

THE SECC RENOVARE



The Solomon Episcopal Conference Center

January 2014

Letter From the Director: No Strain



**Be calm, no matter what may befall
you. Rest in Me.**

-God Calling by A.J. Russell,
January 9 Devotional

I recently interviewed a soon to be new employee from the local community who, although she had lived near here her entire life, she had never before been to the Solomon Center. When we were in my office, she repeated at least 2 or 3 times in our 20 minutes together, "Wow, this place is just beautiful. I can't believe I've never been here before". I thanked her for her kind words and explained that the staff here is truly blessed by the peaceful surroundings, well designed and maintained buildings, and the people that we both work with and serve. I then cautioned her not to be deceived. We are calm, but we work diligently to maintain the serene environment we promise our

patrons.

Working at the Solomon Center can sometimes be compared to tending a garden. A lot of work goes in to achieving a calming atmosphere. Of course, the SECC is not a garden in the literal sense, although we do have a few. There are a dizzying number of light bulbs and fixtures that need attention, and an ongoing effort in keeping every toilet, sink and air conditioner / heater functioning properly. We are continuously ordering, preparing, and cleaning up the food served in the dining hall (we served over 21,000 meals in 2013). The lodging rooms must be cleaned and prepared before and after each group, and our staff works tirelessly to ensure proper scheduling and preparation occurs to help meet each and every group's needs. These are but a few of the responsibilities our family shares. We are busy, busy, busy. However, it could be easily said that the appearance of "No Strain" is actually a reflection of how hard one works.

**Do not feel the strain of life. There is no
strain for My children.**

-God Calling, et. al.

Working at a place designed to help folks unplug from the world is a lot of work (It sounds a little funny to say that out loud). The *ability* to work is a blessing, but we often feel it causes us so much strain. We at the Solomon Center realize we have a gift for our participants: serenity, renewal and spiritual growth in a healthy environment. Our reward is serving others. No strain indeed.



Frank Hall

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Riptide Swim Club



"It's better to have tried and failed, then to have never tried at all."

Over this past summer we were in need of lifeguards in order to serve our youth guests when they use the SECC pool. Judith Reichert, of the Riptide Swim Club, graciously shared some of her best Lifeguards. They are professional and friendly, and an all around welcomed addition to our Lifeguard roster. We wanted to show our appreciation by sharing with our community all the wonderful amenities Mrs. Judith and her swim program have to offer.

Riptide Swim Club offers activities for people of all ages from infants to adults including swim lessons (group or private), seasonal and year around swimming, masters swimming, and an aqua-terra duathlon. There is something for everybody. If you are interested in discovering more about this swim program and all it has to offer, please visit their website at:

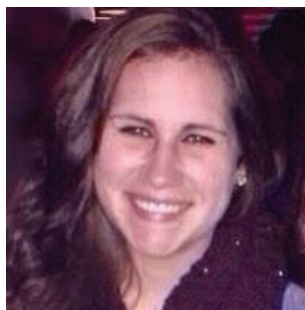
<http://www.riptideswimclub.org>

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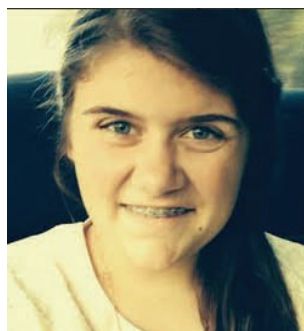
MEET OUR WEEKEND HOSTESSES!!



Lauren is a third year physical therapy student who will graduate with her doctorate in May. She plans to travel around the country practicing Physical Therapy before finally settling back down in her home town in Mandeville. Lauren's favorite aspect about the center is the giant fireplace in the lodge.



Megan is currently a junior at SELU majoring in Biological Sciences. She hopes to pursue a career in Veterinary Medicine after graduation at LSUHSC in New Orleans. She loves the serenity the Solomon Center offers to guests.



Racheal is currently a Junior at Lorranger High School. She is an active member of the Lady Wolves volleyball, basketball, and softball teams. She plans to attend Northwestern University upon graduation from High School in the hopes to become a veterinary technologist. Racheal's favorite thing about the Conference Center is that it's grounds help reveal the true beauty of nature.

Thank you to all who made donations to SECC Sunday as of 1/15/2014

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SECC Employee Christmas Party of 2013



When we pray GOD hears more than we say. He answers more than we ask. He gives more than we imagine, but.... in His own time, in His own way according to His wisdom, so keep faith.

-Unknown

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JEWELS FROM THE SECC KITCHEN

ARTICHOKE DIP:

1 c. sour cream 1 pack Good Seasons Italian (dry)
1 c. mayonnaise 1 jar artichokes (finely chopped)

Mix well and let stand for at least 2 hours before serving

CHICKEN BROCCOLI DIVAN:

4 lbs. fresh broccoli, chopped 1 1/3 c. milk
6 c. cooked, cubbed chicken meat 4 T. butter, melted
1 large can (50 oz) cream of mushroom soup 8 T. bread crumbs
2 c. shredded cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 350°. Cook broccoli in boiling water for 5 min. or until tender. Drain and place cooked broccoli in 4 qt. baking dish. Top with chicken. Mix soup and milk in large bowl and pour over chicken. Sprinkle cheddar cheese on top. Mix melted butter with bread crumbs and sprinkle on top of cheese. Bake until bubbly and lightly browned (20-30 min.)

SECC PEACH COBBLER:

1 #10 size can of peaches 4 c. sugar
4 c. biscuit mix Cinnamon
4 c. milk (1 can evaporated milk + milk to equal 4 c.)

Spray 8 qt. baking dish with non stick spray. Pour peaches and sprinkle with cinnamon. In a large bowl, mix sugar, biscuit mix and milk mixture until smooth. Pour evenly over peaches. Bake at 325° for 45 min. Serves 25-30. Try with vanilla ice cream!



Don't forget! These recipes and more can be found in our SECC Dining Hall Cookbook. For more information, contact Dianne Wood at 985-748-5054 or dwood@solomoncenter.org. Personal recipes are always welcome.

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THE SECC RENOVARE

OUR MISSION

We receive and welcome everyone to a serene, peaceful, beautiful and well maintained conference and retreat facility. We are committed to first class hospitality in a faith based, safe and secure environment. We enable large and small groups, adult and youth, to experience retreats, conferences, meetings, and events in a church, corporate or athletic context, to explore and discover renewal, education and growth.

OUR VISION

We aspire to be the premier leader in providing an open sanctuary where lives can be changed and even transformed. We welcome diversity, embrace hospitality and firmly believe that each of us can help make a difference in others' lives. Individuals, groups, churches, families, teams and businesses can interact with each other in a relaxed environment, away from their daily grind, to help better themselves spiritually, emotionally and physically.

BRING YOUR GROUP TO SECC:

Located on rolling acres of piney woods just north of Robert, Louisiana, the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center (SECC) is a peaceful retreat into nature for businesses, churches, families, individuals and groups of all sizes and denominations.

Owned and operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, the SECC welcomes guests year-round to enjoy a warm and inviting atmosphere.

We offer indoor and outdoor meeting spaces; sports and recreation facilities; overnight, hotel-style lodging accommodations; and complete onsite dining services. Our beautiful grounds and thriving facilities are privileged to host conferences, retreats and gatherings of all kinds, including corporate meetings, spiritual retreats, professional seminars and workshops, conventions, sports clinics, youth and leadership camps, and company and family picnics. Special social events like family reunions, weddings and private parties are available as well.

For additional information contact Cindy Schmidt, Director of Guest Services:
985-277-5381 cschmidt@solomoncenter.org

