strong and see the Glory
of the Lord*

*Stand strong and marvel in
His might
Stand strong and accept His
Spirit of love
It is thru the Lord that we live,
breathe, and have our being.*

GOD'S MERCY

by James R. Rhodes

*I take one day at a time.
With God's love I make it all
the time.
Try Him, my friend, and you
will see.
He will bless you all the time.
Alcohol and drugs use to be
my life.
Now I am happy all the time.
I can live a happy life.
Day after day I keep marching on.
For one of these days, I am
going home.*

YOU SEE ME AS NOBODY BUT MY JESUS SEES ME AS SOMEBODY

by Jacqueline D. Williams

*You see me as nobody because
when I was born you hated me.*

*But, my Jesus sees me as
somebody because when I was
born Jesus said you are my child.
You see me as nobody because you
tell me that I am worthless.
But, my Jesus sees me as
somebody because He tells me
I am his child.
You see me as nobody because you
say that I am ugly.
But, my Jesus sees me as
somebody because He created
me in His image.
You see me as nobody because you
hit me.
But, my Jesus sees me as
somebody because He holds
me in his arms.
You see me as nobody because you
tell me to steal.
But, my Jesus sees me as
somebody because He stopped
me from doing the wrong thing.
You see me as nobody because you
tell me I'm nobody.
But, my Jesus sees me as
somebody because He tells
me I'm somebody.
You see me as nobody because you
put that man or woman before me.
But, my Jesus sees me as
somebody because He puts
me first.
PS: My Jesus always believes that
I'm somebody.*

Now for our Shaggy Dog Tale

by CLAIRE HOUSER DODD

No, not really shaggy, just a good ole dog story from a good ole dog lover.

Grand Denver and fiancé Blake had ordered a Duck dog from the Chesapeake area in the Northeast. If they are born and bred in that area, they are called Chessies. River is a four year old Bay Retriever.

Blake and Denver were planning a trip with Blake's mother, Susan, to go to the Southeastern Wildlife Expedition in Charleston for a weekend jaunt, but since Duck Season was over and they had River (all dogs from that Chesapeake environment are given names that reflect that area) and she was so addicted to chasing her tennis ball, they decided to enter her in the event: Dockdogs Big Air.

This event measures how far a dog can jump. In other words, their toy (or whatever they like) is thrown out into a large pool and the dogs jump for it, retrieve it and return it to their Handler. In this case, River's Handler is Denver, while Blake is the owner and train-

er! Incidentally, they had been practicing in a friend's lake in Forsyth; and, it was obvious River had found a new love. Duck Season was over and she was a little bored, hence the ball. She had worn us out one afternoon throwing for her.

She is so fast you are constantly bending and throwing. It was obvious we weren't throwing far enough for her either! A friendly and handsome animal with hair we'd never seen before. Very interesting dog!

To sum it all up, River won Second Place the first day and the First Place ribbon and \$100 the second day. And, don't think she didn't know it. At first, she just wanted to play in the water like the other dogs, but when she heard her name mentioned over the loud speaker she stood at attention, then posed for the audience. Needless to say, Handler, Denver had

to drag her off the stage. She had won DockDog Big Air, found a new love, and was embracing it!



Grand Denver with River

Alzheimer's Association opens Community Outreach Center in Macon

Special to Senior News

The Alzheimer's Association, Central Georgia Service Area has opened a community outreach center in Macon to better serve the growing number of people impacted by Alzheimer's and other dementias in Central Georgia.

The center's location at 886 Mulberry St. at the corner with Spring Street in downtown Macon previously served as the Alzheimer's Association's Central Georgia administrative office. The transformation to a community outreach center was completed recently thanks to a number of grants and donations from the Macon community.

The new center includes a multi-purpose room that will hold up to 50 persons with early stage dementia, family caregivers or professional caregivers who are participating in educational classes and activities. The center also has a smaller meeting room for support groups, board and event meetings; a coffee conversation area for persons with early stage dementia and caregivers and an educational resource area that includes books and DVDs that can be checked out by families. Technology has been updated throughout the center to provide better programs and allow more volunteer help.

"We were incredibly blessed by the support from the Macon community that allowed us to create a space for the care and support of all those affected by Alzheimer's and other dementias in our area," said Tara Johnson, director of outreach, Alzheimer's Association, Central Georgia Region Service Area. "This center has come at a most critical time

because we estimate at least a 50 percent increase in Alzheimer's cases in the next ten years," Johnson added.

The 3,000-square foot center was created through grants from the Peyton Anderson Foundation, the E.J. Grassmann Trust, the Community Foundation of Central Georgia, the Kathleen Jaques Foundation and the George E. Hatcher, Jr. and Ann William Hatcher Foundation and a donation from building owner Bill Ramsbottom. Hoss Services, LLC, the general contractor, contributed part of its services and TT&E Enterprises, Inc. donated the electrical labor.

As part of the center's construction, workstations were created for volunteers. With the improvements, the Alzheimer's Association, Central Region Community Outreach Center can boost volunteer capacity to assist the staff so they can attend to the growing need for programs and services.

"Increasing volunteers is critical for serving the soaring numbers of people with Alzheimer's and other dementias," Johnson said. The office plans to serve at least 15 percent more individuals in 2017.

Every 66 seconds someone in the U.S. develops Alzheimer's, according to the national Alzheimer's Association. Today, an estimated 5.4 million Americans have Alzheimer's and the number is growing rapidly as the baby boomer generation continues to reach age 65 and people live longer. And, although deaths from other major causes such as heart disease and cancer have plunged, deaths from Alzheimer's have increased significantly.

Georgia is one of four states that is being most impacted by

this public health crisis, the association said. By 2025, the association expects that the number of Georgians age 65 and older with Alzheimer's will soar nearly 50 percent to 190,000 persons. With nearly 740,000 caregivers, the

total impact will include nearly a million persons in Georgia.

For information about classes, support groups and other programs and services in Central Georgia visit www.alz.org/georgia or call 800.272.3900.

Downton Abbey Tea

Special to Senior News

Celebrate your love of Downton Abbey with tea and savories at the historic Neel House, headquarters of the Federated Garden Clubs of Macon, Inc. 730 College St. The tea will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, March

28-29 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. A Downton Abbey merchandise store will be open and vintage clothing will be on display. Hats, gloves and attire from the era is optional but highly encouraged! \$12 per person and \$6 for children under 12 with an adult. Seating is limited. Please call 478-742-0921 for reservations.



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Cancer Life Center

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**Alzheimer's Association, Central
Georgia Regional Area Caregivers'
Support Groups**

Call 478-746-7050 or 800-272-3900
for details.

Bibb County

• 2nd Tues., 3:30 p.m., Alzheimer's
Association, 886 Mulberry St.,
Macon, 478-746-7050

• 1st Wed., 10 a.m., Martha Bowman
UMC, 500 Bass Rd., Macon, 478-
743-7050

Houston County

• 4th Thurs., 7 p.m., Peachbelt Rehab
Center, 801 Elberta Rd., Warner
Robins, 478-397-4669

Care, Classroom #1, 1601 Watson
Blvd., Warner Robins, 478-923-2532
Dodge County

• 3rd Thurs., 5:30 p.m., Dodge
County Hospital, Educational Annex,
901 Griffin Ave., Eastman, 478-374-
0600

Lamar County

• 4th Tues., 6:30 p.m., First United
Methodist Church, 375 Thomaston
St., Barnesville, 770-358-4516

Laurens County

• 1st Thurs., 2 p.m., Carl Vinson VA
Medical Center, 12-A Family Room,
1826 Veterans Blvd., Dublin, 478-
272-1210, x2328

Monroe County

• 1st Thurs., 6 p.m., Monroe County
Hospital Dining Hall Downstairs, 88
Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr., Forsyth,
478-747-8754

Peach County

• 3rd Thurs., 7 p.m., The Medical
Center of Peach County Cafeteria,
1960 Highway 247 Connector,
Byron, 478-951-3613

Putnam County

• 3rd Wed., 10 a.m., First Baptist
Church, 115 N. Madison Ave.,
Eatonton, 706-485-3331

Upson County

• Last Thurs., 7 p.m., Thomaston
Reflections, 302 S. Bethel St.,
Thomaston, 706-647-1607

Telephone Support Group

• 1st & 3rd Tues., 7-8 p.m., "Care
Connection" facilitated by an
Alzheimer's Assoc. staff member, 1-
866-453-5550. To learn more about
"Caring Connection" call 800-272-
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751-9238; Daily activities 9:00-2:00

**Warner Robins Senior Citizen
Services (50+ Years Old)
Warner Robins Recreation
Department - Felicia Wright,
Director**

Email: FWRIGHT@wrga.gov; 478-
293-1066

Senior Activity Center

152 Maple Street, Warner Robins
Office: 478-293-1066

**Support Group for Caregivers of Frail
Elderly Family Members**

First & third Tuesdays of each
month, 3:30-5 p.m., 6060 Lakeside
Commons Place (off Bass Rd.),
Macon. Call Martha Duke at 478-
808-6957.

**Houston County Council
Of The Blind**

The Houston County Council of
the Blind meets the first Saturday of
each month at the Centerville Lions
Club located on Houston Lake Road
voicing state and local concerns for
the blind or visually impaired.
Fellowship and membership are wel-
comed.

Georgia Leathercrafters Guild

The Guild meets every second
Sunday in the month at Geico on
Weaver Road. All who wish to learn
and/or expand their knowledge of
leather craft are invited. For addi-
tional information call 478-745-2320
or 770-688-2315, Tom Maldonado.

Central Georgia Genealogical Society
Meets 2nd Mon., 7 p.m., Flint
Energies Conference Room, 900
Hwy. 96, Warner Robins. For com-
plete details call 478-987-7260 or
visit www.cggs.org.

Health Education

The Office of Health Education
at the Macon-Bibb County Health
Department has brochures-pamphlets
on various topics available in
English and Spanish. These materials
are available to businesses, commu-
nity-based organizations, and faith-
based organizations upon request.

For additional information call
478-749-0113.

The Macon Arts Alliance

486 First St., Macon
478-743-6940

Massee Lane Gardens

For information call 478-967-2358
or www.camellias-acsc.com (The
American Camellia Society.)

Macon Little Theatre

4220 Forsyth Road, Macon
Reservations: 478-471-PLAY

Museum of Arts & Sciences

4182 Forsyth Road, Macon
478-477-3232 or visit website
www.masmacon.com.

Theatre Macon

438 Cherry Street, Macon
478-746-9485

• *Conference of the Birds*: March 3-
12
• *The Drowsy Chaperone*: A Musical
Within A Comedy: April 7-22

Warner Robins Little Theatre

502 South Pleasant Hill Rd.
478-929-4579; www.wrlt.org
• *Steel Magnolias*: March 3-5 & 8-11
• *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valence*
(Western Drama): Auditions – March
20 & 21. Play Dates: April 28-30 &

continued on page 7

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EVENTS from page 6

May 3-6

Douglass Theatre

355 Martin Luther King, Jr.
Boulevard, 478-742-2000

Tubman Museum

340 Walnut St., Macon
www.tubmanmuseum.com

Middle Georgia Art Association Gallery

2330 Ingleside Ave., Ingleside
Village, Macon. 478-744-9557; mid-
dlegeorgiaart.org. Tues.-Fri., Noon-5
p.m.; Sat., Noon-3 p.m.

Divorce Recovery Group

First Baptist Church of Macon,
located at 511 High Place, is offering
a Divorce Recovery Group for those
interested. The meetings are held on
Wednesday evenings. Child care and
children's activities will be provided.

For additional information call
the church office at 478-742-6485.

DivorceCare Offered By Central Baptist Church

Divorced? Separated? Find help
at DivorceCare.

DivorceCare is a special weekly
seminar and support group for peo-
ple who are separated or divorced.
The group meets at Central Baptist
Church located at 1120 Lake Joy
Road, Warner Robins. Childcare is
provided for babies through 5th
grade.

For additional information call
478-953-9319.

Substance Abuse Help Available

Did you know alcohol is the
most-used drug in the country and
it's the number one abused substance
among teens? Although most parents
don't realize it, they are the best
prevention tool around when it
comes to underage drinking.

Children do listen to their parents.
Not only can you be a good role
model for drinking behavior, you can
have a meaningful, honest discussion
with your children about alcohol, its
pitfalls and risks. If you need more
information or help, Hodac, Inc. is
here to lend a hand. You can talk to
trained professionals 24-hours a day,
seven days a week by calling the
Georgia Helpline at 800-338-6745.
Making that call puts you on the
road to answers so why not call
today.

Volunteers Needed

GeorgiaCares, Georgia's State
Health Insurance Assistance Program
(SHIP), needs volunteers to assist
seniors and persons with disabilities
with Medicare problems, fraud, and
abuse. Must be computer savvy.
Rewarding volunteer work. Call
Carol Cannon, GeorgiaCares
Coordinator for the Middle Georgia
Regional Commission/Area Agency
on Aging, at 478-751-6489 or email:
ccannon@mg-rc.org for details.

MGRAACA Meeting

The MGRAACA (Antique
Automobile Club of America -
Middle Georgia Region) meets on
the 3rd Thurs. each month, 7 p.m., at
the Ole Times Country Buffet located
at 1208 Russell Pkwy., Warner
Robins. Come early to eat and greet!
Anyone interested in antique cars
and restoration is welcome. Call
Rosemary Chaney at 478-987-9519
after 5 p.m. for information. Forsyth-
Monroe County Convention &
Visitor's Bureau.

Heart of Georgia Chapter 2 Blue Star Mothers of America

The Blue Star Mothers of America,
Heart of Georgia Chapter 2, meets
the first Thursday each month at
7:30 p.m. at Coldwell Banker's SSK
Realtors located at 470 S. Houston
Lake Road, Warner Robins. For
additional information contact PJ
Johnson at 478-284-6905 or email:

chiefstribes@cox.net.

Open Sketching Portraits

Presented by the Fine Art Society of
Middle Georgia. Every Tuesday that
is not a holiday, 6-7 p.m., Nola
Brantley Library, Watson Blvd.,
Warner Robins. For details contact
Leslie Hoops-Wallace at 478-396-
9198 or email: unicornsquest@hot-
mail.com.

Fine Art Society of Middle Georgia

Meets 4th Mondays at the Flint
Electric Building, Hwy. 96 &
Sutherland Dr., Warner Robins. For
details call 478-396-9198, email: fas-
midga@gmail.com, or visit
www.fasmidga.org. FAS Gallery of
Art is located at 2507 Moody Rd.,
Warner Robins.

Houston County Council on Aging/Meals on Wheels

Houston County Council on
Aging/ Meals on Wheels is a non-
profit that delivers meals to
home bound seniors. We
have openings for seniors in
need of meals and for vol-
unteers able to distribute
meals. Please call Alesha
Mathis, Meals on Wheels
Coordinator, at 478-328-
6070 for more information,
to sign up for meals, or to
volunteer.

Ocmulgee Audubon Society
Meets 2nd Monday monthly
(except July), 7:30 p.m.,
Museum of Arts and
Sciences, 4182 Forsyth Rd.,
Macon. Birders and visitors
welcome. Additional infor-
mation, call 478-477-7016;
http://ocmulgeeaudubonsoc-
iety.blogspot.com.

Free Car Seat Checkup
2nd Wed. of the month, 10
a.m.-2 p.m., Bibb County
Health Dept., 171 Emery

Hwy., Macon. SAFEKIDS Central
Georgia. For details call 478-749-
0144.

The GeorgiaCares Program

The GeorgiaCares Program helps
people with Medicare understand their
benefits, make informed decisions about
health care options and provide ways to
protect themselves from Medicare fraud,
error and abuse. Call 1-866-552-4464
(option 4) or (478) 751-6489 to schedule
an appointment at a counseling station in
Baldwin, Bibb, Crawford, Houston,
Jones, Monroe, Peach, Pulaski, Putnam,
Twiggs and Wilkinson Counties. Visit
www.mygeorgiacares.org for counseling
site locations and hours.

Living History Weekend Slated at Andersonville National Historic Site

Sat. & Sun., March 11 & 12.
Andersonville Historic Site is located 10
miles south of Oglethorpe and 10 miles
northeast of Americus on Highway 49.
For additional information call 229-924-
0343 or visit at nps.gov/ande/.

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www.goodwillworks.org

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or Billy Tucker
at 478-929-3636

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CAMELLIAS from cover

"The Opening Ceremony on Saturday, February 4th was sensational. Georgia First Lady, Sandra Deal, was one of our biggest highlights. She recently had a camellia named in her honor, camellia 'Sandra Deal.' She was so gracious, she is such a sweet person. It was my first time meeting her. She requested a walk into the Gardens to view the Former Georgia First Lady's camellia 'Betty Foy Sanders.' She is also so excited to be planting her camellia at the Governor's Mansion in Atlanta.

"Former First Lady of the United States, Rosalynn Carter, was scheduled to attend. Something came up where she couldn't attend, but having her husband call me with her regrets made my year! I couldn't believe, I almost didn't believe it! Then on Monday when Mrs. Carter called my cell phone herself, I had to pull over while driving so I wouldn't swerve into the ditch. Both Mr. and Mrs. Carter were so nice and I will never forget my conversations with them.

"In fact, I already have two more events lined up where the ACS and Massee Lane Gardens will be working with Mrs. Carter and the Chautauqua Trail that is located in Plains, Georgia. The Carter's are big supporters of these Trails and want to encourage the public to be involved.

"The Gardens are still in bloom... camellias, azaleas and red buds galore! As always, the public is welcomed to visit us!"

It was AWESOME as The American Camellia Society celebrated a Southern Classic 2017 Festival of Camellias Opening Day Celebration and Ribbon Cutting on Feb. 4 at 10:00 a.m. at Massee Lane Gardens. The auditorium stage was decorated with a plethora of greenery chock full of beautiful Camellia blossoms.

But what kicked the stage off was the old gray fence with plants and flowers in front of the centered podium. The stage decorations continued to each side of the

auditorium with greenery, flowers, and ancient garden artifacts, all conceived by Lisa Dortch. It became even more decorated when the honored guests took their seats on the left of the stage.

Celeste Richard, ACS Director, welcomed the attentive audience of Camellia lovers and growers, and told about her call from President Jimmie Carter, earlier that morning and how at another time she would have said, "Oh Yeah, right!" however, she did not say that this time, as Rosalynn Carter was expected to speak on this day. He was calling to express her regrets as she would not be able to be there. It was the day before the Super Bowl in Houston and we are assuming it would be way too much to attend both events. She was most certainly missed at the Camellia Celebration and we know she would have enjoyed it. She was presented a Camellia plant named for her during the program.

Patty J. Bentley, Georgia State Representative, District 139, introduced the First Lady of Georgia, Sandra Deal, who was so gracious while telling how much the Camellias meant to her and how much she appreciated the gorgeous white Camellia named for her. It is a perfect bloom reminding us of the Pink Perfection. Sandra has loved Camellias since she first saw them in Milledgeville when she drove to college at GSCW and on up to now as she enjoys them in the



Camellia Garden at the Governor's Mansion in Atlanta.

Sandra, besides loving Camellias, loves children and visits many classes and reads many books to help children learn to love to read. Being read to is a firm catalyst to WANTING to read.

We were given a history of the Georgia Camellia Trail by Cindy Eidson, Georgia Department of Tourism and Bruce Greene, Georgia Camellia Trail Consultant, plus the impact of our Trail Community on local economy by Patty J. Bentley.

Volunteers then directed Guests with tickets to the Gallery for tea and lunch. The stage at the South end of the Gallery was decorated in a Japanese motif with

Bamboo shoots and greenery. The formal Tea Ceremony and presentation was dramatically acted by two girls of the Japan -American Society of Georgia. We would probably call it the Blessing of the Teas. Certainly made from one of the most popular Camellias in the world, the species Camellia Sinensis, the common tea plant which can be purchased from Horticulturist William Khoury at Massee Lane.

The volunteers, the ushers, Camilie Bieby, the Japanese Tea Ceremony performed by the Japan-American Society of Georgia, were exciting; as was the Asian inspired Luncheon presented by the American Camellia Society and Massee Lane. As we stated at the onset... AWESOME!



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