





Learning Institute for Elders

September, 2010

www.life.ucf.edu




THREE passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind. These passions, like great winds, have blown me hither and thither, in a wayward course, over a deep ocean of anguish, reaching to the very verge of despair.



I have sought love, first, because it brings ecstasy--ecstasy so great that I would often have sacrificed all the rest of life for a few hours of this joy. I have sought it, next, because it relieves loneliness--that terrible loneliness in which one shivering consciousness looks over the rim of the world into the cold unfathomable lifeless abyss. I have sought it, finally, because in the union of love I have seen, in a mystic miniature, the prefiguring vision of the heaven that saints and poets have imagined. This is what I sought, and thought it might seem too good for human life, this what--at last I have found.

With equal passion I have sought knowledge. I have wished to understand the hearts of men. I have wished to know why the stars shine. And I have tried to apprehend the Pythagorean power by which number holds sway above the flux. A little of this, but not much, I have achieved.

Love and knowledge, so far as they were possible led upward toward the heavens. But always pity brought me back to earth. Echoes of cries of pain reverberate in my heart. Children in famine, victims tortured by oppressors, helpless old people a hated burden to their sons, and the whole world of loneliness, poverty and pain makes a mockery of what human life should be. I long to alleviate the evil, but I cannot, and I too suffer.



This has been my life. I have found it worth living and Would gladly live it again if the chance were offered me.

--The Autobiography of Bertrand Russell

A Word from the President

I'm looking forward to this new fall term of classes at UCF. Unlike when I was younger, I'm elated to get back to the stimulation our class instruction provides and to resume many longtime class friendships.

I welcome you all back to another term of LIFE. It's good to see so many of the "old" faces and to have the opportunity to make friends with the new members joining us this term. If a new member appears in your midst, please do your bit to make him/her feel welcome.

Coming up in the next few months are some great new presentations brought to us by our outstanding Curriculum Committee. We will again look for ways to financially respond to needs within the University through our Scholarship/Grants program.

At year's end, we will hold elections to place interested people from our membership onto the Board of Directors. At that time we will elect six members to a three-year term on the eighteen-member board.

The board is responsible for the overall operations of LIFE. They

meet one morning a month during the school term. Our Nominating Committee will be looking for capable people (lots of them in this organization) to interject new ideas and lifeblood into the board. Give this opportunity careful thought.

At this writing, we will be meeting seven of the next eight Tuesdays in the Pegasus Room. See you there!

Chuck Fritz



A Word from the Editor

I think this newsletter should include your stories in addition to news about this organization. All of you have stories to tell related to your life experiences, each one unique and interesting in its own way. Funny things that happened to you. Childhood memories. Travel notes. The list is endless. I'll be happy to help in putting it together. Can we talk? Contact me at vonbrook@aol.com or call me at 407-849-0693.

Vonnie Bradbury

Highlights of Board Meeting

August 23, 2010

56,600 students enrolled at UCF this fall. Projected SAT is 1250 with GPA at 3.8. 150 new faculty have been added.

LIFE members can purchase a UCF football season ticket for \$60. Tickets can be picked up at the stadium.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President commended Betty Ingham, membership chair for her many hours of work during the summer. Thanks were also extended to ad hoc committee charged with arranging LIFE awards ceremony last spring. Chuck plans to poll members once again re: the plan to change starting time for sessions in January.

Vice President confirmed room reservations have been made through April 2011. Ann brought up the idea of a special event to celebrate LIFE's 20th anniversary. She will present to the committee. With the adoption of board term limits, Ann announced she will not be eligible for re-election to the board in January and unable to serve as an officer. The matter was referred to the nominating committee.

Secretary brought one correction to the minutes. Congratulatory letter to Dr. Morrison Shetler upon her appointment to a position at Elon University was read.

Treasurer presented year-end statement of income and expenses. Kevin reported expenditures were mostly under budget

except for grants and scholarships, which was intentional. Net revenue was over budget by \$1600.

STANDING COMMITTEE

Membership reported 46 new members admitted over the summer with 123 still on the waiting list. Discussion followed on possible solutions and a committee was formed to explore what other options might be available to accommodate more people.

Curriculum is set with minor changes. While most fall sessions will take place in the Pegasus, 15 sessions are slated for the Cape Florida room in the spring.

Nominating Chair Jones will poll board members to ascertain number of years served and willingness to continue. An Advisory Council of Past Presidents is under consideration.

Scholarships & Awards Applications materials will be available in mid-September. Procedures and timelines will be the same as last year.

Newsletter will be distributed the second week of each month this year.

Medical School Liaison Tours of the new medical school are available. And donations are always welcome. Check with Dr. John Pellosie for more details.

Honors/Campus Tour is scheduled for September 7 after LIFE sessions.

Sunshine Pat Fritz is in charge. Please notify her of losses or illness.

Board Minutes cont.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Membership Survey Ian King has received 75 replies to his survey. (A copy is attached to this newsletter.)

Maggie Harris handled the LIFE office answering machine this summer and received words of appreciate from the board.



Happiness is as a butterfly
which, when pursued, is
always beyond our grasp, but
which if you will sit down
quietly, may alight upon you.

--Nathaniel Hawthorne



An Indomitable Spirit . . .

A former member of LIFE by the name of Elinor Brownstein has published two books of poetry. She has also contracted chronic lymphocytic leukemia. As evidenced by her following words, she has not let it "get her down."

WHAT I'M GONNA DO

*If someone's gotta have fun
It might as well be me
I'm not going to get me down
With this disease.*

*I'm gonna hike up a mountain
Bike down a stream
I'm gonna go to the store
Buy only ice cream*

*Gonna pick some blueberries
And make me a pie
Make tons of desserts
And never ask why*

*Gonna walk thru the mall
And get me some shoes
And pick out some skirts
And buy what I choose*

*Gonna call up my friends
And ask them to dine
At a fancy restaurant
Won't that be fine.*

*Will order a lobster
Maybe even two
Clams on the half shell
Quite a few*

*Go to the circus
See the clown's nose
Go to the movies
And watch all the shows
And if that isn't enough*

*After --One Day
I'll try it again Ya hear what I say?*

*Elinor Brownstein
The Treatment*



Remembering 9/11

As each new September arrives
The number 11 is right behind
Flashes of the confused
Delivering the news.

Another plane into another tower
We held our breath
In shock!
How can this be?



Our country came to know
The reality of WAR at home!
A huge cloud of dust
Engulfed a city!

A huge cloud of gray
Hung over our nation
Bodies falling
Confusion and wailing!

We learned of the noble and brave
Who saved the lives of many
As they lay down their life
On a plane.

Our healing began
As the tragedy took place
We saw firemen gently carry
Their beloved priest.



We felt the pain
Of the injured
We each are the injured
We became one

One nation in mourning
One nation of concern
In loving and giving
As much as we could

Ten-Year LIFE Members

Spring 2010

Louise Blau
Rodney Braisby
Deloris Burke
Joe Chandler
Bud Gates
Ruth Gates
Mary Gaythwaite
Stephen Jeffries
Vernon Quigley
Maxine Schechuk
Edmund Short

Donate Your Body...

It will soon be easier for Central Floridians to donate their bodies for science for the benefit of local medical students. The state is designating the UCF College of Medicine as a receiving institution whereas in the past only Miami and Gainesville were so authorized. Give it some thought. Medical students will thank you.

Looking at 9/11
It was unbelievable horror
But lets look again

We are a nation of people
Who are compassionate
We are honorable\
And we are good.

Norma Vaughan
Life member



My Summer Romance

I didn't know what to expect as I packed my bags for the long plane ride to the eastern edge of Africa. I just knew that this was going to be the adventure of a lifetime, one I had never really expected to have. I was going on safari in Tanzania, that beautiful land of mountain and plain, endless sky, acacia trees and exotic animals.

It was six days into our trip and we had already seen so much: a mother zebra and her baby not more than five minutes after entering the park, the first of hundreds--if not thousands--we would see throughout the week. Graceful impalas with their curved horns. Baboons sitting by the side of the road, grooming one another. A male ostrich putting on his best show in hopes of attracting the attention of a female nearby. Ah well, perhaps another day.

And who could forget the serene giraffes, their long necks stretching up to reach that leafy morsel at the very top of the tree. Meanwhile, the elephants meandered by, big ones, small ones, often in families. Mostly they ignored us, but one feisty male teenager turned abruptly and did a mock charge in front of our land rover. We were duly impressed which was really all he was after. We came upon hippos in the water, only their eyes and backs visible. Birds of every color and description, gorgeous wild flowers, huge baobab trees that look like they've been planted upside down and unfortunately serve as hideouts for poachers.

So, after six days of more than the eye could really comprehend, of magnificent animals in their natural habitat, we were going to meet a Maasai family, the only one of the original 127 tribes who still live and practice traditional ways. (How long that will last is questionable.)

I spotted him immediately. He was tall, dark and handsome and he had a quiet dignity about him, the patriarch of the family. I noticed the loops in his earlobes, the result of tiny holes pierced in infancy and gradually enlarged, using a kind of cylinder to stretch the skin. Around his neck hung a tube-like necklace which I was told held chewing tobacco. A burgundy-colored wrap covered his "smock" underneath.

I was standing beside him when he spoke to our guide. Translating, Chris said "He is offering 12 cows and 20 goats for you." How does one respond to such an offer? I remembered being told the wives (He already had five.) must build their own huts out of mud and dung. Tell him I don't know how to build a house, I said to Chris. My suitor's response: I will build one for her.

As we left the hut, he took my hand and the small children giggled to see their father walking with this strange, white woman. He placed his arm around my shoulder and my arm circled his waist as we walked to another hut. While his wives and older children entertained us with songs and dancing, he stayed close by, his dark eyes watching me. Then it was time to leave and he walked me to where our land rovers were waiting. I turned and looked at him as I climbed in

the truck, blowing him a kiss. He blew a kiss back. Almost before it had begun, my summer romance was over.

There were many more wonderful adventures awaiting me on this trip. Once in the Serengeti, we would see lions close enough to pet; a cheetah and her baby high on a rock, a leopard and his mate taking an afternoon nap high in the tree, wildebeests, flamingoes by the thousands, crafty hyenas, jackals, monkeys. I will always remember what I saw and felt and tasted and smelled in that beautiful land. And I will never forget the man with the dark eyes and the gentle manner. My summer romance.

D.B.

Try it! You'll Like It!

According to Hewie Poplock, LIFE member, "there is a new report that shows that internet users 50+ have nearly doubled in just the past year, from 22% to 42% in 2010," and "almost half of internet users 50-64 and about 26% users age 65 and older now use social networking sites."

Hewie says that many of her friends who were comfortable using e-mail were reluctant to try Facebook or other social networking sites. On her website www.newie.net you can read her monthly column called "Hewie's Views & Reviews" where she discusses current issues related to computers. "I am amazed that many of my friends, who have resisted a lot of the internet hoopla and used AOL for many years because it was easy, are using Facebook and doing

so daily. Some are very passive and are mostly 'lurkers.' Others have immersed themselves in social networking and have renewed friendships and have become closer friends to many that they only occasionally see in person . . ."

"... Each of us has our own interests and it is fun sharing them with your friends." Hewie says she enjoys "seeing pictures from my friends, hearing that my real estate sales friend sold a home, hearing that another friend found a job, or a friend's daughter finished a charity race."

Engaging in social networking can be great fun but there is a cautionary tale associated with it. Hewie says, "I always watch what I say and post to protect my information and the information of others."

You can read Hewie's column every month by going to her website listed above. If you haven't tried social networking, maybe you should. Join the crowd!



Autumn is a second
spring where every leaf
is a flower.

—Albert Camus

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY



LIFE membership has expanded rapidly over the last few years to over 475 members with more than 100 on a waiting list.

However, there is no real measure of the abilities of its members (for example, education level, business experience, skills or life experience). The following information is requested to help develop a portrait of LIFE that showcases its abilities and unique strengths.

Completion of this survey is voluntary and the information will be kept confidential.

Name: _____

Education/Degree(s): _____

Professional Affiliation(s): _____

Occupation (previous): _____

Life Experience(s): _____
(i.e. teacher, musician,
Medical practitioner, etc.) _____

Society Membership: _____

Skill or Special Talent: _____

Hobbies: _____

A group this large needs members to assist on various committees (see page 2 of the Membership Directory for a list). Please indicate if you would like to assist on one of these committees Y/N.

Are you interested in serving as a board member Y/N?