



# Learning Institute for Elders

November, 2012

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

## LET US GIVE THANKS



**HARVEST • HOME • FAMILY • FRIENDS**



# Highlights of Board Meeting

November 5, 2012

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Secretary – Alice Reinhardt

Minutes approved as distributed.

### Treasurer – Pat Fluno

Pat reported reservations for the awards luncheon are slow in coming in. Board members are asked to promote this important event. The 2012 audit report is complete—everything is in order.

Treasurer's report accepted.

### Vice-President – Judy Thames

A thank you was received from Knights Helping Knights—LIFE donated 600# of food and supplies during the October collection.

### President – Marty Wiener

It was announced that a membership committee of four people has been established to replace Betty Ingham when she retires at the end of the year. Honors program will be announced in December—the first scheduled event is a visit to a Hindu temple in Orlando.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### Policies/By-Laws – Ray Jones

Ray is working on some minor changes and will report back to the Board at a later date.

### Grants & Awards – Doug Garner

Doug reported that the committee was disappointed in the number and quality of the grant applications. Extensive discussion followed as to reasons for this drop along with ideas for making improvements in future calls for applications, including marketing efforts. Past presidents will lend their expertise to reviewing this issue and making recommendations.

### Curriculum – Lee Cross

Spring 2013 schedule will be posted even though a few unfilled spots remain. LIFE will meet

during the week of Spring Break to compensate for the shortening of the spring semester.

### Membership Committee – Betty Ingham

Betty reported the new committee is working out its job descriptions and developing an organizational plan. There are 127 names on the waiting list. It was suggested that the application form be tweaked to reflect some additional information.

### Newsletter – Vonnie Bradbury

November's newsletter will contain copy of the 2011 annual meeting minutes as well as the 2012 treasurer's report as required by our by-laws.

## AD HOC COMMITTEES

### Greeter/Attendance – Lucy Pulido

October attendance figures are as follows: 2<sup>nd</sup> – 356, 9<sup>th</sup> – 235, 16<sup>th</sup> – 391, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 322, 30<sup>th</sup> – 390.

### Audio-Visual – Steve Hall

Steve needs a back-up substitute should he be unable to attend a meeting. His job description needs to be updated. It was suggested a letter be prepared for speakers which will address the kind of equipment they need for their presentations.

### Safety Committee – Paulette Geller

Any revisions to the policy will be included in the January Newsletter.

### Diversity Week – Judy Thames

Ten LIFE members attended the October Diversity Breakfast. Judy reported that Dr. Valarie King is retiring but will continue on the committee. LIFE was awarded a plaque for our participation and support of diversity at UCF.

### Annual Banquet – November 27

LIFE will continue the tradition of donating toys to the Marine's Toys for Tots charity.

## OLD BUSINESS

Ian King presented a proposal for a LIFE Endowment Fund. It was agreed the Board needs to review and update its current Strategic Plan before addressing the question of an endowment.



## NEW BUSINESS

Lucy reported for the Nominating Committee composed of Lucy Pulido, John Ciesko, John Braun and Patricia Ambinder. The committee's recommendations are listed below.

NO BOARD MEETING ON DECEMBER 3.

Meeting adjourned.

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### SLATE OF OFFICERS\* for 2013

President	Marty Wiener
Vice-President	Judy Thames
Secretary	Alice Reinhardt
Treasurer	Pat Fluno

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOARD MEMBERSHIP (3-year terms)

#### Returning Members

Marty Wiener  
Alice Reinhardt  
Ian King

#### New Members

Ursula Hardy  
Peter Venezia  
Lee Cross

*\*Election of officers will take place at a scheduled meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting.*

## LIFE GRANTS & AWARDS BANQUET

November 27, 2012

It's time for LIFE's annual Grants & Awards Banquet in the Pegasus Ballroom! Giving away \$35,000 in grants and awards is always a special way to end the year. Members and guests will be seated at tables with several award/grant recipients, some of whom have been guest speakers. You will be able to visit with them about how these grants have benefited their work. Dr. John Hitt will be guest speaker for the event. **Tickets are \$16 through Nov. 20.**

#### MENU

Spinach and Apple Salad  
Garlic Lime-Grilled Chicken  
w/ Mango-Pineapple Salsa  
Twice-Baked Potatoes  
Roasted Seasonal Vegetables  
Yeast Rolls w/ Butter Rosettes  
Chocolate & Vanilla Sheet Cakes  
w/Butter Cream Frosting & UCF Logo



## TOYS FOR TOTS

Please bring an unwrapped toy to class on November 27.

**Make a child very, very happy!**



**MEET  
YOUR  
BOARD  
MEMBERS . . .**



**MARTHA HITT**

**Years a LIFE member:** N/A (Ex-Officio)  
**Occupation:** volunteer  
**Hobbies:** reading  
**What I like best about attending LIFE:** When John & I first arrived at UCF, LIFE gave us a marvelous welcome reception. Over the years I have very much enjoyed attending the board meetings as a UCF representative. One day—when I have more time—I hope to become a member.



**STEPHEN HALL**

**Years a LIFE member:** 7  
**Occupation:** social worker, mgr.-OCPS, USNR-R, Tech Support NSU  
**Hobbies:** philosophy, kayaking, racketball, paranormal studies, history, scifi folk music  
**What I like best about attending LIFE:** intellectual stimulation and social interaction



**FRANCISCO L. BURGOS**

**Years a LIFE member:** 9  
**Occupation:** physician  
**Hobbies:** reading and working in the yard, theater, concerts, opera, football  
**What I like best about attending LIFE:** the learning of different subjects, the friendships, and being able to participate in various UCF activities



**LUCIA PULIDO**

**Years a LIFE member:** 8  
**Occupation:** VP-Operations/American Express, finance, business  
**Hobbies:** traveling, reading  
**What I like best about attending LIFE:** learning about different subjects, active people

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**CLASSES RESUME**

**JANUARY 8, 2013**

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**CHUCK FRITZ**

**Years a LIFE member:** 11  
**Occupation:** accountant/systems analyst/programmer/mgmt. consultant  
**Hobbies:** puzzles, golf, reading travel  
**What I like best about attending LIFE:** diversity of topics and social experiences



**MARTIN WIENER**

**Years a LIFE member:** 6  
**Occupation:** sales/marketing management  
**Hobbies:** rowing, volunteering  
**What I like best about attending LIFE:** learning about different subjects, enjoying the friendships and meeting people



**MICHAEL D. HAMPTON, PhD**

**Years a LIFE member:** N/A (Ex-officio)  
**Occupation:** professor/chemistry; interdisciplinary studies  
**Hobbies:** diving, sailing, skiing, flying (fixed wing & Helicopter), photography, travel, horseback riding  
**What I like best about attending LIFE:** Mike serves as UCF academic sponsor for LIFE.

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**Poem - Untitled**

**Gramps & Grammy are coming to our house today.**

I can hardly wait so we can play.  
There'll be lots of games and playing catch;  
We'll have a picnic and a swimming match.  
And then there'll be a quiet time  
And I'll sit on Grammy's lap.  
She'll say "Good boy of mine!"  
And give my head a pat.  
Gramps and Grammy are leaving today.  
And I'll miss them more than I can say.  
They'll always be welcome on my "turf,"  
'Cause I'm their only "granddog murf!"

*-Claire L. Herr, Life member*





## UCF Diversity Week

### *Celebrating 20 years . . .*

Marc A. Nivet, Ed.D. was the guest speaker at the Diversity Breakfast, kicking off a week-long celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Office of Diversity Initiatives on October 15. Nivet, Chief Diversity Officer for the Association of American Medical Colleges, expressed optimism about the future of diversity over the next 20 years. He sees diversity being equated with excellence and believes "inclusion" will become the byword. Instead of "recruiting," colleges will set about "attracting" students and rather than emphasizing retention, more effort will be expended on helping students "thrive" in the college environment.

At the breakfast, Dr. Valarie Greene King, Director of the Office of Diversity Initiatives since its



inception, presented a plaque recognizing the contributions LIFE and its members have made to the efforts of campus diversity. There to receive this award was president, Marty Wiener, and chair of the Diversity Committee, Judy Thames.

Also attending were the following LIFE members: Lucy Pulido, Alice Reinhardt, Pat and Kevin James, Ian King, Paulette

Geller, Larry Levine and Vonnie Bradbury.

Cans and food items were collected at this event for the "Knights Helping Knights" promotion. A delicious breakfast buffet was provided for the large crowd assembled, including President John Hitt and Martha Hitt and top UCF administrators.

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Over **600 lbs.** of food and supplies

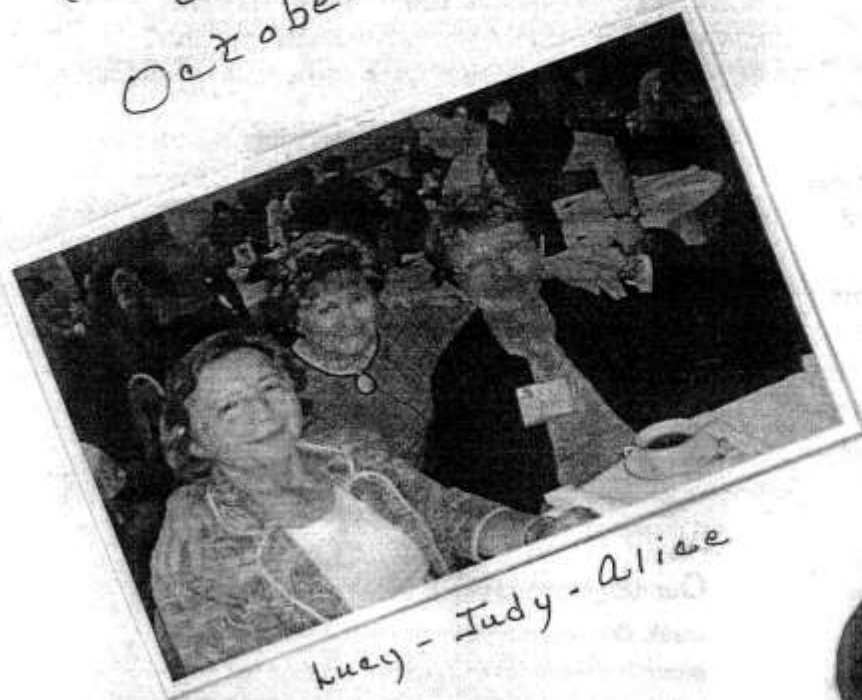
were collected and donated to the Pantry by LIFE members!

Many thanks to you all!





Diversity  
Week  
October 15-19



Luay - Judy - Alike



Go, Knights!



"The Prez"



Paulette - Pat - Kevin



Ian - Larry



## THE BEAR IN THE BERKSHIRES

**P**hyllis was the first to see the bear last June from the bathroom window on Warfield Hill in the small town of Charlemont, Massachusetts. (Phyllis is a family friend who was staying overnight at the Purintons.) The black bear was probably a two-year-old male, thrown out of the den with bear “tough-love” after two seasons of mothering. He was padding across the back lawn in broad daylight. Phyllis, not being dressed, yelled at Esther who ran to the back porch and hollered at the bear, “Get out of my garden!” I thought that was pretty gutsy when I heard about it later.

**A**l and I had arrived in July to house-sit and take care of the gardens while Esther and husband Ray went farther north to their beloved “camp” in Vermont. We were looking forward to a month of cool weather, fresh green beans, the view of the ski trails across the valley, and catching up with family. We did not get our month of cool weather but neither did most of the country.

We were warned to take in the bird feeders at night because some animal had pulled down the heavy metal poles and eaten or dumped the finch seed and the suet. At this point they were pretty sure it was the bear.

**B**arry—Esther and Ray’s son—lives close by, maybe a hundred yards up the hill. He left town one weekend and asked us to water his window boxes and run the sprinklers in the vegetable garden. It was getting very dry and hot. Barry left a comprehensive list of people to call, mostly related to what we should do if his horses got out of the pasture or appeared to be sick. (He did not know that “appeared to be

sick” might have been problematical for us.) Occasionally at night I would hear the horses in the pasture below the house—whinnying and running toward the barn. We would wonder if they had been spooked by the bear.

On my second trip to water Barry’s window boxes, I found bird seed scattered on the patio and a really nice wooden bird feeder in splinters near a mangled cast iron pole. Barry had neglected to put this all away before he left and the bear had been waiting in the night.



**O**ur daughter and two grandkids flew in for a week. Our morning exercise was a hike up the mountain—the first stretch on a paved road, followed by the old farm and sugar bush roads which pass above and behind two farm houses that are now a bed and breakfast. Our route was what *Overseas Adventure Travel* would label “strenuous.” I usually left ten minutes before the rest so I wouldn’t be in cardiac arrest when we got to the plateau that housed horse, pig and llama barns. Barry took us on an “easy” excursion one morning --straight up the mountain through the brush, ignoring the zigzagging paths that normal people used. Everyone else saw the bear run across the trail. I was watching for rocks and roots and didn’t see him.

**L**ater, after the family left, Allen and I took a day trip to Brattleboro, Vt. After lunch, we checked out a huge touristy place called “Basketville” but did not buy and shopped for groceries as usual because Charlemont was miles from a supermarket. When we got back to





Warfield Hill in the middle of the afternoon, the suet feeder and the finch feeders were on the ground—everything twisted and broken. We had just put a baffle on the pole above the suet feeder—to outfox the squirrels—and for some reason the pole with baffle was still standing. The compost bin had been tipped over but the contents appeared to have been ignored. The Purintons had learned early not to put meat and milk products in their compost.

We immediately resigned from further bird-feeding duties and didn't miss having to feed the compost bin with fruit and vegetable scraps. But we looked around carefully when we went to the garden behind the house and thought about the strength it took to twist a suet feeder into a mangled ball of wire.

After we left western Massachusetts, Esther sent two more bear reports. Wally, the widower who lives down the hill, regularly picks up and recycles trash that kayakers and rafters have left along the local stretch of the Deerfield River. (The Harriman Reservoir in Vermont publishes the times that water will be let out the spillway so Charlemont has become a popular place when "the river is up.") One evening Wally left bags of trash in his locked garage. He came down in the morning on his way to the recycling center. He opened the doors but had to go back to the house for the truck keys he had forgotten. In those few minutes the bear was in the garage, tearing open the bags. We didn't hear if Wally—like Esther—yelled at the bear or retreated quickly to the house.

The last bear story was from the Tillys who live in a century-old colonial house just below the Purintons, close to the woods. (Actually, everyone in this area is close to the woods.)

Late at night, when it should have been quiet on the hill, Donna Tilly was locking up the house and heard branches snapping outside the back door. She turned on the outside light, and saw the bear drop out of a tree. He nosed around the back yard for a few minutes and climbed onto her son's car. One of the car windows was open and the family had been to McDonald's for supper. The bear, despite being pretty big after his summer of scavenging, got himself inside the car and dined on fast-food leftovers. Donna reported that he climbed out eventually and left for the woods, a French fries container wrapped around his nose.

*A Footnote: As I was finishing this tale, the West County Independent, a small western Massachusetts newspaper, arrived in the mail. The article that caught my eye—dated October 5<sup>th</sup>—was titled "A Surprise Visitor." The writer, who also lives on a hill near the woods, had watched two bears come through her back yard in late September. She also had run out on her deck and yelled "You Get Out Of Here!!!." She reported that the Massachusetts bear population is growing due to reforestation in the western counties. Right now bears are travelling, seeking mates, and fattening up before hibernation. Local residents need to be aware of these patterns, the writer observed, and do everything they can to keep bears wild—away from human habitation and human food.*

Alice Reinhardt  
LIFE member





**LIFE@UCF  
REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING  
DECEMBER 6, 2011—10:35 AM  
CAPE FLORIDA ROOM, UCF STUDENT UNION**

The meeting was opened by President Phil Easterling. Secretary Alice Reinhardt reported a quorum of over 20% attending (100 members ) satisfying the By-Laws requirement. The report of the 2010 Annual Meeting was approved as printed in the November LIFE newsletter. The motion was made by Dr. Francisco Burgos and seconded by Fred Anklam.

Treasurer Ian King gave a brief report. The cash balance on hand August 1, 2011 was \$101,688. Receipts during the fiscal year August 1, 2010 to July 31, 2011 were \$63,441. These figures do not include Grants/Awards funds of \$30,000.

The President reported 500 members on our rolls. The committee received 57 applications for Grants and Awards and approved 32 for over \$31,000 total. This puts the total sum given by LIFE to UCF at over \$300,000.

Easterling thanked the LIFE board and membership for great support during his term as president. Betty Ingham was given special recognition for her service as membership chair. Also recognized were Pat James and the curriculum committee, Webmaster Burt Blau who also provides special assistance to the Grants/Awards committee, and Audio Visual "chief" Steve Hall.

Nominating Committee Chair Lucy Pulido presented the slate of six nominees to the LIFE@UCF Board of Directors—to fill six vacancies. Names presented for reelection were: Phil Easterling and Vonnie Bradbury. Those presented for first-time election were John Ciesko, Paulette Geller, Pat Fluno and Pat James. Ray Jones moved nominations be closed. The slate was elected unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE LIFE@UCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
CAPE FLORIDA ROOM—UCF STUDENT UNION  
10:50 AM—December 6, 2011**

The meeting was called for the express purpose of electing the executive committee of the LIFE@UCF board for the year 2012. According to the By-Laws, service begins immediately following election. Vice-President Martin Wiener presented the slate of officers: Pat Fluno Treasurer, Alice Reinhardt Secretary, Judy Thames Vice President, and Martin Wiener President. Vonnie Bradbury moved the election of the slate as presented and the motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned to the Grants and Awards Luncheon in the Pegasus Ballroom.

*Alice Reinhardt, Secretary*

**LIFE @ UCF**

**Statement of Cash Receipts & Disbursements**

**Fiscal Year Ended July 31, 2012**

Cash Balance, August 1, 2011	\$103,347
Cash Receipts	\$ 65,214
Cash Disbursements	(\$51,186)
Cash Balance, July 31, 2012	\$117,375