



# The Beacon

## Keesler Spouses' Club

September 2011  
Volume I, Edition 1

### President's Pen...

*Welcome Back...and Welcome to all the new members of Keesler Spouses' Club. I am looking forward to an exciting year.*

*We started our year off with our Birthday Bunco welcome function. It was such a pleasure to see so many new faces. It was a fun and energetic evening filled with laughter, prizes, and new friendships. Those who attended had an opportunity to see all that the KSC has to offer. Sign-up sheets for our activity groups were presented, but not to worry, everyone can add their name to these lists at any time. Check the website ([www.keeslerspousesclub.com](http://www.keeslerspousesclub.com)) and this newsletter for information.*

*One of my favorite quotes is "We are here to add what we can to life, not to get what we can from it." In that spirit, I hope you will consider not only joining us in our monthly functions, but also our opportunities for service and fun.*

*Our very busy Ways and Means folks will be sponsoring a bake sale in October for the students. If making goodies is your thing, they would LOVE your treats. Those same Ways and Means folks are busily planning our major fundraiser for the year, our Harvest Gala and Auction on November 10. This auction provides significant funds for our scholarship program as well as our charitable giving throughout the year, such as our recent, wildly successful Free Friday Night Fun event at the Youth Center. We sure could use help with this event. Our auction committee meets every other Thursday at 11 a.m. at the Bay Breeze. If you can't make any of the meetings, feel free to contact Erin Dunham or Wanda Bingaman at [waysandmeans@keeslerspousesclub.com](mailto:waysandmeans@keeslerspousesclub.com) to find out how you can help.*

*If holiday decorating is your thing, the KSC has the honor of transforming the Bay Breeze Events Center into its Christmas glory. This job will be done on November 17. Carol Lansford is heading the project up and would love some elves to help work her magic. A sumptuous Bay Breeze lunch will be provided and more details will follow.*

*If all this work talk is making you long for some fun, do check out our information on the Discovery Club, Bunco, Book Club, and Little Dragons. Ushering at the IP for concerts is another opportunity that is almost too good to pass up. And don't forget our fabulous Thrift Shop where untold treasures can be found.*

*I thank each and every one of you for your commitment to the KSC. The life of a military spouse is rarely boring, occasionally challenging, sometimes frustrating, but always filled with love and friendship for their family, both at home and throughout the Air Force.*

Cheers!  
**Mary**



The Keesler Thrift Shop is a non-profit organization operated by members of the KSC. Profits from the sale of donated and consigned items help support both base and local charities, as well as scholarships. Last year, the KSC was able to donate \$24,000 to charities and scholarships.

We are always in need of consignments and donations, so please remember us when you're cleaning out your closets. Consignments are accepted Mondays from 9 – 1 p.m. Please call 377-3127 for more information.

Volunteers are always welcome to work in the store or provide lunch to our dedicated workers. The Thrift Shop is located at the corner of 1st and Meadows in the same building as the Airmen's Attic. Hours of operation : Monday and Wednesday 9 - 2 p.m.

**You can't have  
everything...where would  
you put it? Stephen Wright**

**FOR NEWSLETTER  
SUGGESTIONS, PLEASE  
CONTACT MISTY LEBLANC,  
EDITOR**



Hello Everyone,

In case you missed my introduction at the "Welcome Back" social (a fun night with a lot of new faces), my name is Millicent Owen and I will be organizing the Bunco games this year for the Keesler Spouses' Club (KSC). The Bunco group will be meeting the last Tuesday of each month at the Bay Breeze Events Center (BBEC) on the third floor. Our social will be at 1800 and game playing will begin at 1830. A \$5.00 charge will be at the door.

This month the first game of Bunco will be Tuesday, September 27, at 1800. If you would like to play this month, please RSVP to me by Friday, September 23rd. I will provide snacks for the tables, but if you desire something more it will be "Taco Tuesday" at the BBEC. I am looking forward to another fun year of playing Bunco. Thank you and see you on the 27th!

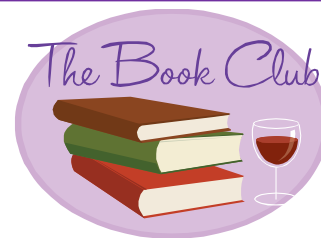


## Little Dragons Play Group

Welcome to the Keesler's Spouse's Club Play Group! We hope you and your child ages 0 to 5 can join us for exciting times! Our Play to Learn Group will surely delight your child and give you some quality adult time to create new friendships.

Starting in October, on the last Wednesday of every month, we will meet at Excel by Five on St. John Street. It is attached to the Lopez School in Biloxi. The Director will have an art project, rooms filled with educational and fun toys, juice and snacks for two hours exclusively for the Little Dragons. We will meet once a week at different locations predetermined at later dates and share ideas on what you would like to do. You will also have the opportunity to choose an educational game to borrow from Excel from their well-stocked game library each time we visit!

Please feel free to contact me anytime with your suggestions etc. Laurie Berk at 660 864 1100 or email [mrshappy410@yahoo.com](mailto:mrshappy410@yahoo.com)



**Book Club will meet at Keri Mueller's house on Thursday, November 3 at 6:30 p.m. The book we will discuss is Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter, by Tom Franklin. Reminders will go out to the club at the beginning of October for this gathering.**

### 2011-12 KSC Board Members

|                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| President:                      | Mary Fitzgerald               |
| Honorary President:             | Keri Mueller                  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President: | Lisa Reynolds                 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: | Carol Lansford                |
| Treasurer:                      | Devalynn Solomon              |
| Secretary:                      | Donna Baird                   |
| Parliamentarian:                | Lisa Wright                   |
| Thrift Shop:                    | Cheron Hollingsworth          |
| Ways & Means:                   | Wanda Bingham & Erin Dunham   |
| Scholarships:                   | Lindsey Tolis & Kelly Urban   |
| Membership:                     | Katie Cain & Laurie Berk      |
| Sunshine:                       | Jo McLemore                   |
| Publicity/Historian:            | April Coy                     |
| Welfare:                        | Karen Ray                     |
| Member at Large:                | Cathy Varble                  |
| Advisors:                       | Chantel Jensen & Bill Johnson |



**Who:** Anyone wanting to check out different activities in the area

**What:** This is a list of some of the past and future activities: Gulf Island National Seashore, Marine Institute for Mammals, Bellingrath Gardens, Cooking Class, Spring Pilgrimage, Kayaking, Swamp Tour, New Orleans, Canvas & Cocktails

**When:** Generally on a Friday, unless it is an evening activity. We meet monthly, but sometimes we miss a month, because there is so much to do and not enough time to do it!

**Where:** So far LA, MS, and AL

## Our First Adventure

Gulf Island National Seashore  
30 September, 9:00-3:00  
Lunch at The Shed  
Mississippi Sandhill Crane Refuge

Please email Katie Cain - [thecainssix@aol.com](mailto:thecainssix@aol.com) by 27 September if you would like to join the club on this outing. Please let me know if you are able to drive (Ocean Springs is our destination). We will be back by 3:00 for those who need to get children.

Since there is no cost to this outing, other than lunch, I am very flexible. If you have to drop out or decide to join us late, no problem, just shoot me an email. But please email me by 27 September if you would like to join us, just so I have an idea.



## September Birthday Bunch

Sabrina Kredich - 19  
Devalynn Solomon - 23  
Amy Wier - 29

# *Keesler Spouses' Club*

## *October Luncheon Event*

*When: Tuesday, 11 October 2011*

*Time: 1000—1230*

*Where: Medical Center (meet near information desk)*

*Cost: \$12.00 (Deli-style lunch)*

*It's a "Pink" thing...wear pink!*

### *Agenda:*

*Medical Center Tour begins at 1000*

*Lunch*

*Guest Speaker is Dr. Varner*

*"Breast Cancer Awareness & Early Detection"*

**RSVP with payment no later than Wednesday 5 October**

**to email: [treasurer@keeslerspousesclub.com](mailto:treasurer@keeslerspousesclub.com)**



# Harvest Gala Auction

Thursday, November 10, 6 p.m.  
Bay Breeze Events Center Ballroom

*\$13 in advance\*, \$18 at the door*

*\*Those that purchase advance tickets will be eligible for a door prize worth \$50.*



The club has been given a very unique opportunity to volunteer to help our local community. This fun job will benefit the Gulf Coast Women's Center for Non-Violence here in Biloxi. To help, all you need to do is work as an usher at concerts at the IP. These various events occur throughout the week and this is an ongoing project. Working as an usher is not difficult. They give us all the training we need the evening we volunteer. This gives us the opportunity to meet locals from Biloxi while enjoying some concerts ourselves. If interested please contact Mary Fitzgerald.

Keesler Spouses' Club  
P. O. Box 5218  
Biloxi, MS 39534

Visit us on the web: [www.keeslerspousesclub.com](http://www.keeslerspousesclub.com)



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Phone number: 618-531-3748