

Women's Club at UCF, Inc

NEWSLETTER

February 2023

Fall 2022/Winter 2023 issue

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Winter Solitude in Eastern PA



Winter Blooms in Winter Springs Florida

Save The Date

- ◆ ***March 24 —
Women's Club at
UCF 2023 Spring
Luncheon***
- ◆ ***April 2—15 — UCF
Celebrates the Arts***
- ◆ ***May 18 — Spring
Social***

President's Corner

Our club members have been busy for the past few months. The Fall was a blur thanks to the two hurricanes that decided to cause havoc on our area and impact the homes of a few of our members. We are so glad that our members were all safe and rebounded from the setbacks they experienced.

Our events have reflected our club's mission and focus on friendship, scholarships, and community. We gathered together as friends to celebrate several of our traditional events such as the Fall Luncheon, Holiday Tea, and Cookie Exchange.

Our members continue giving to the mission of our club, yearly scholarships to UCF students. Also, quite a few members of the Women's Club have volunteered their time on the UCF campus, including the Arboretum and the Coastal & Estuarine Ecology Lab (CEELAB). Available dates and volunteer opportunities for 2023 will soon be sent out to all members.

The Interest Group leaders have been busy planning and coordinating their respective group events. Whether you enjoy reading, learning, dining or hiking the outdoors, our club's talented and dynamic women have been active! This newsletter highlights some Interest Group activities in greater detail.

Your executive board and committee chairs have been working hard to update our club Constitution and By-laws, evaluate our website, engage in volunteer activities and plan social events. If you have an idea on how we can make this club even better for our members,

please email me at Lmhennig@cs.com.



My term as President is coming to an end soon and I shall leave with fond memories of our accomplishments as well as our fun social activities.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming Spring Luncheon on March 24 at the Live Oak Event Center on the UCF campus.

Linda Hennig,

President, Women's Club at UCF



Thank you for the photos:

Photos on Front Page: Yeschi Pattada & Zalpha Hashem

Photos for all other articles: Zalpha Hashem

Photos for IG Events: Various IG Leaders and/or members

Photos of Scholarship Recipients: Sue Chapman

Women's Club at UCF — Club Events and Traditions

Fall Luncheon!

The Women's Club at UCF kicked off its fall festivities and events with the Annual Fall Meeting. Although it had to be rescheduled due to Hurricane Ian, on 4 November 2022 ladies of the Club and their guests gathered at the UCF Live Oak Events Facility. What a fun, friendly, and enjoyable event it was. Whether perusing all the club's Interest Group informational posters, meeting new members and guests, or just simply catching up in person with other club members, everyone was glad to be back amongst friends.

Members and guests were greeted by our president Linda Hennig and board members and welcomed to share in the fun. As is our tradition during our fall meeting, Donna Albert and our interest group leaders displayed information about the various IGs and encouraged members to sign up and participate throughout the year with the variety of upcoming events and gatherings. As with previous meetings, non-perishable donations for the Knight's Pantry were collected and the generosity of our members continued to shine as they filled the "scholarship donation jars" at the tables.

Linda thanked the club members for all their contributions toward the various fund raisers that were held in support of our scholarship programs and UCF students. During recent fundraising activities, a special fundraiser was held specifically to support emergency housing and food needs of students affected by Hurricane Ian. The Women's Club at UCF donated \$5300+ toward this fundraiser thanks to the members who contributed toward this "special fundraiser challenge" and the Women's Club matched member contributions up to \$2500.



Mr. Rod Grabowski, Senior Vice President, UCF Advancement and Partnerships attended as a special guest. He shared with the group his appreciation for how higher education changes lives and also thanked the women of the club for their continued contributions.

At this year's luncheon, several UCF 4Ever Knights Ambassadors volunteers supported

our members and meeting. Their enthusiasm and bright smiles added to the overall joy of the event.



Women's Club at UCF Fall Meeting Events

Club Events and Traditions!

“Fueling the Future of Nursing” was the topic of our Guest Speaker Mary Lou Sole, PhD and Pegasus Professor at UCF. Dr. Sole is the Dean of the College of Nursing at UCF.

Dr. Sole shared some of the history and “firsts” at the UCF College of Nursing since 1971. She discussed the different paths of nursing education, and the critical shortage of nurses that our state and country face. UCF educates the most BSN nurses in the state of Florida and has set the goal of raising/growing the number of yearly graduates to 450. She also indicated that in addition to their education, nursing students have volunteered over 30,000 hours throughout the community. Dr. Sole also discussed the plans that are in process for building and relocating the College of Nursing to Lake Nona Medical City area.



After the inspirational talk by Dr. Sole, our members continued to enjoy the luncheon events and catching up with friends.



The Fall Luncheon is always a fun event.

It was also a successful event as we collected \$1484 from the “scholarship donation jars” to add to our scholarship funds.

You ladies rock!



The Women's Club at UCF: where giving has always been in fashion!

Women's Club at UCF Fall Meeting Events

Meet Our Graduate Scholarship Awards Winners

Each year our club provides scholarships awards to three graduate students through our



Maggie LeClair
WC at UCF Scholarship Chair

Sheila B. Somerville Graduate Scholarship Fund. However this year, Maggie LeClair, our club's Scholarship Chair, recommended and the board concurred to awarding four graduate scholarships. The scholarship winners were selected after an exhaustive review of the qualifications and need of candidates was conducted.

Meet the Women's Club at UCF Somerville Graduate Scholarship winners for Fall of 2022.

Somerville Graduate Scholarships 2022



Chiebuka Eyisi

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
Electrical & Electronics
Engineering



Cara Munnings

School Psychology
CESP Department Assistant
Counselor Education
& School Psychology



Jocelyn Sierra-Moeller

School Psychology
Collaborative Intervention
Specialist Student
College of Innovation
& Education



Briana Garza

Graduate School of Nursing
Nursing Practice DNP
Family Nurse Practitioner

Videos of acceptance comments by the graduate scholarship winners can be found on our private YouTube Channel at the following links.

- * Chiebuka Eyisi [Chiebuka Eyisi Grad Scholarship Acceptance Video 11 3 22](#)
- * Cara Munnings https://youtu.be/Yad9U6m_g8U
- * Jocelyn Sierra-Moeller [Jocelyn Sierra-Moeller Grad Scholarship Acceptance Video 11 3 22](#)

Thank you members for your continued donations and support to our club and its scholarship award programs.

The Women's Club at UCF: Ladies Making a Difference!

Women's Club at UCF — Club Events and Traditions

Holiday Coffee/Tea!

As Fall comes to an end and the Holiday season comes upon us, the Women's Club at UCF celebrates in style with two fun filled, joyful, and uplifting traditions: The First Lady's Holiday Coffee or Tea and The Women's Club at UCF Cookie Exchange. What a great way to enjoy the Holiday Season together.

UCF's First Lady, Mrs. Melinda Cartwright hosted the ladies of the Women's Club at UCF and the ladies of Town and Gown at the Burnett House for the annual Holiday Tea. On Dec. 7, 2022, a great setting, wonderful food, and beautiful ladies came together to celebrate the holidays and contribute to a worthy cause —The Knights Pantry.

As the ladies enjoyed the delicious food and teas, student volunteers shared with them information about the important role that the Knights Pantry plays in supporting and uplifting UCF students at times of need. They described how each contribution of food, clothing, toiletries, and especially money makes a difference in a student's life.



Thank you Mrs. Cartwright for hosting this wonderful event!

Thank you ladies of Women's Club at UCF and Town & Gown for your continued generosity!

Sharing and Caring — A Wonderful Tradition!

Women's Club at UCF — Club Events and Traditions

Cookie Exchange!

If it's December, then it must be time for the Women's Club at UCF Annual Cookie Exchange Event. Hosted by Ranetta Guinn and Jen Rupert, this popular event is a classic tradition. Pictures tell the story of a fun evening of music, food, friends, and of course cookies.



In Loving Memory and Honor of our Friends

Dr. John C. Hitt

On Feb. 20, 2023 UCF lost one of its greatest champions and former president, Dr. John C. Hitt.

President Hitt was a strong pillar who transformed UCF and built it into the large and uniquely talented institution that it has become. Dr. Hitt and his wife Martha Hitt, our friend and women's club member, provided great presence, generosity, and support for the community and the Women's Club at UCF and its members.

You can view UCF's publication on Remembering President Hitt at the following link

<https://www.ucf.edu/leadership/remembering-president-hitt/>



***Martha Hitt and Dr. John C. Hitt
at the Womens Club at UCF
50th year Celebration***

Janice Fisher

On Nov. 2, 2022 we lost a dear friend, a long standing member, and former president of the Women's Club at UCF, Janice Fisher.

During her presidency in 2007-2008, Janice championed the creation of the graduate student scholarships that the club awards yearly. She is a member of the inaugural class of the Women's Club at UCF Hall of Fame.



Thank You For All Your Contributions. Thank You For The Memories!

New Member Orientation

Meet Our New Members

On 21 January 2023, our Vice President Karen Manglardi hosted our New Member Orientation event at her lovely home. New members to the club had an opportunity to meet some of our board members, learn about our club operations and events, and to meet other new members. A fun get together enjoyed by all.



Welcome to all our new members! We are excited to meet you, to get to know you, and to share future memories together. As of February 2023, our new members are:

Betty Anderson	Helena Andrade	Elsa Anschuetz	Debra Bauer
Kathleen Banner	Diana Bishop	Victoria Carpenter	Gail Courtois
Tracy Fasone	Lynn Frazier	Sally Galvan	Susan Gregory
Dona Hams	Anne Johnson	J J Mackle	Sandy North
Ginny Ochsner	Yvonne Paul	Amy Post	Carolyn Ruhe
Debra Schuchart	Peggy Shutt	Barbara Smith	Linda Solymossy
Lynn Worthington	Tamara Worthy	Kelly Young	Teal Zambri

Enjoy and participate in club events and join our Interest Groups for friendship, fun, and camaraderie with others with the same interests. If you joined without filling out a membership form on our website, please contact zhaoviedo@aol.com to fill out the form.

Interest Groups News

This season of events for the Interest Groups required some patience, coordination, scheduling, and rescheduling due to mother nature and its impacts. However, neither rain, snow, sleet, or hurricanes could keep our interest group leaders from their tasks at hand — collaborating and coordinating great events for our members to enjoy and share time together.

The name and contact information for each of the Interest Group leaders is available on the website. If you signed up for an interest group and you are not hearing from that IG's leader, Check if you need to update your email and contact information in our directory on the website. All interest group leaders have on-going events scheduled for their participants. If you have an idea for a new interest group, contact Donna Albert via email at palbertfamily@msn.com
Enjoy reading about some of the collaboration and recent events that the Interest Group members shared.

Armchair Travelers Group #1

In October, Armchair Travelers #1 began its new season with Mary Burnett sharing her Road Scholar hiking trip to the Cotswolds. During the course of her trip, she walked many miles and experienced a variety of British foods. Yes, they do have a cuisine encompassing more than fish and chips and bangers and mash! Mary's depiction of the countryside was lovely and the pleasure that she derived from the trip was evident.

In November Mila Vodopyanov took us to Konstanz, Germany, and provided wonderful images with buildings that have survived unscathed for many centuries. Its prime location on the opposite side of the Rhine River from Switzerland provided a measure of protection not afforded during World War II.



Due to Switzerland's neutral status, its residents could leave their lights on at night without fear of being bombed. Therefore, due to its proximity to Switzerland, Konstanz's residents left their lights on and escaped destruction. Mila shared many insights about the art and history that she acquired as she accompanied her husband Konstantin during his sabbatical at the University of Konstanz.

In December, our members gathered for a potluck dinner to celebrate the holiday season and share a video collage depicting their favorite travels and traveling companions over the years.

We would like to welcome Cynthia Chamberlin as co-chair of Armchair Travelers #1! Happy travels to all!

By: Carol Pickler
Leader Armchair Travelers #1 IG



Interest Groups News

Daytime Bookworms

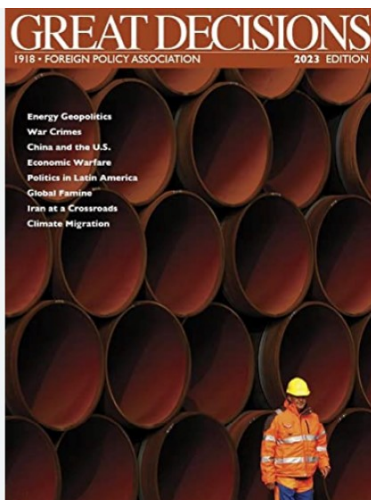
So many books! So little time! How true for Daytime Bookworms. Each year we offer many titles from which to choose our eight selections for the year. As each year passes, we seek to not only entertain, but to educate ourselves in happenings of the past, present and future. This year's selections are no different. Thus far, we have discussed ON TYRANNY, THE GUEST BOOK: A NOVEL and NO TIME TO SPARE.



Though, many of us have been together many years and have discussed many books, we still enjoy the diversity of opinions and experiences each member brings to the discussion. This year is no different and we are off to some very stimulating discussions.

By: Carole Goldsmith
Leader Daytime Bookworms

Great Decisions!



Great Decisions resumed their meetings in January when new readings and videos became available. After many years leading the IG, Mary Meeker turned over the discussions and debates on Foreign Policy Association topics and selections to two members of the group who are co-chairing this informative and interesting group.

Thank you Mary for your leadership, and continued success to the new IG leaders, Katie Seymour and Bemmie Eustice, as they tackle their new topics and dynamic discussions.

Interest Groups News

Evening Bookworms IG

Want a fun way to celebrate the holiday and to keep a friend some company while she's recovering? Then hold a Sock Exchange Event.

Well, that is exactly what the Evening Bookworms interest group did.

Yes, that's what friends are for!



Armchair Travelers 2

In Fall 2022, the Armchair Travelers 2 group toured Croatia, Slovenia and Montenegro with Karen Szymanski as well as Western Europe with Karen Manglardi. They kicked off the holiday season with a Pot Luck supper and group participation by sharing photos of their favorite places and memories.



January found the group sharing Mila Vodopyanov's fascinating journey about "Konstanz and the confluence of Germany and Switzerland". Then off to a mid-winter Luau as Lisa Gantz recalled her trips to Oahu and Maui. Of course members were encouraged to immerse themselves in Hawaiian food and dress, and Leis were provided to add to the fun.

Come join Us.

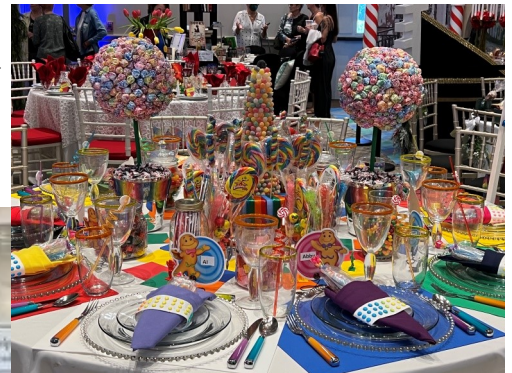
By: Linda Hennig
Leader, Armchair Travelers 2 IG

Interest Groups News

Cultural Arts & Wellness

Alas, fall activities for the Cultural Arts and Wellness group were nixed due to hurricane aftermath: outing to South Seminole Organic Farm, home of the "seminole pumpkin", and Tai Chi in the Park. Enthusiastic members signed up and were ready to explore, only to be rescheduled for later dates.

The Cultural Arts & Wellness IG collaborated with the International Friendship IG and members of both groups combined for a fun day attending "Tables Extraordinaire" at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Maitland. This annual fundraiser provides decorated themed tables to peruse, silent auction if you wish to bid, some delicious Greek food to savor, and take-out food and market. A great time was had enjoying each others company. What a great turnout!



Collaboration between the Hiking Group and the Cultural Arts & Wellness Group provided members several events to enjoy together. These events in-

cluded a great tour of historic Sanford and a unique cultural exhibit at the Maitland Art & History Museum. First they enjoyed a guided tour of the unique museum building itself, built in the Mayan Revival style and a National Historic Landmark. Then the group explored the exhibit "Fumeheligai: A history of the First Peoples of Florida".

If you have excursion ideas and suggestions for the group, or if you want to help coordinate the group events, contact Lynn Moharam Leader, Cultural Arts & Wellness IG .

Wine Tasting and International Gourmet IGs

The Wine Tasting IG and International Gourmet IG members collaborated together for a fun holiday event during December with Appetizers, Wine Tasting & Gift Swap. A great selection of appetizers and beverages were enjoyed as the group dined together before the gift swap began. Spouses and guests were also welcome at this fun event. Good fun was had by all.

With January's arrival, dinner and wine tasting at Carabba's in Winter Springs has returned. The Wine Tasting IG Members enjoyed getting together for a five course dinner and wine pairing tasting. The tradition continues throughout the upcoming months.



Interest Groups News

International Friendship IG

The International Friendship IG started out the year with a celebration by visiting Celebration, FL. What a delightful day as the group took a leisurely promenade on the trails around the lake, enjoyed the Christmas scenes and decorations around the streets, shopped at the craft artisan shops around main street, and of course enjoyed a delicious lunch together at Columbia Restaurant; a family owned restaurant, serving Spanish cuisine, that has been in operation for more than 115 years and has become a fixture around several Florida towns.

Attending Tables Extraordinaire” has become a yearly tradition for International Friendship and the Cultural Arts and Wellness interest group members. Quite a turn-out this year as our groups ventured to Maitland to view the incredibly decorated themed tables, partake of some delicious Greek food, and enjoy each others company at this annual fund raising event held at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Maitland.



Recently members of the Interest Group attended a brief presentation at the UCF Downtown Campus at the Parramore Room of the Communication and Media Building. The 15 minute talk highlighted information about the art and history of the room and key historical figures who developed the Parramore area. We enjoyed a wonderful lunch at the Monroe Restaurant.



Then we leisurely walked around the Luminary Green, a park at the center of the Creative Village area of the campus. At the park luminaries are displayed that honor key personnel from Parramore history.



By: Zalpha Hashem & Teresa Riedel
Co-Leaders International Friendship IG

Interest Groups News

Hiking Group!

After a long hot summer recess, the Hiking IG was ready for the trails. But Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Nicole had other plans. After these massive hurricanes swept through our state, trails were blocked by fallen trees and flooded. This did not deter the group from seeking out new alternatives and ideas for hiking. The Hiking group and the Cultural Arts & Wellness Group collaborated on a few events and their members enjoyed several events together.

One of the shared rescheduled events was a walking tour of historic Sanford. A visit to the Sanford museum for a short introductory free tour, was followed by a professional guided tour of historic Sanford town. Nancy, the tour guide, is versed in architecture and all ins and outs of this historic town. Of course, after such a lovely cultural walk, lunch was enjoyed at Hollerbach's German restaurant in the historic district.

After many parks and hiking trails re-opened, the Hiking Group members visited the Black Hammock Wilderness Area. The hike was a true magic where members enjoyed the natural beauty of the trail, as well as a true fairy-tale animal farm with cows, donkeys, pigs,

and goats.

On another outing, the Hiking IG members visited Blue Springs. In addition to seeing the manatees at the spring, the group enjoyed a guided hiking tour in the scrub area searching for and learning about the iconic Florida scrub-jay. More fun hikes are planned.

See you on the trails!

Mila Vodopyanov
Leader, Hiking IG



**BRIGHTEN SOMEONE'S DAY,
SPREAD SUNSHINE**

**Teresa Riedel
Is our Sunshine Coordinator**

**If you know of a member
who needs some encouragement, sympathy, or
just some sunshine from our club**

**Please email Teresa at
teresariedel27@gmail.com**

Has Your Contact Information Changed?

In the event your contact information has changed, please go to our web-site and use the "Contact Us" tab/form to make us aware of any changes.

Is Your Contact Information Missing from our Directory?

- * If you are an active member of our club (i.e. paid your dues as a new or a renewed member), and
- * your data is not listed in our membership directory on our website,
- * Then, please email Zalpha Hashem at zhaoviedo@aol.com such that she can obtain the right information and update our membership directory accordingly.

INVITE A FRIEND!

Do you have a friend or know someone who would enjoy being a new member of the Women's Club at UCF?

•Invite them to join!

•Ask them to fill out an application form on our web site AND Pay Membership dues

HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER?!

Our next newsletter will be published in Spring 2023

**If you have news or suggestions, or would like to edit/publish our newsletter,
please contact me at zhaoviedo@aol.com.**

Published three times a year for our club. Edited and coordinated by: Zalpha Hashem