

# Women's Club at UCF, Inc

## NEWSLETTER

February 2022

Winter issue 2022

### ***INSIDE THIS EDITION:***

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***Winter in Florida***



### **Save The Date**

- ◆ ***April 11 — 2022  
Spring Luncheon  
Meeting***
- 
- ◆ ***April 5-16 — UCF  
Celebrates the  
Arts 2022***
- ◆ ***Mar 20 — First  
Day of Spring***

**“You’ve Come a Long Way, Baby”**

The Woman's Club at UCF was well represented at the UCF Athletics Association National Girls and Women in Sports dinner on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was a wonderful event to honor an impressive group of women athletes and their coaches who are achieving great things.



During the presentations, there were several references to 2022 being the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Title IX. These references stuck in my mind, and I wanted to do some research to refresh my memory about this landmark legislation.

The U.S. Department of Education’s Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance. It also ensured that schools provide equal funding for both men’s and women’s sports including athletic scholarships.

This legislation truly changed the playing field bringing justice and equality to athletic programs at all school levels.

In 2020, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote in the United States. In 2022, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Title IX giving women and girls the right to benefit from all educational programs at the same level as men and boys.



We will all remember the 1968 Virginia Slims cigarette slogan – “You’ve come a long way, baby!” Well, we have. But I say to the younger generations of women – we have come a long way, but the fight for justice and equality is not over. Stay vigilant and strong while continuing to make strides one step at a time. To quote Ruth Bader Ginsberg, one of the strongest crusaders of gender equality, “Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.”

*By: Sue Chapman, President*

## Women's Club at UCF Holiday Events

As December approaches, as is the tradition, there will be lots of holiday cheer and special events for members of the club to enjoy. On Dec. 6, 2021, UCF's First Lady, Melinda Cartwright, hosted the annual Holiday Coffee Event enjoyed by members of The Women's Club at UCF and members of Town & Gown.

Of course, delicious food and coffee were available for all to share as they mingled and celebrated being together at the Burnett House. The beautiful surroundings, inside the main rooms of the home and outside by the pool, created a wonderful setting for the program to unfold and for the ladies to enjoy another great tradition and celebration. It was also a great day for giving back to the UCF Knights Pantry, the charity chosen for this year's event and donations. In addition to the physical donated items, the group donated in excess of \$2000 at the event for this great cause.

In case you are wondering, yes this wonderful event was held last year (Dec 2020!). Yes, it was a fun event of a driving caravan and celebrating outside the main entrance of the Burnett House. This annual event always "kicks off" the Holiday Season in style for our members and reminds us of the importance of "giving back".

YOU AND A GUEST ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOIN  
FIRST LADY MELINDA CARTWRIGHT  
FOR THE

### WOMEN'S CLUB AND TOWN & GOWN HOLIDAY COFFEE

DONATIONS WILL BENEFIT UCF KNIGHTS PANTRY



*Thank you to UCF's First Lady and to all the ladies who participated!*

## Women's Club at UCF – Cookie Exchange

Is it mid December? If yes, then it is the annual COOKIE EXCHANGE! Yes, that extravagant delightful event held each year by the Women's Club at UCF to celebrate friendship, and COOKIES!!! During 2020, we enjoyed the music of Jeff Rupert and Richard Drexler via Zoom on our Holiday Celebration ZOOM meeting. This year, the tradition of cookie exchange, in person at the lovely Rupert home, was back! Thanks again to Ranetta Guinn, our event coordinator, and Jen Rupert, our hostess. You ladies rock it each year!



On December 16, 2021 our members enjoyed Christmas carols and live music by the talented musical Rupert family, Jeff and his two sons on saxophone and trumpet, as well as Richard Drexler on Piano. A great way to start the evening. After sharing some appetizers and cheer, the ladies focused on the task at hand – Cookie Exchange. Of course, all are always welcome to attend, enjoy the evening, and not participate in cookie exchange. But as is the tradition, a member needs to bring cookies to share to be able to take cookies home. Thank

you ladies for such a feast for the eyes.



**WCUCF Cookie Exchange  
2021:  
What a feast for the eyes,  
and no doubt the palate!**

## Women's Club at UCF

### UCF WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM BEAT TULANE 69-67

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, UCF First Lady Melinda Cartwright invited members of the Women's Club to attend a UCF Women's Basketball Game. Our members cheered on the UCF women's basketball team to beat Tulane 69-67 in a game that was not only exciting but neck-and-neck until the very end when UCF was victorious. We had a fantastic time partying in the President's Suite at the arena with our host, and fellow Women's Club member, Melinda Cartwright. We can't thank her enough for inviting us to this wonderful event. Thanks to all of the members who attended. What a night!!! A photo of our cheer squad courtesy of Margie Sloane.



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### Spectator Sports Fans IG

Yes sports fans are back in the stadiums, and our very own Spectator Sports Fans IG is back up and running (so to speak). Just as in past years, members of the group supported the UCF Athletic Association National Girls and Women in Sports Day. However, this year's event was a dinner enjoyed at the Celeste Hotel on campus.

Several members of the IG also attended the fun UCF Women's basketball game against Tulane. As described above, what a great event.

Not to be outdone, UCF Baseball games are on the horizon. Stay tuned, participate, and

**Go Knights!.....Charge On!**

If you are not currently a member of Spectator Sports Fans IG, and you want to be, then contact Merrell Bailey, leader of Spectator Spots Fans IG.

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### GOLF IG

The GOLF Interest Group plays on Thursdays, at 10:00 am. The group plays nine holes at various courses, location to be determined each month. We play various courses. We are not competitive but we do like to play a good game. Contact Darlene Bouley, chair of IG for further information.

# Welcome New Members

## First Impressions Of WCatUCF

*By: Dona Huffman-Riddle*

I didn't know very many people in my neighborhood when Covid made its debut. Since my husband and I couldn't do our "normal" activities we decided to get some exercise by walking our dog every morning. We met so many friendly neighbors and said to one another that this was a blessing. One of our neighbors would engage us in conversation every time we saw him. After a while he told me that I should meet his wife. His wife was Beth Barnes.

During a morning of coffee and conversation Beth invited me to walk with her and some of her friends the following Monday morning. I started showing up on Monday mornings to walk with them, not yet realizing that this was an interest group. To my embarrassment I paid my dues and became an official member during the late Fall of 2021. The walkers gave me my first (very positive) impressions of the Women's Club at UCF.

Fast forward, I read about the holiday cookie exchange and was excited to participate because I love to bake (and then give it all away). I went, and again met some warm, welcoming women.

Since the first walk I have met families of members, taken a gardening class at Leu Gardens with Mary Meeker, and celebrated holidays with members. This month I met for the first time with the Page Turners interest group and I enjoyed the discussion and interactions (albeit via Zoom).

I look forward to getting involved with more groups and meeting more of you.

## WCUCF—2021-2022 New Members

Thank you Dona Huffman-Riddle for sharing with us your first impressions of the Women's Club at UCF. As you stated above, getting involved with Interest Group activities and club events is the key to enjoying the club and meeting new friends.

Our Club welcomes our new members who joined our club this year. We look forward to meeting you and to have you become involved in the many activities of the organization, and most importantly forming some new friendships.

### **Welcome:**

Adele Adams-Hummel	Debbie Alexander	Carol Barber
Adrienne Behmke	Trudy Boston	Kim Bowers
Nikitta Campbell	Deborah Cichra	Sheri Dyer
Bemmie Eustace	Lauren Ferguson	Barbara Goldberg
Jill Goldsmith	Lisa Hall	Sharon Kaye Hector
Donna Huffman-Riddle	Lynda Jobman	Lynda Langa
Kathy Longtin	Carmen Malinas	Susan Schelling
Cathy Solow	Karen Szymanski	

On 12 February 2022, many of our new members joined members of the board at the New Member Orientation Meeting. Great company, food, laughter, and information were plentiful at the lovely home of Karen Manglardi, our club's vice president and coordinator for this event. It was a pleasure to meet and learn about our new members.

# WCUCF Members in Action

## Love of Art—A Docent's Hobby

By: Ann Simpson

My friend and fellow club member, Mary Meeker, and I both love cultural activities and involvement in them. She and I frequently discuss the learning curve and interesting people she meets during her volunteer work as a docent at The Morse Gallery in Winter Park. So, while enduring the long, hot summer last year, I felt a strong desire to become involved in a regular service activity that would also present me with challenging material to learn and share. The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens in Winter Park had just made a request to the membership for docents, so I applied.

I was interviewed and welcomed as a docent, given scripts to learn, shadowed other skilled docents, read his biography, and studied hard. Through my membership at the Polasek Museum, I have enjoyed gallery openings, and taking guests to visit, but had a lot to learn about the life and accomplishments of this world renowned Czech-American sculptor. As I continue to tailor my new knowledge to the visitors each week, I am rewarded in all the ways that I had hoped.

Albin and Emily Polasek created a foundation in 1961 that preserves his home and studio, built in 1949, along with the gardens and more than 200 sculptures, paintings, and decorative arts for all of us to enjoy. The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens is a three acre, hidden cultural jewel listed on both the National Trust's Register of Historic Artists' Homes and Studios and the National Register of Historic Homes. It is located at the following address:

Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens  
633 Osceola Avenue Winter Park, Florida 32789  
407-647-6294 polasek.org

I encourage you to visit and experience Albin Polasek's story and art. If that happens to be on a Tuesday afternoon, it would be a real treat for me too!



***“Nothing is impossible. The word itself says ‘I’m possible!’”***

***Audrey Hepburn***

## WCUCF Members In Action

### Love of Flowers!

*By: Sigi Stockhammer*

I grew up in Germany with plants, flowers and a vegetable garden. My grandmother took care of the indoor ones and my grandfather took care of the outside ones. We all helped with the vegetable garden.

I loved flowers and plants too. (Could have gone the other way.)

At our home on Staten Island, I had a collection of African Violets, belonged to the Violet Club, but never won a price at a show, because I don't think I ever entered.

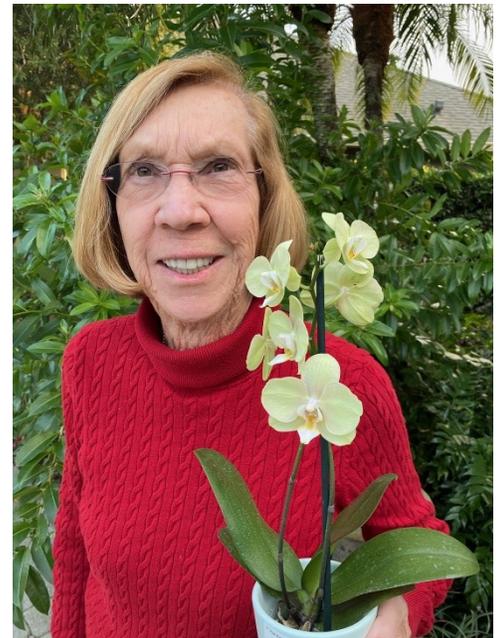


Fast forward to Florida: I fell in love with the beautiful orchids I saw everywhere, in the stores, at Leu Gardens, at Orchid Shows, all over the place. So I started buying them over the years which accumulated a sizable collection. I keep them on my patio in the shade. The very pretty ones may get a spot inside the house

Orchids are easy to take care of. Mine get watered once a week with a hose. They do not like to 'sit' in water, so mine do not have coasters. The water runs right through them onto the patio. Fertilizing once a month is recommended, but my orchids have to wait sometimes. Once a year I repot all of them, which takes a few days. Last time I bought the potting medium at the place I usually go to; they must have given me something wrong, because I lost about half of my collection. I try not to let it bother me, but of course it does.

Over the years I fell in love with 'The Queen of the Night'. That is a cactus variety with the most beautiful flowers. They open at 10 – 11 pm and in the morning they are wilted. I have several of those, but I also have day flowering ones. One of them is from a cutting, which can be traced back to my grandmother.

Growing plants is very rewarding because of the beautiful flowers they produce. There is some work involved, but it is worth it.



# WCUCF Members in Action

## Local Trails and Diners

By: Teresa Riedel

Biking has been a regular family activity since our two boys were toddlers; both of them are now in their 20s. When we moved to Florida in 1995, the first section of the Cady Way Trail (Winter Park) had just opened. John, my husband, was starting at UCF, and we lived in an apartment on University Blvd. Each workday, John would secure our two year old in a child seat on the bike and off he pedaled on the sidewalk on his way to UCF. John went to work at his UCF classroom and our son went to the UCF preschool. In time, and due to our son getting older and bigger, the bike seat gave way to a trail-a-bike, a one-wheel contraption attached to the rear of John's bike. Eventually, the trail-a-bike gave way to a real bike, and many weekends the three of us would explore local trails on our bikes. This sequence of events repeated when our second son was born. Biking had become a family affair, and we ventured out to explore the growing number of trails around central Florida (Cross Seminole County, West Orange, Little Econ Greenway, Withlacoochee).

Now we find ourselves as empty nesters, and biking continues to be a weekend activity for John and me. It often includes a breakfast stop half-way along the trail. The food is often used to motivate me to ride longer distances. Osteen Diner (Osteen), White Wolf Café (College Park), Tennessee Truffle (Sanford), Peach Valley (Lake Mary), and Cheeser's Palace (Clermont) are a few of the many diners we have repeatedly enjoyed on our bike trips.

John brainstorms new diners and trails for us to explore, and I enjoy the unique restaurants and coffee shops along the way. Our rides typically begin early morning with a stop at a diner after 10-20 miles. Once I have my coffee and eggs, I am ready to complete the return ride. John believes I ride faster after the coffee or maybe the eggs. We have seen the trails in central Florida expand immensely. From Cady Way and Jay Blanchard, which were 5-7 mile rides, there are now hundreds of miles of paved trails. Some are on bike-friendly city streets. Some are through natural areas.



The Orlando Urban Trail starts at Meade Gardens and goes to Lake Ivanhoe or downtown Orlando. We have started from UCF to Blanchard Park then through Baldwin Park (406 Café), through the Milk District (Seven Bites) or hooked up with the Urban Trail and into College Park (Café Linger, Shakers American Café, and Christo's Café). Another trail we have biked is the West Orange Trail, which has many different rides. One of which is to start at Clarcona Horseman's Park and follow to Downtown Winter Garden (Rosallie Le French Cafe or the Saturday Farmer's Market). From there, you can travel to Clermont and enjoy the hills.

Still another ride is to start at Maytown (in Volusia County) and go to Titusville (Sunrise Bread Company). We have also completed sections of the St. John's River-to-Sea Loop, a 260-mile paved project (stopping at the Trilogy Coffee Roasting Company in DeLand and The Bagel Barn Cafe & Deli in Edgewater). We are looking forward to the completion of the Florida Coast-to-Coast, a 250 mile trail which will link communities between Titusville and St. Petersburg. There are many more trails for John to brainstorm, and many more breakfasts for me to enjoy.

For references about the different local trails:

[https://www.orangecountyfl.net/CultureParks/Trails.aspx#.YfbM6\\_xOnIU](https://www.orangecountyfl.net/CultureParks/Trails.aspx#.YfbM6_xOnIU)

<https://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/departments-services/leisure-services/greenways-natural-lands/trails/>

<https://www.volusia.org/services/community-services/parks-recreation-and-culture/parks-and-trails/trails/>

<https://floridadep.gov/parks/ogt/content/florida-coast-coast-trail>

# Interest Groups News

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](mailto:palbertfamily@msn.com)

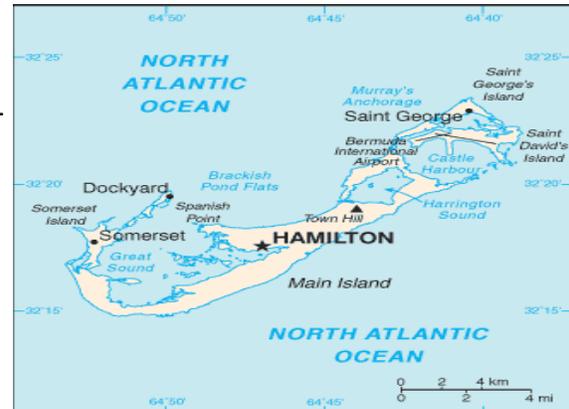
## Armchair Travelers Group #1

The Armchair Travelers #1 bid farewell to 2021 with a potluck dinner. This was the first time it had met in person since the beginning of the pandemic shutdown. Lisa Gantz, the chairperson of Armchair Travelers #2, hosted the event at her employer's meeting room and shared her trip to St. Augustine. Many thanks to Lisa for her hospitality and for enlightening us with details about the oldest city in the United States.

In January, we zoomed to Bermuda with Dell Shadgett and her intrepid traveling companions, Sigi and Rudi Stockhammer. Their experience on a very covid-conscious cruise was most enlightening. The participants gained a much fuller appreciation for the pivotal role that Bermuda has played in U.S. history all the way from the Jamestown settlement through World War II.

Our group continues to meet via Zoom. In February we will be exploring the wine in the California backroads with Sue Chapman as our guide.

*By: Carol Pickler*  
*Leader Armchair Travelers #1 IG*



## Great Decisions!

Our 26 members were invited to meet via Zoom on the Third Monday of the month and will continue to do so through September. Our topics are shown on the Foreign Policy Association book that we use for a text along with viewing a DVD purchased. All this leads to better educated citizens and lively discussions. We hope to have in person meetings in the near future—virus dependent.

*By: Mary Meeker*  
*Leader Great Decision IG*

# Interest Groups News (cont.)

## Tech Curious

### Tech Curious Ladies Learn Photo Editing

The Tech Curious Interest Group met on Monday, Dec 7<sup>th</sup> to learn about photo editing. Our guest speaker was Margie Sloane, photographer and talented photo artist! She taught us how to edit and enhance photos using the Snapseed app on our phones. It is a free app for both iPhone and Android phones. We loved how flexible and easy to use it is - plus it includes a library of amazing editing tools. You can check out the landscape screen below with the special Snapseed effects.



Margie also showed us many samples of her digital photography and explained the software tools she uses. Thanks again, Margie for an outstanding session!!

### Tech Curious Visits Limbitless Solutions

On Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, the Tech Curious Interest Group were given a special tour of Limbitless Solutions, a non-profit and direct support organization at the University of Central Florida who specializes in creating and donating personalized 3D-printed prosthetic arms for children.

The tour was conducted by Angie Carloss, their Director of Outreach, Projects and Logistics.

“At Limbitless Solutions, our mission is to empower confidence and increase accessibility in the limb difference community through art-infused bionics. Our team combines engineering and art to promote access and engagement in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) education for a more inclusive future.”

For more information about Limbitless, check out their website at [www.Limbitless-Solutions.org](http://www.Limbitless-Solutions.org).

To get ready for the tour, the group met for lunch and margaritas at Habanero’s Mexican Grill.

*By: Sue Chapman  
Leader Tech Curious IG*



# Interest Groups News

## GOURMET Group

Met off and on around status of COVID.

One dinner had a Speak Easy theme and these lovely ladies dressed the part. What FUN!!

By: Pat Pepler  
Lead Gourmet IG  
[Patricia.pepler@icloud.com](mailto:Patricia.pepler@icloud.com)



## International Gourmet - & - Wine Tasting

The International Gourmet and the Wine Tasting Interest Groups held a combined Holiday Party on December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Live Oak Reserve Clubhouse in Oviedo. It is amazing how much fun you can have when friends all come together. The food was outstanding. Everyone went over the top in bringing their special dish and a bottle of wine to share. For entertainment we had a "Holiday Swap." We all had some rollicking fun as we watched several people vying for the same item. A lot of good wholesome fun and camaraderie was had by all.

By: Doreen Behmke  
Leader International Gourmet IG  
& Wine Tasting IG



**Remind me, Who Stole that Gift? Beth or Ranetta?**

## Interest Groups News (cont.)

### Armchair Travelers 2

Travels continue to be shared by the Armchair Travelers2 IG. Sharing the travel spirit continues on the third Tuesday of each month, both in person and via ZOOM. Since November, our travels have included:

- ◆ The Baltic Sea is a route that connects magnificent Capital cities. Let's set sail for Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsinki, and the gem: St. Petersburg, Russia! And stop in Tallin and Berlin too. And you don't need a passport. The Hermitage alone is worth the trip! And so much more. Mermaids, Vodka, Czars. Gold everything. Anchors away with Linda and Scott Ebner!
- ◆ Cynthia Chamberlin presented the highlights of her trip to BHUTAN— a tiny country nestled between Tibet and India. It is considered the last great Himalayan Kingdom, shrouded in mystery and magic where tradition carefully embraces global developments, and the GDH (Gross Domestic Happiness) scale is used to measure their claim to be the happiest people in the world!
- ◆ Pompeii anyone? Karen Szymanski presented the highlights of her trip to Pompeii in Nov. 2021. Throwing Covid fears to the wind, she fulfilled a long term dream of visiting Pompeii and other archaeological sites in Italy. Despite miserable weather, her pictures try to convey these fascinating locations and also some tips about traveling in “the Time of Covid.”



Bring your favorite beverage and snack to share. Spouses or significant others are welcome. Come join us.

Linda Hennig— Leader Armchair Travelers 2 IG

### Theatre

The theater group has been on hiatus for the past two years, praying for the virus to finally fade away. We resumed going to plays this past November, when we saw “**Intimate Apparel**” at the Orlando Shakes Theater. Then in December, we visited the Orlando Shakes again to see “**A Christmas Carol**.”

Virus spikes had us staying home in January. However, on January 18, we attended a matinee of ***Travlin: A 1930s Harlem Musical Romance***. We are looking forward to exploring and supporting some small theatre venues in Feb. and March.

*By: Anna Habowski  
Leader Theatre IG*



## Interest Groups News (cont.)

### PageTurners

The PageTurners book group meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:00. We've met for the last year and a half by Zoom, although we've planned on a couple of occasions to meet in person again, only to have the virus spike and force us to distance ourselves...again. We took a break altogether in December, a first for us, and discussed "A Land Remembered" by Patrick Smith in January. We are currently reading "Winter Garden" by Kristin Hannah, which we will discuss at our upcoming Zoom meeting.

*By: Anna Habowski  
Leader PageTurners IG*

### Cultural Arts & Wellness

In early November members of the interest group toured the newly renovated John C. Hitt library on the UCF Campus. We experienced an engaging and inspiring library environment unlike any we've seen before! Renee Montgomery, Outreach & Engagement librarian, presented the 21st century library through a high tech classroom presentation followed by a physical tour. We were impressed with the innovative design of traditional library spaces; access to technology; areas for collaboration and individual study; and the "ARC" automated book storage and retrieval system.

*By: Lynn Moharam  
Leader Cultural Arts & Wellness IG*



Some of the members who attended the tour of the renovated and inspiring John C. Hitt Library on UCF Campus; "crooked chairs" and all!



Early February found members of the Cultural Arts & Wellness IG, at the annual Tables Extraordinaire fundraising event held by the Greek Orthodox church in Maitland. This event was jointly attended by both members of the Cultural Arts & Wellness IG and the International Friendship IG. Members attended the event on multiple days and thoroughly enjoyed seeing the theme decorated tables in the hall. Of course, each one of us had their favorite decorated table theme, but we all enjoyed having lunch together at the "Greek Cafeteria and Market" that is also held as part of the event. Enjoy more pictures from this event on the following page.

## Interest Groups News (cont.)

### International Friendship

Members of the International Friendship IG, along with members of Cultural Arts & Wellness IG, had fun attending the annual “Tables Extraordinaire” event held by the Greek Orthodox Church in Maitland. This annual event (except last year 2020) is a fund raising activity that is coordinated by church members and volunteers and is usually held in early February. It features over the top theme-decorated tables, auction of variety of stuff from glassware to art to vacation trips, and of course Greek food. Several chefs prepare the food that you can enjoy at the facility or “take home” to enjoy later. Who can resist Baklava Flavored Ice Cream?



After exploring the decorated tables in the hall, our members enjoyed lunch together. Then several of our members also visited the church to enjoy and marvel at the beautiful artwork that adorns the ceilings and walls of the church. This special work was created, during several years, by master artists who are trained in Greece with the proper tools, paint, and colors. What a masterpiece!



During November and December, the International Friendship IG collaborated with the Hiking Interest Group on several fun outdoor events that featured a hike/walk/stroll (or some semblance of that) along with a fun lunch dining experience. We enjoyed our scouting trips for the events with Kathy Littlefield, who was acting as Hiking Group leader for a couple of months while Mila was away.

In Dec., our members enjoyed a stroll around Lake Eola to watch the swans and see the Christmas decorations followed by lunch at the Persimmon Hollow Brewery. Our guest speaker at the lunch, was none other than Mila who shared with the group some of the details, and requirements due to Covid, while on international travel.



In Nov., members of both groups visited Mead Botanical Gardens in Orlando and enjoyed walking around the garden and seeing several birds who were also visiting the gardens. We even saw a local renowned artist enjoying the scenery by one of the ponds and creating a wonderful painting with that natural setting as his subject. After exploring the garden trails, the group enjoyed a wonderful lunch together, at the Greek Restaurant on Orange Ave. in Orlando Lake Ivanhoe area. The group sat outside, enjoying a great meal with friends.



Group ordering lunch at The Greek Restaurant after touring Mead Garden

## Interest Groups News (cont.)

### International Friendship IG and Hiking IG (cont.)

Enjoy pictures of our members enjoying the Lake Eola Event and Mead Botanical Garden events!



One of many decorations lit during holidays at Lake Eola



Group enjoying talk by Mila while at lunch at Persimmons Hollow Brewery at Lake Eola



### Hiking!

Nothing kept the Hiking Interest Group from going out there and enjoying the trails. In Nov., the group ventured to “Bear Creek Nature Trail” right in our backyard in Winter Springs. During Nov and Dec, the group collaborated with the International Friendship IG on a couple of great events, as described in above section.



Hiking Bear Creek Nature Trail in Winter Springs.

January found members of the IG hiking the Lake Harney Wilderness Area, a 2.5 miles easy hike followed by a picnic on the observation deck offering a picture-perfect panoramic view of the lake Harney. One of the many Central Florida lakes formed by St. John's River, Lake Harney outflows into a diverse wilderness area, known for eagles' nests in the tall pines, and remnants of the lumber mill town Osceola.

## Interest Groups News (cont.)

### Hiking! (cont.)

This hike covered the third part of what once was the famous East Coast Railroad that Flagler built in 1911, the time of the rising popularity of Florida as a tourist destination.

During Feb, the group hiked the St. Francis Trail in Deland. This hike of 7.8 miles broke the group's previous record for longest walking distance. (The previous record stands at 7.1 miles on the Black Bear Trail.) The wide and easy-to-walk trail, fantastic weather, the beauty of St. John's River and St. Francis Dead River, the ghost town of St. Francis, bizarre shapes of the bubbles forming near the spring, and a group of lovely trail maintenance crew we met on our way, all added to the enjoyment of the place that once was a thriving town of St. Francis. Yet in a mere 100 years, St. Francis town became a complete wilderness. Many members took lovely photos of the trail



Hiking group members enjoying picnic lunch at observation deck overlooking Lake Harney



See you on the Trails!

and its surroundings, and Mila conducted a “photo competition” to select the best photo taken by members on a hike. After all the votes were tallied, the winning photo belonged to Cathy Davis who took a great photo of the “Sulfur Bubbles Coming Up from the Spring.”



Winning photo by Cathy Davis — “Sulfur Bubbles from the Spring”

## Feature Article

### World Equestrian Center—Worth a Visit

*By: Maggie LeClair*

What do you think about when you hear the name Ocala? Most people connect Ocala with horses and, for the most part, they are correct. Ocala is one of only four major thoroughbred centers in the world with 600 thoroughbred horse farms that have produced 45 national champions, 6 Kentucky Derby winners, 20 Breeders' Cup champions and 6 Horses of the Year.

There are other things to see and do in Ocala, a short drive from Orlando. Check out the Appleton Museum of Art (pre-Columbian artifacts and contemporary art), Silver Springs Park, and Silver River. East of downtown, the Fort King National Historic Park was an important Second Seminole War site.

For anyone who knows me, you know I go to Ocala for the horses. The first time I visited the World Equestrian Center in Ocala, I knew that Central Florida was now squarely on the map as one of the best horse showing facilities in the country. There are two World Equestrian Centers (WEC) locations in the country, Wilmington, Ohio and Ocala, Florida. The WEC in Ocala is in fact the largest equestrian complex in the United States. My granddaughter, Emmee, shows her Irish Warmblood, All Day Long, indoors, with well-designed jump courses, fabulous footing, good judging, and air-conditioning. Yes, you read that correctly, air conditioning. (The center boasts two of the most expansive, climate-controlled indoor and outdoor equestrian sports facilities in the world.) The stunning Grand Prix ring is in the center of the complex where riders from all over the world compete for purses from \$10,000 to \$100,000. The public is welcome to attend.



If you participate in a horse show at WEC, be prepared to turn over your wallet or your first born – whichever one you could bear to part with - as you drive through the impressive gates.

You do not have to be a horse lover to visit this incredible facility that opened its doors in 2021. It is situated on nearly 378 acres of state-of-the-art arenas and luxury accommodations with an additional 300 acres set aside for future expansion. In addition to the equestrian facilities, the WEC offers: seven restaurants, lots of boutiques, and even a chapel. There is also a first-class hotel, which houses the fun Yellow Pony Pub. Unfortunately, where the restaurants and shops in the main complex welcome dogs inside, The Equestrian Hotel does not.

There are many other events held at this complex: Conventions, sporting competitions, dog shows, weddings, and music events to name a few. Check out their website. You may find something you like. <https://worldequestriancenter.com/ocala-fl/>

It is worth a visit. As for me, I go for the horses.....

## Feature Article (cont.)

Here is a picture of my granddaughter in front of The Equestrian Hotel at the WEC. The horse sculpture behind her is of Sergeant Reckless.....the only horse to become a Marine Sergeant!



Emmee LeClair and All Day Long  
in front of the Equestrian Hotel at the WEC

Yes the WEC in Ocala is worth a visit. As for me, I go for the horses.....

### **Reckless - the only horse to become a Marine sergeant**

In 1959, the US military, for the first time ever, promoted an animal to sergeant. Reckless the horse was officially promoted to Staff Sergeant by the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Reckless was not your typical horse. She served in Korea and she saved the lives of fellow Marines. She was decorated with presidential citations and two Purple Hearts. A book titled "Sgt. Reckless: America's War Horse" was written about her by writer Robin Hutton. Reckless gave birth to four foals in America and died in May 1968.



**"Many people will walk in and out of your life,  
but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart"  
(Eleanor Roosevelt)**

**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**

**Has your Contact Information Changed?**

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

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**SPRING LUNCHEON—April 11!**

**Details and Invitation Coming Soon to your Email!**

**The TIME is NOW to Sign-up for the WCatUCF Spring Luncheon Meeting!**  
Go to our website <https://womensclub.cos.ucf.edu/luncheon/> to register & pay

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**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***

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**HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER?!**

Our next newsletter will be published in Spring 2022

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