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# Durham women

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
DURHAM COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION



Every mom has a different story; each had a certain way of cutting your peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, a particular way of folding your tee shirts, some magical method for making even those hurts that you were sure would ruin your life disappear. But all moms share the universal feeling of that beautiful relationship with their children, whatever her individual style and regardless of the ups and downs of the years passed. That relationship changes and takes on new shapes with the passing of years, but its essence can never end.

So with such a momentous bond, what in the world can you do to show your mother how you feel about her? While any mother is likely to say, "Well I don't need anything but your love for Mother's Day, sweetie," we know some special treatment is in order anyway! Maybe you will take your mom to a nice meal, buy her a little token or an expensive gift or just send some flowers and make a card yourself. But, whatever you've got planned, [www.Citysearch.com](http://www.Citysearch.com) has compiled a list of suggestions to help you give your mom a celebration she won't soon forget! On the top of the ratings for florists in Durham is Floral Dimensions, to whom Citysearch editors awarded 4 1/2 of 5 stars. They also suggest a gift for your mother's home from Verdigris in Chapel Hill or some designer jeans from Rouge at North Hills in Raleigh. Maybe your mother would rather be spoiled rotten this Mother's Day, just like you were as a child; treat her to a day at a spa like Bella Trio Day Spa and Salon right here in Durham at 5826 Fayetteville Road!

Or you could treat your mother to a Mother's Day brunch at the Washington Duke Inn or the Millennium Hotel, both highly rated luxury hotels in Durham. There are also various local events taking place in honor of mothers in the Triangle, several of which are listed on the calendar of events on the following page. The Durham Mothers Club also reminds us not to forget that a mother is a mother every second of her life after having her first child, not just on Mother's Day. They offer a variety of events every month for mothers in the area, promoting "friendship, support, and education."

Whatever method you choose this Mother's Day, Durham and the neighboring communities offer a plethora of opportunities with which you can pamper, feed or just be with your mother. So look around but remember the most precious gift is time with you. Have a wonderful Mother's Day!



## Durham Crime Statistics for 2007

While aggravated assaults rose by 10 percent over the first quarter of 2007 compared with the same time last year, murders, rapes, robberies and violent crimes are all below average. Violent crimes went down 8 percent and reductions in larcenies and motor vehicle thefts led to a 10 percent decrease in property crimes. While police point out that the first quarter typically sees less crime than do the summer months, the first quarter statistics are a positive way to start 2007.

## Remembering Jeanne Hopkins Lucas

If we're lucky during our growing years, there may be someone or something that impacts our lives profoundly and, like me at age 54, you might remember them or it as though it were yesterday.

There are many of us now who were touched in some way, large or small, by Jeanne Hopkins Lucas even from way back in the late 1960's like my friend, Calvin Mitchell. Calvin and I were looking through his Hillside High School Yearbook (1974) and couldn't help traveling down memory lane. This was some time before Jeanne left us. Calvin almost started to preach about his love for Jeanne Lucas, and how she saved his life with her kind talks about learning, just being himself and not worrying about trying to fit in, but more importantly, helping him to develop an understanding about what life would require later on. That's pretty much how I remember the young and vivacious, fresh out of college, Spanish teacher, who seemed to fit with the young, but commanded the respect that the older teachers got. Maybe it was just the times when respect for your teachers was a requirement. Step aside from showing respect to those in positions of authority and your backside would know it for days on end.

My earlier memories of Jeanne seem to stick even more than those that are more recent. Even though she was Mrs. Lucas, our Spanish teacher, there was always a way that she was reaching the entire classroom on an even more personal level, like the day she told us how she made her kool-aid with juice and fruit. Now everybody, and I mean everybody, made and drank that cheap, five-cent powdered drink. We've graduated to tea now. But once in a while I still make mine that way, on those occasions when I want to rekindle some memories from the good ole days. Times in her Spanish classroom at Hillside High School on Concord Street could be special. As young and impressionable teenagers, we got from Jeanne Lucas what we needed: a cool teacher who could reach you on so many levels.

Remembering her as an adult is special too. Once you pass that magic age and enter into the time period where you are labeled a senior citizen, you are excused for some of the things you might say, or may even believe you've earned the right to say them. Jeanne could be hilarious sometimes and you couldn't tell if she said some things for the effect or if she was serious. Anyway, she never changed. From Spanish teacher to elegant and very sophisticated African-American woman to State Senator, she was still visible in community sessions, where fighting for the rights of her school-aged youth or for people within her community came really close behind the adoration for her family.

And so I, like many of us, will never forget Jeanne Hopkins Lucas, a woman of class with a smile so large it could capture an entire room, a woman who could scold with that smile and leave you wondering what had just happened, a woman of dignity and grace. **Rest in Peace, Senator and friend, Mrs. Jeanne Hopkins Lucas.**

Yvonne Sanford Dunlap  
DCWC

## COMMUNITY EVENTS: For Women



**April 14-May 11:** "Women in Power" art exhibit; artists Lisa Morton and C. Omega Barnes; FREE admission; the Artful Gallery by Artful Greetings; 4608-C Industry Lane; call 919-235-2958

**May 1:** American Business Women's Association annual business association event; NCSU University Club; contact Phoebe Proffit 919-855-3254

**May 10:** Durham Chamber Professional Women's Network spring fling networking event; 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., the Hill House, 900 S. Duke St. in Durham; to register call 919-682-2133 ext. 233

**May 10-13:** "Five Women @ Duke" exhibition; Porch Gallery at Duke University; call 919-660-3663 for hours

**April 19-July 8:** Installations by Ann Fessler: "Everlasting: The Girls Who Went Away" and "Cliff and Hazel" 1317 W. Pettigrew St., Duke University, off east campus

**May 12:** Strong Women Organizing Outrageous Projects (SWOOP) workday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**May 12:** Triangle Grrrls Singles Picnic (children welcome); 3:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. North Hills Park, Raleigh

**May 13: Mother's Day;** River Paddle from West Point on the Eno to Penny's Bend; \$35

**May 13:** Summer Music Series at Southern Village and special Mother's Day concert on the green by Irish vocalist Maura O'Connell

**May 13:** Mother's Day Soul Jam at the RBC Center in Raleigh; 4 p.m.; \$39.50-\$49.50

**May 15:** RTP chapter of Healthcare Businesswomen's Association program; 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at GlaxoSmith-Kline, 5 Moore Dr. in RTP; \$35 for HBA members, \$55 for nonmembers

**May 16:** League of Women Voters of Orange-Durham-Chatham counties annual May Meeting and Dinner, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; A Southern Season Restaurant, University Mall in Chapel Hill; \$30 per person

**May 17:** Center for Child and Family Health open house; 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.; 411 W. Chapel Hill St. Ste. 908

**May 18:** The African Spirituals: Freedom Prayers concert, 7 p.m., Hayti Heritage Center, 804 Old Fayetteville St., 919-683-1709

**May 23:** Professional Women's Networking Group (PWNG) at Chamber of Commerce at noon; meets 4th Wed. of every month; call 919-266-4603

**May 26:** Taste of Durham Festival, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Imperial Center, 4309 Emperor Blvd.

**May 30:** Durham Author Margaret Sartor book signing, "Miss American Pie: A Diary of Love, Secrets and Growing Up in the 1970s" 7 p.m., Regulator Bookshop, 720 Ninth St. in Durham