

Women's Club at UCF, Inc

NEWSLETTER

May 2021

Spring issue 2021

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- ◆ Message from our New President
- ◆ Spring “Luncheon/Business” Meeting
 - ◆ Your New Executive Board
- ◆ Spring Lunch Celebration
- ◆ Inaugural Class of WCatUCF Hall of Fame
- ◆ Reflections on Last Year and Yesteryears
- ◆ Interest Groups Highlights
- ◆ Enjoying the Outdoors: Group Bike Ride
- ◆ Plant Swap Anyone?
- ◆ Feature Article: “No One Would Believe It!”



*The Women's Club at UCF:
Where members become
friends!*



Notes from New President, Sue Chapman

My husband Ron and I moved from Boston into our little rental property here in Orlando in May of 2016. We literally did not know a soul here. But then one day we were at a UCF Flying Horse Big Band event and sitting in front of us was a charming lady and fellow jazz junkie. That lady just happened to be Dell Shadgett. We immediately hit it off and Dell encouraged me to join the Women's Club at UCF. Little did I know that this decision would essentially change my life.

I treasure the friendship, kindness, support and fun experiences I have found within the club. This year has been tough on all of us, our friends and our families. Personally, I lost my 97 year old Dad to Covid-19. Yet, here we are. We have persevered!

We did persevere this year. We found inner strength and resolve that we didn't even know we had. We learned new technologies to stay connected with family and friends. Many of you were able to continue your interest groups on Zoom. I applaud you for that. But I think we can all agree that we need to get back on track. I look forward to working with you to formulate our "getting back on track" plan in a safe and effective manner. So, if you have any ideas, concerns, and opinions please email them to me at ChapmanSue@yahoo.com. All input is welcome!

I would also like to thank the Spring Luncheon committee, our amazing member artists and all the presenters for making our April 19th meeting so memorable. Thanks to all of you who attended. If you were not able to attend, there are links to the meeting highlights in this newsletter. I am 99.9% confident that this will be our last luncheon via Zoom and that we will all be back together, in person for the Fall Luncheon in October.



Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president for the 2021-2022 term. My closing thought is a quote from Ruth Bader Ginsberg, one of the strongest role models of our time. "Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

With warmest regards,
Sue Chapman
President

Women's Club at UCF 2021 Spring Meeting

What a great Spring Meeting! Yes it was still virtual via Zoom, but the energy and fun-packed event was non-stop. Yes we did not share a luncheon together, in person, but we shared bonds of friendship of yesterdays, today, and for the future. The board and 60+

You're Invited

2021 Virtual Spring Luncheon

Women's Club at UCF
Annual Business Meeting and Elections



DETAILS

DATE/TIME: Monday, April 19th at 12:00 pm

COST: Free admission – just bring your own lunch.

THEME: Featured art exhibits by several UCF Women's Club members.

members of the Women's Club at UCF met and enjoyed many activities; great art presentations and musical entertainment by our very own members, end of year summaries by our board, election of our new executive board officers for 2021-2022, and our inaugural WCUCF Hall of Fame induction.

Lots of time, effort, and coordination was required to schedule and conduct the events of our annual spring meeting/luncheon. A committee, comprised of Sue Chapman, Karen Gisel, Zalpha Hashem, Kathy Littlefield, Teresa Riedel, and Roberta Shoopman, was formed and worked together to

bring this great event to life. Many thanks to Sue Chapman for her technical coordination and the committee members for their time and talents.

Welcome to the family members of our Hall of Fame inductees who participated in our spring meeting. More details, about our honored ladies and our first class of the Women's Club at UCF Hall of Fame, can be found in the next several pages.

We extend a very special thank you, and much appreciation, to our featured members who shared their artistic talents with us. We also thank them for their time invested in making this event successful. Roberta Shoopman and Karen Gisel shared their creativity for prizes and tablescapes. Our guest artists, Carol Pickler, Karyn Plater, and Margie Sloan each shared with us the passion they have for their unique artistic talents and skills. Becky Lee enchanted us with her wonderful piano playing. They each gave us an appreciation for the dedication and details needed to bring to life such wonderful masterpieces. See and read more about each presenter in following pages of this newsletter.

The members who participated in the meeting, and in accordance with our bylaw requirements, voted upon and approved the slate of executive board officers for the upcoming year. Pictured is your WCUCF Executive

board. Current board members in other positions have decided to remain in those capacities as part of the board for the following year.



Sue Chapman
President



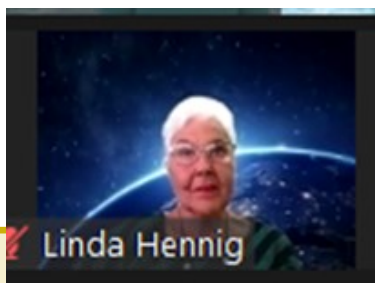
Karen Manglardi
Vice President



Cathy Davis
Treasurer



Zalpha Hashem
Secretary



Many thanks to Linda Hennig, our outgoing vice president, who served for many years on the board in various positions and on several committees including the Hall of Fame Committee. Thank you Linda!

Thanks to all the participants!

Women's Club at UCF Hall of Fame

Introducing The Inaugural Class Of the Women's Club at UCF Hall of Fame

*A very special event was conducted during our annual Spring Luncheon and Meeting —
The induction of the Inaugural Class of the Women's Club at UCF Hall of Fame!*

Championed by Kathy Littlefield, the idea for the Hall of Fame was born. The board voted upon and approved initiating this wonderful recognition forum. The Board recognizes that many dedicated, active, and talented members have left an important legacy and this is a forum to shine a light on their contributions to the Women's Club. Congratulations to these great ladies!

CONGRATULATIONS! THE INAUGURAL CLASS: 2021

Ali Armstrong*

Marian Bolte*

Bette Boston

Mary Ann Cottrell*



Janice Fisher

Jane Fuller

Judy Kuhn

Maggie LeClair

Sarah Magann*

Frances Millican*

Ruth Jean Ostle*

Dell Shadgett



***posthumous inductee**

The purpose of establishing a Women's Club Hall of Fame is to honor women who have made significant impact on our Women's Club and who represent our mission. The slate of inductees came to be after many research hours looking through previous women's club publications, many conversations and interviews with legacy members, and numerous meetings and discussions. A committee comprised of Linda Hennig, Kathleen Hagerty, Zalpha Hashem, Kathy Littlefield, and Teresa Riedel was formed to work through the hall of fame details, establish the criteria for selection, and select the candidates for consideration. Thank you to all who supported and participated in the nominations of candidates and considered the historical perspective of the first induction to the Hall of Fame.

*It is with pride and heart-felt thanks, the board and members of the Women's Club at UCF recognize these wonderful ladies and induct them to the Women's Club at UCF Hall of Fame! **Congratulations!***

***Thank you to the family members of our honorees
who joined us during this special recognition event!***

Women's Club at UCF Hall of Fame (cont.)

We had the pleasure of hearing from Dell Shadgett, on behalf of herself and her fellow inductees. Mama Dell shared with us how special this moment is for the inductees and for the club.



She shared with us special memories and fond feelings for her friends of yesteryears and today. Watch Mama Dell's remarks using the following link.

- ◆ Dell Shadgett - Acceptance Remarks for Hall of Fame

<https://youtu.be/YEDdzxcCnUE>

Another wonderful honoree Mrs Bette Boston

shared with us her thoughts in an email:

"You "done good" - it's over and worth the effort.
Thanks for your efforts. My daughter came to make it possible for us - and it was good to see some of my "old" friends again....stay well, stay happy and stay with The Club - they need you.....thanks again.....Just Me"

As is usual throughout her years with the club, Bette's enthusiasm and energy shine through her words. She is truly a GEM! Thank you for staying with The Club!

To learn more about each of our inductees, watch the video of our induction ceremony during the meeting, use the following link:

- ◆ Hall of Fame Induction Presentation <https://youtu.be/1n-pIAZqoys>



Retro Photo:

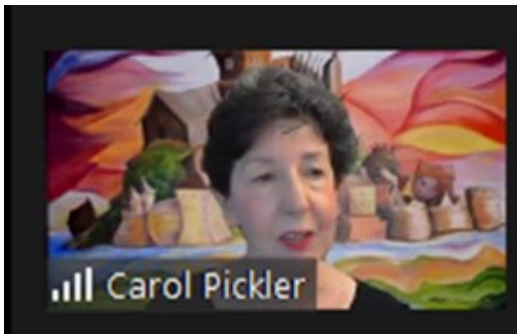
*MaryAnn Cottrell,
Ali Armstrong, and Judy
Kuhn enjoying a stroll on
Park Avenue in Winter
Park*

Women's Club at UCF Spring Meeting Celebrations

Our Spring Meeting Luncheon featured the artistic talents of some of our own members. Carol Pickler shared her passion for Porcelain Art, Karen Plater taught us some of the intricacies of Japanese Embroidery, and Margie Sloan introduced us to her love of Photography and Digital Photo Art. Each of them shared their passion, skills, and talents through their presentations. You can enjoy each presentation by watching the recorded videos. Just click on the link provided for each presenter (or copy/paste the link address into your browser and go).

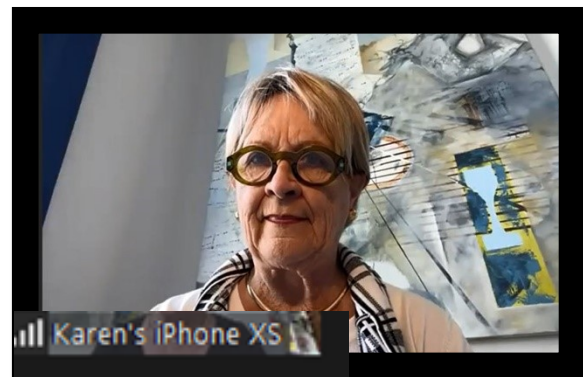
Artist Presentation - Carol Pickler - Porcelain Art

<https://youtu.be/fSz1YizWl58>



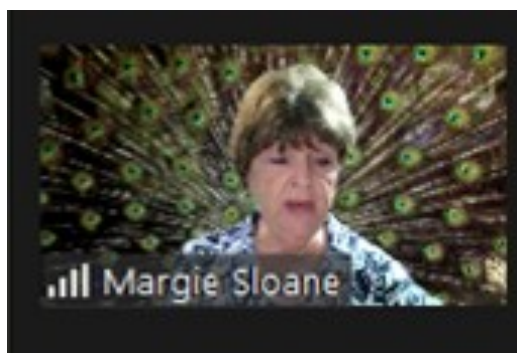
Artist Presentation - Karen Plater - Japanese Embroidery

<https://youtu.be/ZNOzEc5PrS4>



Artist Presentation - Margie Sloane - Digital Photo Art

<https://youtu.be/lzoJoohnACo>



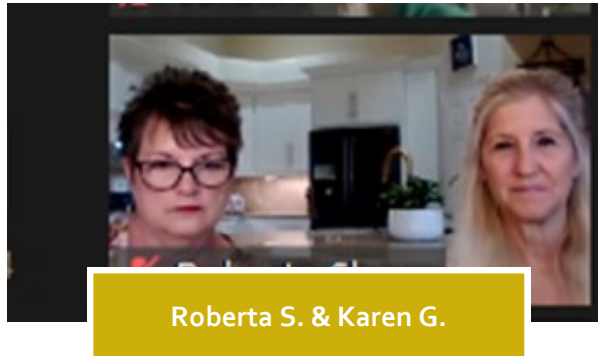
Thank You Ladies for Sharing Such Beauty with Us

Women's Club at UCF Spring Meeting Celebrations

Roberta Shoopman and Karen Gisel served as our door prize coordinators, and they also shared with us an artistic video on table decorating. Not only did some lucky members win the “table centerpieces”, they also learned how to assemble these beautiful arrangements through the video. Watch the video at the following link so that you too can create your own tablescape.

Artist Presentation - Roberta S & Karen G - Tablescapes

https://youtu.be/BXc_UqV6cFY



The artistic talents of our members continued to shine throughout the program, and culminated with a lively, happy and energetic piano performance by our very own Beckly Lee. Enjoy this beautiful music, by following the following link to the video recording.



Musical Entertainment—Becky Lee -
Turkish March by Mozart

<https://youtu.be/WEL71Tvcs90>



Here is a recap of the links to:

2021 Spring Luncheon Video Links - WC@UCF YouTube Channel

Hall of Fame Induction Presentation <https://youtu.be/1n-pIAZqoys>

Dell Shadgett - Acceptance Remarks for Hall of Fame <https://youtu.be/YEDdzxcCnUE>

Member Artist Presentation - Roberta & Karen G - Tablescapes https://youtu.be/BXc_UqV6cFY

Member Artist Presentation - Carol Pickler - Porcelain Art <https://youtu.be/fSziYizWl58>

Member Artist Presentation - Karen Plater - Japanese Embroidery <https://youtu.be/ZNOzEc5PrS4>

Member Artist Presentation - Margie Sloane - Digital Photo Art <https://youtu.be/lzoJOoynACo>

Musical Entertainment - Becky Lee - Turkish March by Mozart <https://youtu.be/WEL71Tvcs90>

Thank You Ladies for Sharing Your Talents with Us

Reflections, By Immediate Past President, Kathy Littlefield

Many people become quite philosophical about reflecting on the past in order to be better prepared for the future. I agree to an extent as it relates to self-reflection. However, as I reflect on just this past year and the status of the Women's Club at UCF, I will focus on our accomplishments and offer a personal reflection on this dynamic past year.

In our commitment to CHARGE ON, especially during the chaos and fear of COVID-19, the Women's Club continued to observe our traditions yet keep them safe. For example, the annual Holiday Coffee/Tea event hosted by our First Lady of UCF at the Burnett House, became a "drive-through and drop off" for our donations. It was so energetic with a DJ and Knightro! Our members, together with Town & Gown, drove into campus with food, cash donations, and toys for children and kept this important event alive and ongoing.

I reflect on the monumental task of producing three virtual events for the Women's Club: the 2020 Fall Luncheon; the Holiday Celebration to replace the annual cookie exchange; and the 2021 Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting. In hindsight, I am extremely grateful, surprised, and impressed that we pulled them off. "We" represents dozens and dozens of people, who dedicated hundreds of hours, with innumerable skill sets that included technology, communication, negotiation, organization, and who demonstrated patience as a virtue. When an organization has to change standard operating procedures during a global disaster, it is likely to result in failure. We were determined to hold our signature events in the best possible format. And we persevered. The proposal to create a Hall of Fame for the Women's Club at UCF was a big risk. I am so happy that we were successful. The reactions and comments from the Inductees themselves or families of our posthumous Hall of Fame honorees were powerful and emotional. Thank you to the Board, especially the HOF Committee, for your support in this endeavor.

I agree that the end result of our efforts is not what is the most important aspect of our story; it is the process of working together, talking to each other and contributing to a growing plan. Our Interest Group Leaders were able to create new ways to "meet" and stay connected. Our Board members became even stronger leaders to help our club thrive not just survive. Personally, I say "thank you" to the Women's Club for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president for these past two years. What an honor it has been for me. I really do look forward to my role this coming year as an advisor to the Board. I am very confident that we will continue to "Move Forward By Giving Back."



Women's Club at UCF Spring Meeting Celebration

**Reflections at the Spring Meeting Celebration, By Members & Guests
Shared through the “chat” during our celebration.....**

**** What a beautiful tribute!**

**** Congratulations, Mom.**

**** CONGRATULATIONS MAGGIE!!!! WELL DESERVED!!!!**

**** MISS HER!**

**** CONGRATULATIONS DELL!!!! MISS YOU!!!!**

**** CONGRATULATIONS!!!! What a great group of ladies. We salute you and your contributions!**

**** great job recognizing these wonderful ladies!**

**** Congratulations to all these wonderful women!!**

**** Congratulations to all the inductees!**

**** So impressive! What wonderful, hardworking women!**

**** Kudos to the board for recognizing these hardworking and personable group of women.**

**** What a history and what generous, amazing Hall of Fame recipients!**

**** Congratulations everyone!**

**** Thank you all for honoring our mother, Ali Armstrong, today. We can't think of a nicer way to remember her on the 2 year anniversary of her passing this week. Mom truly loved her time and friends at the Women's Club and I know she would be very pleased to be part of the Hall of Fame. Thank you so much! Lisa Carrington**

**** Thank you, everyone. This has been wonderful. Keep up the great work**

*** Beautiful!**

*** wow!**

*** Absolutely beautiful**

*** Wonderful work**

*** Gorgeous!! You are so talented!!**

*** Gorgeous work, Carol!**

*** Carol so thankful for you sharing your amazing gift today. What a blessing you are**

*** Karen I hear such a Spirit, Mind, Body connection that I did not assume before your presentation. Thank you**

*** Margie you know have always so appreciated your photography, but this digital photography is next level beautiful**

*** Amazing art, Bravo Carol!!!!**

*** I am so very happy to have seen your work up close, Karen! Remarkable!! Your description was fascinating and the intersection of art and emotion is beautiful!**

*** Margie, kudos! Beautiful and sophisticated. Hope to see you on the trail with us soon !**

*** LOVE THE MUSIC! Thank You!!!**

*** We have such a talented group!**

*** to all of our artists: I am in awe of your work**

*** Thank you artists for sharing your talents and explaining how you do your work!**

*** I've really enjoyed seeing and hearing these talented ladies. Thanks!**

*** A super inspiring meeting all around !!! Thank each of you.**

***Thank you for joining us!!!! We are so fortunate to have so many wonderful friends!!!!**

*** This was a wonderful Luncheon Meeting. Thank you all —board and artists—for the work you put in. Great way to spend a rainy afternoon!**

*** Thank you to everyone who presented and who participated. I am glad to be a part of this club with such exceptional ladies.**

The Women's Club at UCF: where members become friends!

Enjoying the Outdoors

Plant Swap Anyone? — Popular in Oviedo

By: Elizabeth Hughes

Do you have a green thumb? Do your plants have babies that need to be thinned, but you hate to just throw them away? Maybe you are new to growing plants and don't know where to start? You should consider joining a Plant Swap group.



I joined the new Plant Swap of Oviedo on Facebook last fall. Now, there are more than 400 members who are happy to share and eager to receive plants. At the in-person swap about 8-15 people gather one Saturday a month at The Rail in Oviedo, near The Town House. There you will find cuttings to be rooted, saplings, seedlings, seeds, and more. Written care instructions are supposed to be included. It is also allowable to offer a gallon bag of soil for trade. You are free to accept or decline any offer, if you are not interested or if you don't think it's a fair trade. Many people bring more than enough cuttings to give away without worrying about a trade. There are houseplants

and outdoor plants.

Another way to swap is to do a porch trade. You post what you have to trade on the Facebook page, then someone will say they have always wanted that and tell you what they have to trade. Just work out a time to leave it on the porch for a pickup or meet somewhere in between to swap. Sometimes a member may post a request for something rare hoping that one of the members will see it and offer a baby plant that they have.

Some swappers are only interested in edibles; others prefer only succulents, still others are looking for rare treasures, most are thrilled to get anything new. I always come home with more than I gave away. I have upgraded the landscape around my home for free! It is a fun way to meet new friends and learn about new kinds of plants. If this sounds intriguing, you can google plant swap in Orlando and look for a group in your area. The Oviedo group is open to new members if you are in this area. Look for Plant Swap of Oviedo on Facebook to learn more.



Do you know of an interesting event, or recurring event, that the members of the Women's Club at UCF might be interested in learning about? If you do, then send me an email about this possibility. It might make it to the next newsletter.

Interest Group News

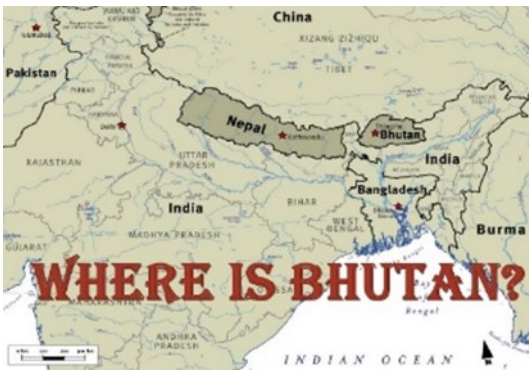
All current interest group leaders have committed to returning and leading their groups. They are looking forward to welcoming members back and returning to interest group activities, to the extent possible. Enjoy reading some highlights and some memories of interest group events. If you have an idea for a new interest group, contact Donna Albert via email at palbertfamily@msn.com.

Armchair Travelers Group #1

As the Armchair Travelers' season wraps up with Pam Wilson's trip to Alaska in May, we want to thank all the presenters and attendees for their patience and participation in the monthly Zoom meetings. The wonderful part has been that no one had to be told, "Sorry but the space on board is taken," because everyone could attend virtually. Yes, we've missed the personal hugs and get-togethers with samplings of the country's foods, but it's been great during the pandemic to get together safely via Zoom. In fact, we learned a great deal about each other, especially during our Covid-Stuck-at-Home programs back in the fall.



What interesting travels we have had since February! Cynthia Chamberlin introduced us to Bhutan. Most of us had no idea of its location on the globe. We learned it is a charming spot in Asia that deserves its reputation as "Happy Kingdom."



Kathy Weise showed us Spain, Gibraltar, and the Canary Islands. She had quite a surprising experience when one of the Barbary apes in Gibraltar crossed paths with her. Ask her



about it!

Mary Meeker took us to Boston and then on to the Maritimes. For those who were hooked (like me) on Netflix's *Anne with an E*, the trip to Charlottetown on Prince Edward Island was special as was their tour of Green Gables. Yes, Armchair Travelers can certainly whet one's appetites to explore the world in which we live. We continue to enjoy revisiting places to which we have been and exploring new ones through the lenses of our friends.



By: Carol Pickler
Leader Armchair Travelers #1 IG

Interest Groups News (cont.)

Armchair Travelers 2



April in Paris! What can be more romantic than that. Eiffel Tower, The Champs Elysee, artists by the river, you and your husband, and your son and his girlfriend, and your friend and her husband all in a student housing apartment. Yes it can't get more romantic than that. On April 20, Teresa Riedel and Yeshi Patada relived those fabulous memories of their trip to France they shared a couple of years ago

shortly before the Notre Dame Cathedral fire. Not only did they enjoy Paris, they had several excursions to other wonderful locations. Teresa and her husband crashed the tennis courts at the French Open and then jet-set to England to watch tennis at Wimbledon. Not to be outdone, Yeshi and her husband traveled to Switzerland to enjoy the beautiful

scenery there. Along the way both Teresa and Yeshi did not meet a stranger. They even danced in the streets with some Polish ladies — dancing was the only language they had in common. Many memories and reflections were shared by the ladies in attendance at this armchair traveler session. Linda Hennig, who hosted the event, shared a retro photo bomb of her at Sacre Coeur.



Needlework

The Needlework Group has enjoyed meeting at Red Bug Park this year. Spring brought two baby Sandhill cranes for us to bird-watch. Spring also brought new member, Kathy Longtin, and the return of several members who had taken some time off. We were so happy to be together again. Friends surely helped make this difficult year better!

By: Judy Dziuban



A throwback photo from several years ago. It's a photo from when Karen Plater visited with our group to introduce us to her exquisite Japanese embroidery.

Interest Groups News (cont.)

Daytime Bookworms

My, how this wonderful group has grown over the last decade plus. Books, books, books of all kinds have been read, enlightening in every regard, fiction and nonfiction. This year with ZOOMING we haven't had our social time over lunch, but we enjoyed every minute of being able to share our time together to discuss our book selections. We learned to put ZOOM to our advantage by enhancing our discussions with YouTube, photos, maps, and anything else the discussion leader wished to add.

Shortly, we will be making our selections for next year. The group is hoping by Fall we will be together again in the same space, lunching and discussing our latest selection. Everyone has a great summer and read, read, read.

By: Carole Goldsmith



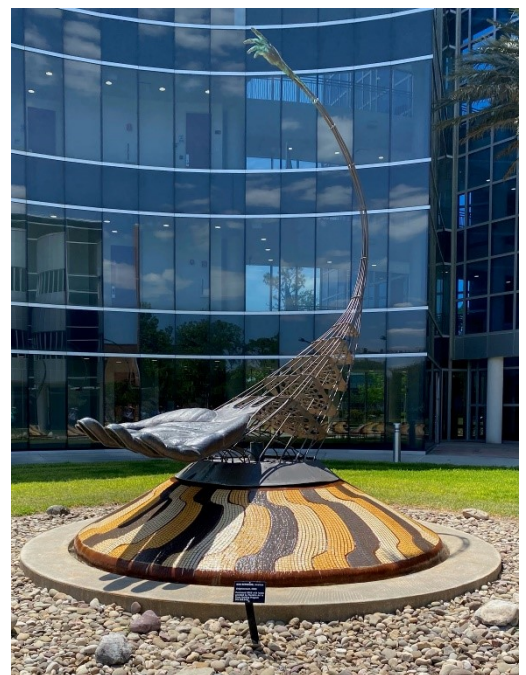
Cultural Arts & Wellness

Dr. Kevin Haran, UCF studio art professor, led our group on an outdoor walking tour of the art and sculpture on the UCF campus. There are many interesting art pieces throughout the campus, including this piece pictured to the right which actually swivels when spun around. The group would enjoy expanding the tour as there was so much more to be discovered [Who knew?] This was our first IG outing en plein air. . . A year ago we planned to meet for Tai Chi before the lockdown.

Looking forward to events in the future to include: , Tai Chi [think we all need it!], and Depok Chopra's new state of the art mind/body experience at Lake Nona.

Let me know if you have other ideas for the group. . .

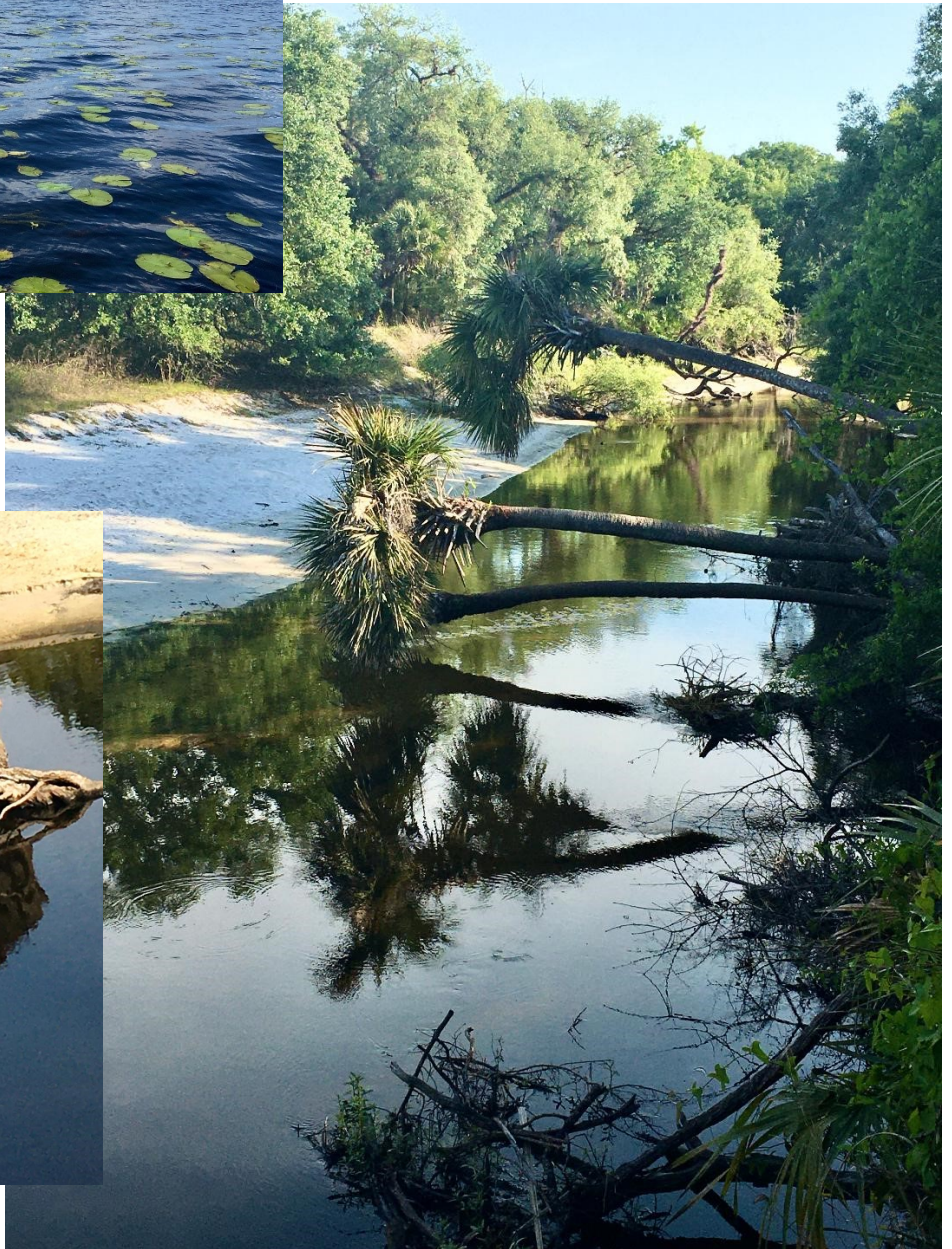
By: Lynn Moharam



Interest Groups News (cont.)

HIKING GROUP

The Hiking Interest Group is back in action and has held several hikes of various levels. All hikes have been with an eye toward safety by limiting number of participants, wearing masks as needed, and keeping distances between hiking members. It is great to be back out enjoying the outdoors! As always, the beautiful pictures speak for themselves!



Enjoying The Outdoors

Bike Ride — Special Ride to Big Tree Park

By: Karen Manglardi

Enjoying the outdoors has taken on a whole new meaning during this past year. Not only is it enjoyable but it is also a social meeting place. So, what do you do when you can't socialize indoors, you go for a bike ride, of course.

This past March, Karen Manglardi led a small group from the Women's Club at UCF on a 22 mile social bike ride. Elizabeth Hughes, Pati Giambarberree, Mary Meeker and Kathy Longtin joined Karen on this fun event. Karen collaborated with her cycling club, the Florida Freewheelers (FFW), to ensure a safe ride while following safe COVID protocols. Another member from FFW, Mary Kostenbauder, volunteered to organize the trail ride to Big Tree Park and help keep the group together. Mary also shared with the group information on the history of the park, its name, and the meaning of the tree's name "The Senator". We all enjoyed each other's company.

While we look forward to meeting in person in the near future, this was a nice outdoors activity that brought us together.



UCF Medical Center at Lake Nona

The UCF Medical Center at Lake Nona, a new state of the art hospital, officially opened on March 1, 2021. Several ladies of the Women's Club at UCF had an opportunity to tour the great facility



before its grand opening. Tours were held and led by staff of the new facility. A robotic controlled operating room is featured. The facility is designed for growth and expansion for the future.

The new maternity ward, with its technology wired controls for communications and security, as well housing for mom and baby in the same room, welcomed twins as their first newborn babies.



Feature Article

No One Would Believe It!

By: Beth Barnes

My idea of camping was always a Holiday Inn at the minimum, so I don't quite know how I got into this situation but here I was with my husband about to buy an RV. "But we're not RV people," I moaned. "We're not old enough." "You're allergic to mosquitoes." "We don't play shuffleboard." "I don't like to ride long distances." "You don't like tuna fish casserole." Nothing I said made any difference. And so, we bought a used 27 ft. Winnebago motor home and off we went on our first camping trip--to Disney's Ft. Wilderness Campground. What a mistake!!

Have you ever been to Ft. Wilderness Campground? Mosquitoes are not allowed. There's not a pine needle out of place. Every site is level with a huge concrete pad that elves have scrubbed spotless. There are trees everywhere (I didn't know then what I know now about the importance of trees for shade)—and the branches have been trimmed so they don't scrape the air conditioner off the roof of the RV. The roads are paved. Every premium site has full hook-ups and everything works. Plus, they offer transportation, sing-alongs, a camp store, swimming pools, a beach, restaurants, golf carts, horses, bicycles, etc., etc., etc.! Needless to say, we had a marvelous time and left with great expectations, but NO CAMPGROUND HAS EVER MEASURED UP TO THAT SINCE.

And then we went to Jetty Park on the coast. Our site was on a sandy, uneven, no-treed lot wedged right up to the next site, in full sun, in 90 degree weather. We went from the sublime to the ridiculous. Even worse, our RV faced south, which meant that we got full western sun on our outside sitting area. Remember that, future RVers. But, despite the heat and the bugs and the noise and the crowded conditions, there was the Atlantic and the beach, and we had our folding chairs and a glass of wine, and we were AWAY.

For our next trip, we choose Lake Greenwood State Park in northwestern South Carolina, which sent us on interstates and small, narrow hilly country roads. Needless to say, John learned a lot about driving an RV. That state park campground has overhanging boughs, poor water pressure, and uneven, unpaved sites, but it's on a huge, beautiful, clean, swimmable lake, with no alligators that I could see and well-behaved water moccasins. Because we didn't tow a car, our intention was to rent one, but there was no car rental agency anywhere near that would deliver a car and we didn't want to unhook everything to drive the RV to get one. Apparently, we were stuck and weren't going sightseeing in the area. No matter, we had brought the jet ski, and we found that we could get around on the water just fine--all three of us, John, Biscuit and me. Biscuit's not much for swimming, but she LOVES to ride on the jet ski. People standing on the shore would point and wave as we rode by. I guess they'd never seen a dog on a personal watercraft.

We took the Winnebago to a number of state parks in Florida, which are almost always a good place to camp and the sites are half-price if you're over 65. We camped at Ft. Clinch State Park on the Atlantic near the Florida-Georgia line and explored the fort there, which is furnished as it might have been when it was occupied during the Civil War. We camped at Sebastian Inlet State Park, where we visited a museum of items recovered from the many shipwrecks along the Florida Coast. We walked to the inlet and could immediately understand why it's so dangerous for recreational boaters: the water rushes furiously in and out of the narrow opening with the tides. However, there's a cove there where the water is calm and clear and it's a delightful place to swim. At Christmas, we camped at Suwannee River State Park, and we camped at Ft. DeSoto County Park in Pinellas County and in other state parks in Florida. Just remember that you must book most state and county parks months ahead.

Along the way, though, after that first year, we decided that our RV was too small and, of course, we went larger and fancier and ordered a Tiffin from Lazy Days RV Superstore in Tampa.

It's a 36 ft., gas engine Tiffin Allegro 34PA Open Road with 4 slides, 2 ACs, and get this, 4 TVs. Would you tell me WHO NEEDS 4 TVs? It has a generator, king size bed, sleeper sofa, drop-down bunk, large bathroom, dinette, gas cooktop, residential fridge, microwave, and an automatic awning. John is VERY proud of it. Well, so am I. And now we tow a small car. A word of caution, though. If you are towing a car, you can't back up. Think about it.



Biscuit on Jet Ski



The Tiffin RV Allegro 34 PA

Feature Article (cont.)

We've been numerous places in our Tiffin in the three years since we bought it, and I'll mention a couple. We drove from Orlando to South Dakota, and I'll have to say that the trip did not get off on the best foot. First, we lost hours because of a wreck on I-95 near Gainesville and second, my husband does not like to make reservations. I could tell you stories!

True to form, he had not made plans for our first night on the road and WE COULD NOT FIND ANY PLACE TO STAY! It was dark. We could find nothing—not the first sign saying “Campsites,” “KOA,” or “Campers Welcome.” Nothing. We were still fairly new at this RV-ing business and I was still nervous about basics like where are we going to park for the night. However, thanks to a very kind supermarket manager, we ended up sleeping by the highway in the tiny parking lot of a Bi-Lo in an Alabama town that I couldn't find on a map.

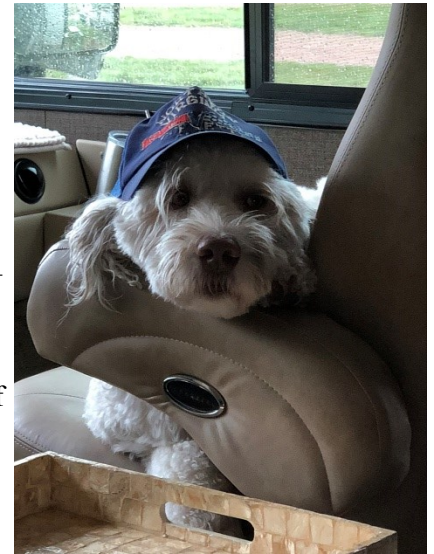
Later, we learned to look on an app called Allstays for a WalMart SuperCenter. You need to know about WalMarts and RVs: we all stay overnight in their parking lots—for free. That's better than paying \$50-\$90 per night at a KOA and certainly better than many of the RV camps that have residential campers. (Ask me about those places.) If you call the manager of a supercenter and ask nicely, most will let you park way over to the side of the parking lot *for one night*. Most motor homes are self-contained and nobody wants to go to the trouble to hookup electricity, sewer, and water for one night at a campsite, anyway.

After that night, we drove through Alabama and then Mississippi to Oxford, where we went to the very famous Square Books (I spent way too much money!) and drove the Ole Miss campus, spent the night at WalMart, then went on Tupelo, where Elvis and I were born, and to Memphis where I grew up and he became famous. We had a scare at a low overpass just before the bridge over the Mississippi River--low overpasses can peel back the roof of an RV. But, we had both taken an RV driving class at Lazy Days and the instructor showed us a video of that very thing happening. He warned us to put the exact height, weight, width, tail swing, etc., on index cards and post them by the driver's and navigator's positions. We were so glad that we had done that.

By the way, there's a lot to think about besides overpasses. When we pull into a gas station, we have to ask ourselves if we will clear the awning, whether the front of the RV or the end of the car will stick out too far into traffic, if we can get out safely without hitting parked cars or having to back up. We also learned that it's best to find the most economical driving speed and stick to it, to stay in the slow lane and let other cars worry about passing us, when to initiate turns to avoid running over sidewalks or cars—or people, how to use dots on a windshield to determine our place in a highway lane, etc. But, the class did not prepare us for our two worst experiences: pulling off without unhooking from the electrical box and the front tire blowout we had on I-75 coming back from camping near Naples. By then, though, John was a pro RV wrangler and steered us to safety on the shoulder of the highway. But, I digress.

The Dakota trip was without incident, except for a flooded KOA, which made it difficult to walk the dog. We stopped in Sioux Falls and at the Corn Palace and the famous Wall Drug Store. We saw rolling plains of yellow grass and I expected Kevin Costner to come riding by any minute. We made Rapid City, SD, our home base and from there drove through the hauntingly beautiful Badlands where most of the cowboy movies of our youth were filmed. We went to the Black Hills and Mt. Rushmore, to Sturgis where the motorcyclists gather [and catch Covid], saw a huge herd of bison, one of which was close enough to touch for me to touch [I didn't], and to Deadwood where Calamity Jane and Wild Bill Hickok are buried. I flew home after three weeks, which was always my plan, and John and Biscuit continued on to Wyoming and North Dakota. He has quite a story about a 90 mile stretch of 2-lane highway with no gas stations, rest stops, or places to pull over. They meandered home three weeks later.

Finally, our best trip of all, even better than the Ft. Wilderness trips, was to Topsail Hill State Park near Santa Rosa Beach in the Florida Panhandle. We didn't do much at all but relax in our shaded camping site and enjoy the beach, but what a beach! Sugar sand and the most beautiful Gulf water I've ever seen. It is clear as far out as you can walk or swim. John canoed, we sunned, played in the water, read, relaxed, napped, cooked out, walked, and enjoyed happy hour on our patio. It was a perfect vacation—so perfect that we're going back for two weeks this summer, and the Stockhammers are joining us. My mother, God rest her soul, would not believe that I actually enjoy camping in an RV.



Biscuit In The Navigator's Chair

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

**Gail Dressel
Is our Sunshine Coordinator.**

**If you know of a member
who needs some encouragement, sympathy, or
just some sunshine from our club
Please email Gail at
gaildressel@att.net**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It is that time of year when our current year will soon end and renewal of membership for the next year will be upon us.

- ♦ **Invitation to Renew will be sent out soon (early June).**
- ♦ **Membership Fee will be \$35.00 (our normal membership rate)**

INVITE A FRIEND!

Do you have a friend or know someone who would be a good 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***

Has your Contact Information Changed?

In the event your contact information has changed, please go to the "Contact Us" tab on our website and advise of any changes.

HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER?!

Our next newsletter will be published in Fall 2021

If you have news or suggestions, please contact me at zhaoviedo@aol.com.

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