



# Learning Institute for Elders

March, 2012

[www.life.ucf.edu](http://www.life.ucf.edu)

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## Kites

The March wind is calling,  
"Come fly your kite!"  
The wind is blowing  
With all its might.

The kites are tossing  
In the sky.  
The wind is calling,  
"Come fly up high!"

## *Highlights of Board Meeting*

*March 5, 2012*

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **Secretary – Alice Reinhardt**

Minutes of February board meeting approved.

#### **Treasurer – Pat Fluno**

Treasurer's report was presented and approved., showing a balance of \$65, 560.70.

#### **Vice-President – Judy Thames**

Appreciation awards, on behalf of LIFE, will be presented during Student Staff Appreciation ceremonies in the Student Union. Judy will purchase \$20 gift cards from the UCF bookstore which will be given to deserving student staff members, 2 each month for 7 months..

#### **President – Marty Wiener**

Marty brought a request from WUCF-TV (PBS) to make a fund raising presentation to the LIFE membership. After much discussion, it was agreed that LIFE would make a \$500 donation to the campaign and the check would be presented at the March 13 meeting, the same day as their presentation. Next year WUCF-TV will be added to our list of designated gifts.during the regular Grants & Awards review process.

### **EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

#### **UCF Liaison – Dick Tucker**

Dick reported on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for John and Martha Hitt and commented on seeing several LIFE members there. He also reported on a visit to FAU's Lifelong Learning Center in West Palm Beach/Jupiter area.

#### **Academic Sponsor - Mike Hampton**

Mike reported Student ID's are now good for one year only. However, his office has taken care of current renewals.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

#### **Dick Tucker Gerontology Research Award(s)**

Twenty applications were submitted by the March 1 deadline. Selection committee will begin reviewing applications this week.

#### **By-Laws/Policies Committee – Ray Jones**

Ray presented changes to the classification of certain board committees, some of which require a change to the by-laws and approval by the membership. Board approved the list, with two changes—Gerontology Awards Committee will be classified as a Standing Committee and the Scholarships & Awards Committee will be shown as Grants & Awards Committee in keeping with current usage. {See proposed by-law change elsewhere in this newsletter.}

#### **Curriculum Committee – Pat James**

Pat discussed Fall 2012 schedule changes. Due to Student Study Week on December 4, no rooms will be available in the Student Union. Therefore, the Awards Banquet and last meeting of the fall semester will be November 27, 2012. Pat also received notice we have been scheduled for 13 Tuesdays in Spring 2013 instead of the usual 15. Some discussion was held with regard to establishing an abbreviated summer session. A survey of interest may be conducted; however, it was acknowledged that someone would need to step forward and assume leadership for such a thing to happen. Pat is soliciting interest in a new Curriculum Chair as she will be stepping down.

#### **Membership Committee – Betty Ingham**

The following renewal scheduled was approved: Dues for current members – April 3 to June 1. Betty will be beginning calling those on the waiting list on June 2 in the order in which their application was received. Applications are now being accepted online. (Thanks to Bert Blau for his assistance with this.)

At least 40 ten- and twenty-year awards will be given out at the May 1 meeting. Ray proposed looking at acquiring pins to be presented to these members. An ad hoc committee will consider and recommendations considered at April meeting.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES**

**Newsletter – Vonnie Bradbury**

The next newsletter will come out on March 20.

**Honors Program – Ray Scherer**

Events are going well; good attendance.

**Medical School Tour – Clay Craft**

A tour is planned for April. Date to be announced.

**Attendance/Greeter – Lucy Pulido**

Lucy reported an attendance high of 448 at February 7 meeting, with 325 reported the following week. The board will consider our membership limit at the April meeting.

**UCF Sound System – Norman Sandhaus**

Norman reported a hearing disabilities conference involving UCF faculty will be held soon and he will bring back information from that meeting to the board.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Alice Reinhardt** presented a policy regarding fiscal responsibility for committee chairs who handle LIFE funds. Policy approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Al Dallago** asked that recognition be given to our veterans next Veterans Day (November 13). Board approved.



**PROPOSED CHANGE TO LIFE at UCF, Inc.  
By-Laws**

The LIFE at UCF board recommends the following changes to the LIFE By Laws:

Under ARTICLE VII STANDING COMMITTEE 7.1:

- Delete Membership Committee
- Change name of "LIFE Grants & Scholarships" to "LIFE Grants & Awards"
- Add the "Past Presidents"
- Add the "Newsletter"
- Add the "Honors Program"

This article is the official notification to the membership of the proposed changes. A membership vote will be held on these proposed changes to the by laws by special meeting to be called before class start on April 3, 2012.

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**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
for  
John C. and Martha Hitt**

Several LIFE members attended the festivities celebrating John and Martha's tenure with the University of Central Florida. Dick Tucker, Alice Reinhardt, Marty Wiener and Vonnie Bradbury were among those in attendance. LIFE is part of a great university with great leadership that just keeps getting better.

## YESTERDAY/TODAY

### My Hometown – March, 1951



An idyllic, tree-lined friendly place

A bubble of enthusiastic hard-working people

Survivors of WWII no longer had to jump out of bed to pull down our night shades as sirens rang, sending chills up our spines as warning of as warning of possible bombs falling from overhead.

Porches had railings bedecked with flowers blooming in abundant array of colors. They creaked in the evenings with rocking chairs filled with tired parents who watched in relieved exhaustion while they chatted with the neighbors on adjoining porches divided only the railings.

Hotly contested games of "Kitty, Kitty, Kick the Can" keep us entertained 'til dark, except in summer when the fireflies would magically appear and give us a pass to stay out late to fill our glass jars with as many of the green incandescent creatures, (curiously flapping their wings in an attempt to be free) as we could catch.

The glowing, green jars accompanied us up the stairs to bed, lighting our way to slumber. Then tucked comfortably under the covers, we watch them till our eyes closed in full confidence that the monsters would not visit our dreams tonight.

Each morning men and women passed the milkman as he delivered milk to galvanized boxes on the porches.

Each evening they brought their empty lunch pails home, and weekly their paychecks. Each time they were greeted with hugs.

They planned for yearly vacations, saved for their children's education.

The textile mills hummed with machinery spitting out beautiful bolts of cloth soon to be dresses, drapes or dining table covers.

The steel mills had blazing hot ovens tempering ores with sparks spewing forth. The molten rivers of ore became shining new cars, trucks, ovens or toasters.

Those new cars floated down the streets with fancy fender fins cutting the air, the envy of all teen-aged boys.

"Oh excuse me I'm interrupted:

## My Hometown – March 3, 201



THE EVENING NEWS: TOM BROKAW with a special report.

The state of one town in the industrial north . . . my hometown: READING, PA. March 3, 2011  
The most poverty stricken city in the USA.

The town now dirty, dying, schools closing, children anxiously awaiting to be old enough to leave.

They can no longer play in streets till dark.

Mills closed, then morphed into the first outlets in America in a recycling attempt,  
now are mostly empty of patrons as dying malls all over the country have copied the trend,  
selling goods from off-shore while our endless need for consumption  
pollutes yet another country's rivers and simple way of life.

The only trips men make now are to the downtown,  
to stand and wait in line for their unemployment checks.

The fancy cars now are driven by drug dealers,  
still envied by teen-age boys with no jobs but to hang on street corners  
scouting the next sale.

The street and porches are filthy with litter and trash.  
The porch railings lay decaying in the streets.

I viewed the scene in stunned despair, and offered up this silent prayer:

“DEAR GOD, WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE?”

*Submitted by Amelia Wiener*

*POSTSCRIPT:* Amelia took the poetry course offered to LIFE members last year. New to writing poetry, Amelia had entered her 7<sup>th</sup> decade, vowing “each year to try something new that would challenge me.” The assignment called for her to write a poem about a topic that evoked a strong memory. “My mind immediately went back to my childhood home area and the wonderful times we had growing up in Reading, PA.

Out of that exercise came a moving description of a town—her hometown—which had held so many happy memories and which now suffers the fate of so many hometowns in America. Gone is the Berkshire Knitting Mills. Gone is the Luden candy and cough drop factory. Gone is Bethlehem Steel. Located in beautiful Amish country, this town—once home to Carl Furillo, John Updike and Joey Chitwood and still home to Albright College, a small liberal arts school—has gone through hard times. We hope Amelia will one day soon be able to write about the rebirth and revitalization of Reading, PA. *vkb*



LOOK HOW FAR WE'VE COME . . .

. . . AND HOW FAR  
WE  
HAVE  
TO  
GO!

Every woman today who has in her own name a job, a bank account a credit card, a lease, a car, a mortgage, a diploma or a pension has these because she is standing on the shoulders of millions of women who fought for those privileges.

Have women invented anything important or useful? Did you know that a woman (**Stephanie Kwolek**) invented Kevlar, bulletproof material used in bulletproof vest and clothing for police officers and our soldiers? Another woman (**Grace Hopper**) invented COBOL, the international computer language.

African-American female ophthalmologist, **Dr. Ruth Bath**, patented a surgical procedure for treating cataracts. **Rachel Carson** wrote *Silent Spring*, taking on the huge American agriculture complex to alert us to the dangers of DDT and pollution of our drinking water and environment.

**Clara Driscoll** recently was revealed as the anonymous designer of the most famous Tiffany lamps a hundred years ago. Famous movie star and Winter Park resident, **Hedy Lamar**, patented communication technology in World War II that helped create today's cell phones. Not just "another pretty face!"

For the first time in history, nearly half of students in law, medical and graduate schools are women. Women didn't suddenly get smarter—they just got the opportunity to develop their minds and abilities because of 1970's legislation.

**However, women are still earning only 78 cents for every dollar a man earns for the same work.**

Our achievements obviously do not mark the end of our journey. Let us celebrate what women have accomplished, honor those who have worked for our betterment and keep moving forward until we gain equality for all.

Submitted by  
*Adrienne E. Katz Katz*  
LIFE member and  
Board member, League of  
Women Voters of Orange County

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For most of history, Anonymous was a woman."  
— Virginia Woolf

