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# Brain Injury Association of Georgia

*News You Can Use!*

MARCH - APRIL 2008

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**Support Group Listing**

**Albany-Dougherty County**  
 Tom Connelly - 229-883-3911  
[tom.connelly@dol.state.ga.us](mailto:tom.connelly@dol.state.ga.us)

**Athens-Clark County**  
 Floretta Johnson  
 706-353-1892  
[fbjohnson@mindspring.com](mailto:fbjohnson@mindspring.com)  
 Janice/ Les Ward  
 706-548-4397  
 Billy Geiger  
 770-867-1356

**Atlanta Buckhead**  
 "Minor Brain Injury Support Group"  
 Jean Kropa - 770-612-0612  
[Kropa@bellsouth.net](mailto:Kropa@bellsouth.net)  
 Jacques & Monique Cappelle  
 770-663-8320  
[jhausscappelle@aol.com](mailto:jhausscappelle@aol.com)

**Atlanta/Emory**  
 Dr. Louise Cording  
 404-371-0497  
[lcording@mindspring.com](mailto:lcording@mindspring.com)  
 Pat Gar 404-24-6097  
[gar216@bellsouth.net](mailto:gar216@bellsouth.net)

**Atlanta/Shepherd Pathways**  
 Susanna Rains  
 404-603-1476  
[susanna\\_rains@shepherd.org](mailto:susanna_rains@shepherd.org)  
 Nancy Miller  
[nancy\\_miller@shepherd.org](mailto:nancy_miller@shepherd.org)  
 Alan Roof  
[alan\\_roof@shepherd.org](mailto:alan_roof@shepherd.org)

**Atlanta/VA Hospital**  
 Dr. Inge Thomas  
 404-329-4654  
[Inge.Thomas@med.va.gov](mailto:Inge.Thomas@med.va.gov)

**Cobb County**  
 Martha Leatherwood  
 770-428-0284  
[supportgroup@mindspring.com](mailto:supportgroup@mindspring.com)  
 Laura Coomes 770-924-7509  
[lauracoomes@bellsouth.net](mailto:lauracoomes@bellsouth.net)

**Augusta Support Group**  
 Walton West  
 Patty Goolsby  
 706-829-0370  
[pattyg@wrh.org](mailto:pattyg@wrh.org)

**COME AND REMEMBER THE JOYS OF CAMP HARDGROVE!**

**Oct. 30 – Nov. 2**



*Samantha Renfro,  
 Camp Committee Chair  
 404-712-5504  
[SWELLBR@emory.edu](mailto:SWELLBR@emory.edu)*

<http://www.camptwinlakes.org>

\*\*\*\*\*

*Details and information will be sent periodically for:  
 Camp Leadership Conference,  
 Saul's Ride  
 BSI TFC Annual Meeting*

*Keep an eye on our website, under Calendar of Events, for updates also!*

**LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IS BACK!**

*Support Group Leaders,  
 Plan on attending!*

**Oct. 30 – 31**

*Mark Johnson,  
 Leadership Conference Chair  
 404-712-5504  
[Mark\\_Johnson@shepherd.org](mailto:Mark_Johnson@shepherd.org)*

<http://www.camptwinlakes.org>

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**Raisin Hope Ride and Foundation**

**Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>**

A ride is scheduled for the weekend of Oct 4-5. There is going to be "A Tour of the Town-Dalton" Criterium to Dalton GA. Visit <http://www.saulraisin.com>; select Saul's Blog on the right, scroll down to read Saul's Blog on this event!



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**Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Annual Meeting, Shepherd Center**

**July 24<sup>th</sup>**

<http://www.shepherd.org>  
<http://bsitf.state.ga.us>



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#### **Cobb County**

Martha Leatherwood  
770-428-0284  
supportgroup@mindspring.com  
Laura Coomes 770-924-7509  
lauracoomes@bellsouth.net

#### **Clayton County**

Pat Buice  
770-473-7471  
superhope@msn.com

#### **Columbus-Muscogee County**

Kay McCoy  
706-565-9298  
kaymccoy@hotmail.com  
Shiloh Hendricks  
706-507-4696  
shiloh93@knology.net

#### **Fannin County**

Blue Ridge  
Carolyn Stepp  
706-492-5308

#### **Griffin Barnesville Thomaston**

Sharon Huey  
770-233-1660  
sharonhuey@bellsouth.net

#### **Gwinnett County**

Dennis Stahl  
770-965-9726  
stahldennisj@bellsouth.net

#### **Macon-Bibb County**

Dr. Foster  
Phyllis Dorn  
478-960-2804  
phyllisdorn@bellsouth.net

#### **Newton Rockdale Counties**

Tom Houchins  
404-316-3193  
hthouchins@yahoo.com

#### **North Fulton**

Stuart Hanzman  
770-642-4236 X41  
stuarthanzman@aol.com  
Annie Boriskie  
annie12549@aol.com

#### **Rome – Floyd County**

Kathy Adams-706-291-0168  
Linda Studard-706-509-6623  
lstudard@floyd.org

## MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS!

### MARK JOHNSON



**Mark Johnson** has been the Director of Advocacy at the Shepherd Center since 1987. He joined the Board of Directors at BIAG in 2007. He is currently chairing the Program Committee (Camp Hardgrove, Information and Resource and Peer Visitor) and is a member of the Finance Committee.

Mark has helped to create the Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund, which provides independent living services to thousands of people with traumatic brain or spinal cord injuries throughout Georgia.

Mark has been a visible and vocal member of the disability community for the past 25 yrs and has been recognized by his peers numerous times and has received numerous accolades.

He has also created a website ([www.lgtinc.org](http://www.lgtinc.org)) that is dedicated to the pioneers of the disability rights movement and the people and groups that are making a difference today.

Mark sustained an injury to his spinal cord in 1971. He is involved with youth sports and enjoys the food network programs. He has been married for 27 years to Susan, who is Director of Brain Injury Services at the Shepherd Center. They have a daughter Lindsey, who is a first grade teacher.

Mark's friend and colleague, Paul Timmons, CEO of Portlight Strategies, Inc. has quoted, "**Mark Johnson inspires us all to believe, and helps us to get organized to succeed.**"

### SUSAN DUNCAN



**Susan Duncan** brings vast experience in community service to our association: she served for 2 years in Washington for Congressman Jack Brinkley where she directed constituent services, service academy nominations and public relations; presently she serves on the University of West Georgia College Foundation and The State Botanical Garden Board as well as the board of the Brain Injury Association of Georgia.

She holds a Master's degree from the University of Georgia where she worked in the Admissions Office. Her responsibilities included identifying academically gifted students in the lower socioeconomic regions of our state who were eligible to compete for The Foundation Fellowship.

UGA recruited Susan to work as a Special Projects Coordinator for their Botanical Garden. She directed fund raising and public relations, identified and recruited 35 people statewide to serve on the newly created Botanical Garden Board, and created and chaired the first "Gardens of the World Ball". This black tie event continues to be the major source of funding for the Botanical Garden.

For the past 5 years Susan has served every Sunday morning as a volunteer cook for approximately 300 homeless men at the First Presbyterian Church Soup Kitchen in Atlanta.

Susan has two grown children and lives in Atlanta.



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**Roswell – No. Fulton County**

Seminole Spirit  
 "Speech Listening Group"  
 Mark N. Halverson  
 404-434-7452  
[seekinmotion2005@yahoo.com](mailto:seekinmotion2005@yahoo.com)

**Savannah-Chatham County**

George Maust - 912-927-7901  
 Carla Johnson – 912-354-6611  
[cjohnson@goodwillsavannahga.org](mailto:cjohnson@goodwillsavannahga.org)

**Waycross – Ware County**

Southeast Georgia  
 Debra Gordon  
 912-285-7994  
[debrag@wayxcable.com](mailto:debrag@wayxcable.com)

**Incorporated Groups:**

**Northeast Georgia (Ft. Oglethorpe) Catoosa County**

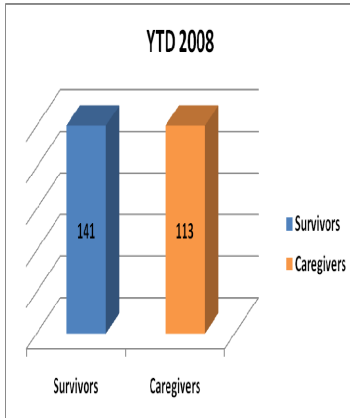
"Jimmy Simpson Foundation Group"  
[www.jimmysimpsonfoundation.org](http://www.jimmysimpsonfoundation.org)  
 Kim Goodwin  
 706-375-9520  
[kim\\_goodwin@mindspring.com](mailto:kim_goodwin@mindspring.com)

**Stone Mountain-DeKalb County**

"Side By Side Clubhouse"  
 Fostering growth, employment, job search skills, etc.  
 Cindi Johnson  
 404-378-1139  
[info@sidebysideclubhouse.org](mailto:info@sidebysideclubhouse.org)  
[www.sidebysideclubhouse.org](http://www.sidebysideclubhouse.org)

**PEER VISITOR STATS**

Details available on website



**Meet Peer Visitors who make a Difference!**



***Arlene & Jim Smith, as a couple Help Others as Caregiver Brain Injury Peer Visitors***

**Arlene and Jim Smith** began as Brain Injury Peer Visitors back in June 2006. They began at the Shepherd Center, and are currently Peer Visiting at not only the Shepherd Center, but also at North Fulton Regional Hospital, and Emory Eastside. They go in as a couple, sharing their own years of experience and stories as caregivers. They truly share from their hearts, and help all patients and other caregivers they meet.

Jason, their youngest child of three, was severely injured in a head-on car accident 14 years ago, when Jason was 22 years old. He was in a coma for 3 months. The Smiths were told to put him into a nursing home, and that he would never get any better. Arlene and Jim instead took Jason home. The doctors' predictions just have not been true. Jason is now 36, and he is so much better, and still improving. The Smiths have daily help from volunteers from their church, who exercise Jason daily. They do Music Therapy with him, as well as Aquatic Therapy. They have also done Hippotherapy (on horseback).

The Smiths will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this October. Jim retired in 1996 after 40 years with a telecommunications company. Arlene has also retired as a Special Education teacher. They have their 3 wonderful children and 3 fantastic grandsons, as well as their beloved Schnauzer, Bella.

Besides Peer Visiting, they are extremely active in their church. They also monthly attend the Family Support Group at North Fulton Regional Hospital, and always make certain that Jason attends the TBI (Brain Injury) Support Group at North Fulton.

*Submitted by Ann Boriskie, Brain Injury Peer Visitor Program Coordinator*

**March 31, 2008 - Brain Injury Seminar – A Success!**

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, BIAG co-hosted a seminar in partnership with the State Bar of Georgia, Institute for Continuing Legal Education and The Shepherd Center, hospital for spinal cord and brain injuries titled, "What Professionals Needs to Know about Traumatic Brain Injury." This seminar presented "how to" tips and cutting edge scientific, legal, rehabilitation, diagnostic, and medical information for professionals, care givers, and survivors.

BIAG would like to thank the **State Bar of Georgia, Institute for Continuing Legal Education and The Shepherd Center** for their generous support and contribution to the success of this seminar as well as the professional speakers who shared their knowledge and expertise in the field of brain injury.

We appreciate **Susan Johnson** of the Shepherd Center and **LuRae Ahrendt** of Ahrendt Rehabilitation Services for developing the slate of presenters for this seminar.

We would also like to acknowledge the efforts of **Marc Davis**, who chaired the seminar. He was instrumental in arranging the collaboration between Shepherd, BIAG and ICLE; along with lining up many of the speakers. This is his fourth successful year chairing this seminar for ICLE and in working to bring BI awareness to the professional community.

We will be hosting exciting seminar opportunities for professionals, care givers, and survivors in the future and will post these opportunities on this web site.

Again, we appreciate all of your support in making this seminar a success!

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**Meet the Atlanta/Emory Support Group led by Dr. Louise Cording.**

Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday @ 6:30 PM at the Center for Rehab Medicine

