



Learning Institute for Elders

February, 2013

www.life.ucf.edu





NOTE OF THANKS



I would like to thank all our LIFE membership for the lovely plaque given to me, in your name, by our president, Marty. I include a special thank you to the LIFE Board of Directors, including Ray Jones. I understand Ray did most of the work regarding the making of the plaque.

Six years ago I attended my first board meeting of LIFE. At that time Sandy Jones was doing so many operations for LIFE, she asked the board for some help. I went to Sandy and said "I can help." Sandy told me to see Dee Burke. "She knows how everything works." Dee was a great help to me. She showed me what information I would need for each member and the forms

needed to gather that information. That was my "training" and so I became the membership chairperson. Most of the work I initiated, such as trying to keep the records in one place and accurate, was done by the combination of extreme panic and beating up my computer and printer at home. It truly was a great experience and privilege to serve the wonderful organization called LIFE. I will miss the work, but I know Gerri, Chris and Valerie will serve the membership in excellent form.

Thank you all again. I will treasure the plaque. This was the nicest thing that has happened to me in a long time.

Elizabeth (aka Betty) Ingham

Dear Readers . . .

As I see it, the main purpose of this newsletter is to provide LIFE members with information of interest and importance to them—business before the Board of Directors, upcoming events, major projects, etc. But I also think the stories about our members add considerable enjoyment.

This month, in addition to all the “nuts and bolts” stuff, we have two stories contributed by LIFE members describing their successful careers, achieved in very different fields. We also have a story of a couple who found love and happiness a second time around and later in life.

How do I get these stories? In different ways. I sat next to Gloria one class session and we got to talking. She agreed to write her story. Maggie and I had visited about her interesting career and she simply provided me with the material. I heard about Ann and Alan via the grapevine and Ann graciously consented to write something up for me.

I know you have a story, too. We all have stories. We have childhood experiences, we travel, we have careers, memories, families, anecdotes and, yes, even a bit of wisdom. I'd love to include your story in the newsletter. You can write it yourself. Or, if you'd rather, I'll write it for you. Let's make this the best newsletter it can be.

—Vonnice Bradbury, Editor

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FEBRUARY QUOTES

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Treat all people with dignity & respect.

—John Wooden

VALENTINE'S DAY

Love doesn't make the world go 'round

Love is what makes the ride worthwhile!

—Franklin P. Jones

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S

BIRTHDAY

I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man.

—George Washington

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S

BIRTHDAY

Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.

—Abraham Lincoln

Highlights of Board Meeting

February 4, 2013

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President – Marty Wiener

In the absence of President Marty Wiener, Judy Thames opened the meeting.

Vice-President – Judy Thames

Judy introduced new board members: Peter Venezia and Beverly Bressant. She reported a letter of resignation had been received from Ursula Hardy. Board approved appointment of Gerri Jamieson as her replacement. It was reported that the Student Union has moved two meetings from Cape Florida to the Pegasus—always good news.

Secretary – Alice Reinhardt

Hardy's resignation (see above) will be recorded in minutes as required. January minutes will be corrected to reflect Norman Sandhaus' gift of photography made to the Hindu Temple in Longwood. Minutes approved as corrected.

Treasurer – Pat Fluno

Annual Report filed with State of Florida. We're slightly over budget on parking passes—20 extra were ordered. Pat requested input on budget preparations. Treasurer's report approved.

EX-OFFICIO – No reports.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Curriculum – Lee Cross

Anyone interested can check the LIFE website for an up-to-date curriculum schedule, which is subject to change. The committee is working on Fall 2013; speakers are encouraged to provide visuals in their presentations. Ray Jones proposed having Steve Hall check on the cost of a new microphone system. Norma Sandhaus reported an audio visual technician will be demo-ing a system in the next week or two.

Membership – Gerri Jamieson

Gerri is working on updating membership data. Members may pay their 2013-2014 dues beginning March 19 and for the next four weeks thereafter. **Deadline for paying dues is May 1.** The revised membership directory will come out in September. Dick Tucker remarked that we need to find a way to accommodate 157 people on the waiting list. Mike Hampton announced that UCF has a new login-program members could access for a lecture. Mike and Dick will research this further. Official membership now stands at 528.

AD HOC/SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Grants & Awards – Doug Garner

Talks with UCF Deans and associates about our Grants & Awards program were well received. John Ciesko and Dick Tucker went to business school; Phil Easterling went to arts & humanities; Ray Jones to sciences. Other visits are planned. Ten colleges were contacted.

Past Presidents – Phil Easterling

Grants & Awards' call for apps to be publicized in the UCF student newspaper.

Gerontology Awards – Ray Jones

Announcements & applications are out, thanks to Mike Hampton. **Deadline for applications is March 1.**

Legacy Committee – Ray Jones

Plans indefinite at this time. No report.

Greeter/Attendance – Lucy Pulido

Lucy reported four sessions with over 400 people. 357 is the average attendance for January. 345 for November.

Newsletter – Vonnie Bradbury

Vonnie is encouraged by the increasing number of people submitting stories and articles for the newsletter. Keep 'em coming!

OLD BUSINESS

Life Endowment Fund – Ian King

Ian presented an outline for a possible fund. It was the consensus of the board that a vision was needed before commencing such a project. Paulette will chair a committee to explore this further. Committee members – Phil, Ian and Ray, subject to Marty's approval.

Strategic Plan – Ray Jones

It was reported that we do have one, but it needs to be updated and perhaps revised. Ray will send out the existing plan to board.

Dues are Due!

Beginning Date: March 19

\$125 per person

Deadline for Payment: May 1

DISCUSSION GROUP

Predictions for 2012

1. Water will become a major concern in the Midwest.
2. Economy and employment will improve but very slowly.
3. The Republicans will unite behind whoever is chosen.
4. Romney will be Republican nominee in 2012 presidential race. He will choose a running mate from west of Mississippi.
5. Debt ceiling will be extended again but legislation will be passed to bring spending under control.
6. The euro will fall against the dollar.
7. Civil war will erupt in Iraq with country split into 3 parts.
8. President Obama will be re-elected for 2nd term.
9. Hillary Clinton will turn down an invitation to run as VP and remain as Secretary of State.
10. Vast reserve of oil will be found under western plains of U.S.

A CAREER IN CYTOLOGY

It was two weeks before college classes were to begin and I was trying to decide between Purdue and the University of Colorado. My father walked in the room and handed me a business card from the University of Iowa. He told me that the university was adding a new course of study in "medical technology," to be taught at the new V.A. hospital. "But my major is anthropology," I protested. Nevertheless, by bedtime, I had decided to follow my father's suggestion: University of Iowa it would be.

Four years after graduating, I received a phone call from a friend telling me our former teacher and V.A. pathologist, beloved by all his students, had died. I asked what had taken his life. Bladder cancer, she said, which at that time could not be diagnosed in its early stage. When I hung up I cried over the sad news and said to myself, "I hope that someday I can find a way to diagnose early cancer."

Ten years later, my husband took his first sabbatical at the California Institute of Technology (He was a college professor in chemistry.) We moved the family from

Illinois to the Los Angeles area. With all three of our children in grade school, I decided to go back to school myself. I had become interested in the work of George Papanicolaou and cytology. So I applied to the program at the University of Southern California and was soon training at LA County Medical Center for my new career.



After six months of training, Dr. C. P. Schwinn, the pathologist and a wonderful teacher, told the class we would be moving to the screening room where registered techs would re-screen our slides and determine when re-screening was unnecessary. He started to walk away but then turned around and said, "By the way, you must hand in a research project the same day you move into the screening room." My heart started to pound. Dr. Schwinn had said the magic word—RESEARCH. My happiness was

complete. "At last, maybe I could help diagnose cancer early enough to save lives."

Two hours after handing in my proposal, Dr. Schwinn walked in and said, "Mrs. Harris, please come with me." Not one word was spoken as we went from the 15th to the 2nd floor office of the Head of Urology. "We found her," Schwinn said.

The next month was very hard for me. Charged with testing the new methodologies outlined in my proposal, I was told that I would be working with ten senior medical students. While most were nice, there were exceptions. One student remarked, "This is the biggest waste of time anyone has ever asked me to do." I couldn't ask the teacher/physicians for help; they would just say "No, it's your research." Finally I turned to the nurses who assisted the physicians in their examination of patients. They were wonderful and enthused about what I was doing. There were 335 patients in this study and 20 cases of malignancy were diagnosed. All of my bladder washes were diagnosed. The young doctor whose "time was being wasted" was unable to diagnose one of his cases that was picked up by my new procedure.

I put together the smears for Dr. Schwinn and thanked him for allowing me to do such a wonderful piece of research. His reply: "Turn left down the hall and you will find a small room with a typewriter. You have two weeks to write your research paper. It will be published and you will present it to the national meeting." One thing I had learned was that you did not say "no" to Dr. Schwinn.

At the meeting, one of my favorite pathologists came over to say hello and he seemed very pleased. "I have heard the news about you and your new job." I did not know what he was talking about. He quickly changed the subject. Puzzled, I went looking for Dr. Schwinn so I could find out what was going on. He said, "Well, when you get back to your home in Illinois, you need to call me. You have a job with Dr. George Wied and need to begin as soon as possible." "But I live in Galesburg," I replied, "which is 200 miles from Chicago. I have three children in grade school and I'm the wife of a college professor who is head of the chemistry department at Knox College." His response: "No one refuses to work with Dr. George Wied."

Special arrangements were made and for the next 17 years I commuted from my home to Chicago and back one day a week. I'd arrive at 5 a.m., pick up 500 pap smear samples for analysis and return home on the evening train. I was "working from home" before it was fashionable. Oftentimes, Dr. Wied asked me to represent him and make cytology presentations to various groups, including physicians. It was a wonderful experience and I only left to take care of my mother.

—Maggie Harris, LIFE member

cy-tol-o-gy, n. – the branch of biology dealing with the study of the formation, structure and function of cells.

Write of Passage . . .

"It's important to be understood, but it's more important that you not be misunderstood."

These wise words were offered to me by a wonderful mentor my first day on the job as a technical writer. But, let me go back a bit so I can tell you how I ended up getting that advice.

My youngest son was almost a year old when a neighbor approached me and said, "Would you be interested in a part-time job?" I said, "What? Are you kidding? I have three children, a husband, and a home to take care of. What are you thinking? Harry (my husband) would have a conniption!" So, of course, I said, "Sure, I'm interested in a part-time job!"

My neighbor worked at a small defense contracting company in Cockeysville, Maryland, a suburb of northern Baltimore County. It wasn't far from where we lived. She said that frequently they had special projects or vacation coverage situations when they needed additional administrative support. She thought that, with my previous experience as a secretary for the Veterans Administration, I'd be an ideal candidate. It was on an as-available basis only; if I wasn't available a particular day or time, it would not reflect negatively if I declined. It sounded good. So, after discussing it with Harry, working out the logistics of short-term, on-demand child care (which would have stifled any sane person's attempts) and then passing the company's employment eligibility test, I was an official contingency pool employee.



After almost a year of assignments in just about every division of the company from manufacturing to human resources, I accepted an assignment in the publications and training department. They needed help with an upcoming document release. Thus, my introduction to the world of Defense Department publications and training. As it turned out, they liked me. To quote Sally Field at the Academy Awards a few years ago: "They really, really liked me!" I must admit I was definitely intrigued by the realm of defense contracting and its strict organizational requirements. I found that I flourished in the world of regulations, specifications, and

standards. I'm A type; I really liked it, too. I transitioned quickly from the typing pool and was assigned to circuit board chip research. They kept calling me back. Eventually, I was invited to join the department full time.

By this time, my two older children were in school and the youngest was enjoying his full-time nursery school/kindergarten experiences. The timing seemed right. I wanted to do it. Harry gave it a nod, and it happened. I became a technical writer and heard, for the first time, the advice from that wonderful man named George: "Gloria," he said, "It's important to be understood, but it's more important that you not be misunderstood. Remember that." I told him I would.

When the company embraced the inevitable trends and instituted a software documentation division, I was tapped by a newly-hired manager—with George's blessings of course—to "abandon the hardware side" and "join the software side." And so I did, forging for myself and my family a future that eventually led us to Florida and a newly-established subsidiary of the Baltimore company.

George's advice was etched in my ethics. My children, bless their little grammar-resistant hearts, heard that advice each time they asked me to "take a look at this paper, Mom." It eventually became engrained in them as well, whether they were writing an English essay, a history paper, or a research report. They didn't need me to read their papers anymore . . . even when I offered.

--Gloria M. Jones, LIFE member

UCF Women's Club

Closet Cleaning for Scholarships Clothing Sale

3600 W. SR 426 (Aloma Avenue, near 417) Oviedo, FL 32765

Friday & Saturday, March 1 & 2, 2013

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 -p.m

Info: Dell Shadgett, Clothing Sale Chair

Home (407) 671-0461; Cell (407) 227-6609

dellshadgett@gmail.com

Partners for Life



In 1985, we were both living in Fort Lauderdale with our spouses. I was a licensed Community Association Manager.

He was working for Lawyer's Co-op Publishing, providing law books to attorneys throughout Dade and Broward County while serving as president of his condo association. My husband, Bill, was liaison to the court system for the sheriff's department in Broward County. Thus, Alan was interacting with me at the management office and Bill through the county system. It took about 6 months for Alan to realize Bill and I had the same last name—an "aha" moment.

We then became friends, enjoying many activities as couples. Even though Bill and I moved to Orlando after he retired in '97, we remained good friends, enjoying phone calls and frequent visits together. That is, until Alan's wife, Norma, became very ill, resulting in Alan becoming a 24/7 caregiver over the next ten years. Norma was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2007 and two years later entered a care facility. She died in 2010.

Bill had passed away suddenly in 2004. I went down to visit my daughter and her family over New Year's weekend. Alan had

tickets for *Phantom of the Opera*, and he invited me to use his extra ticket. We took great comfort in supporting each other through my loss of Bill and Norma's extended illness. Upon her death, we realized that time away from one another was more and more difficult. We both felt that the years we had left would be better spent together as a couple. In June of 2012, Alan moved to Orlando from South Florida.

On both sides, family and friends were happy and accepting and we have, to our amazement, found partners for the rest of our lives.



G-D determines who walks into your life:

It is up to you

Who you let walk away

Who you let stay, and

Who you refuse to let go

--Ann Funk, LIFE member