

**Happy Holidays to all - have a wonderful, festive time  
with family and friends!!**

# Seasons Greetings

Tuesday night, December 10<sup>th</sup>, was a delightful time for all. Our five scholarship recipients and their guests attended the holiday reception at DK Gallery in Marietta. It was a delightful scene filled with artwork and Christmas trees ... wine and treats. Although a cold night, our members and scholarship recipients enjoyed the warm ambience and opportunity to socialize.



*Pictured with Nancy and Debbie are (l-r): LaCassa Hill, Jillian Simpson, Sylidia Italiano, Montinque Baugh and Lisa McMasters*

Some December and January updates for Cobb members:

## **December 2013:**

Update for Roving Gourmet Holiday Dinner at **Aspens:**

**Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**

Due to confusion with the room reservation, we will be gathering in the main dining area. I do apologize for whatever miscommunication occurred and we will look forward to celebrating the season together in a festive mood over a delicious meal.

## **January 2014:**

Please mark these dates on your calendar:

**January 9<sup>th</sup>, Thursday evening, 7:00 PM**

Our annually sponsored legislative forum collaboration with LWV Cobb, AKA will take place in Marietta. Please plan to attend at the Cobb County Commissioners – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

meeting room ... 100 Cherokee Street. Parking is available in the parking garage adjacent to the facility.

### **January 25<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

A special town hall on the Affordable Care Act will be co-sponsored by LWV-Cobb County, AKA and AAUW of Cobb County. The event will be held at the Charles D. Switzer Library (formerly Central Library) located at 266 Roswell Street in Marietta.

Below is a calendar link with additional details about these two important events.  
<http://mariettacobb.ga.lwvnet.org/calendar.html>

And we look forward to a fun membership meeting in February, “socializing through games” ...

Enjoy the holidays and we look forward to seeing each other in the New Year!  
Debbie and Nancy

### **January 10<sup>th</sup>, Friday**

Roving Gourmet will gather at 7:00 PM at Ritter's Restaurant in East Cobb for our first outing of 2014.

Please plan to join us and enjoy camaraderie and good food - a great combination!

**Ritter's**  
**4719 Lower Roswell Road**  
**Marietta, GA 30068**  
**770-973-1230**

RSVP to Debbie Karvey by January 5th:  
770-591-7956 (home)  
678-520-2231 (cell)  
or  
[debbiedah@msn.com](mailto:debbiedah@msn.com)  
see link for location information and menu @  
<http://www.rittersrestaurant.net/>

### **January 20<sup>th</sup>, Monday at 7:30 p.m.**

Book Group – at the home of Bonnie Williams who is doing “everything”. We will be discussing The Girls of the Atomic City by: Denise Kiernan and Debbie Shonka will be with us!! She worked at Oakridge and met her husband there. Please let Bonnie know if you are coming. 380 Woodstone Drive, Marietta 30068 770-971-6130 [Bonniebw41@att.net](mailto:Bonniebw41@att.net)

My thanks to Debbie for putting all of this together – I’m off to Africa for Christmas and New Years – we will be attending a wedding in Niamey, Niger and a Birthday Party in Lagos, Nigeria!! See you next year!! Judy

Please don't miss reading the letter from Arden to Karen included below--

Karen Peters recently reached out to Arden Stone and here are greetings and news from Arden:

It was great to get your message and get caught up in what is going on in AAUW. I know you and Debbie are as busy as ever, especially in the Book Room. What would they do without you two? You are remarkable women and give back far more than you are given. I'm sure there are stars in your crowns awaiting you, but not any time soon, of course. I think we have some spunk left in us for many more years to come.

Living in Abu Dhabi, capital of the UAE, is an experience, for sure. The country clings to its Muslim identity while trying to outdo the rest of the world in every respect. It's a study in social transition that is unlike anywhere in the world. Politically, the sheikh dynasty of father to son reigns, but I would describe it as a benevolent dictatorship as the native people have many perks and privileges and none of them live in poverty. There's a LOT of money floating around. The country relies on the skills of professional expatriates for development and the cheap labor force of thousands from places like Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Women from the latter are nannies and housemaids mostly. They trail along behind the native women, carrying babies and bags wherever they go. They are so petite, even I'm tall around them.

We have gone to Dubai several times and shopped and eaten at restaurants below the Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world. Dubai is much more diverse than Abu Dhabi, far fewer are dressed in the Arab costumes. You wouldn't know what country you were in if you didn't know, based on all the other people around you. Many stores cater to the ultra-wealthy who seem to flock here to buy and show off what they have. It's not reality. I'm not comfortable in that environment. Not because I'm not wealthy, but because it's all surface and no substance.

I may be coming back in February. My daughter says she wants to return to America after this school year, but I'm not totally sure she will make the break for financial reasons. She has a great salary teaching that comes with a lot of benefits, including a large and comfortable flat and tuition for the 3 girls at private schools. Of course, I hope she returns as living so far from her and my grandchildren is a painful thing and very expensive to go back and forth for visiting purposes.

Tell Debbie and my other good friends "hello" for me. Wish I could join you for the next Roving Gourmet dinner. I'd like a big glass of wine. You can't get alcohol of any description here, unless you go to a 5-star hotel and imbibe at an expensive bar that caters to sinning tourists and international business types.

Love ya, Arden