

Rockabilly, Rattle, and Roll!

Once again, we were amazed at an extravaganza where staff bent over backward to transport us to another place and time. The decorations, the food stations, the dance music, and the camaraderie of staff and friends, all helped make this a very special evening. As Kevin kept saying, "We need a bigger auditorium" because the upper commons and the lounge were necessary to accommodate our overflow crowd.

Did you get your photo taken in the '55 Buick? That just might turn into our Christmas card. Thank you to all the staff for always going the extra mile to make our lives so pleasant. We are very fortunate to be living at Oak Hammock.

- Beth Paul, content; Bill Castine, Beth Paul, Karen Merrey, Margarete Ruth, photos



Oh, Mein Papa

My father was in the navy during WWII and was on the USS Carmick, a destroyer guarding the leading ships off Omaha Beach and acting as antisubmarine and anti-E-boat screen during the D-Day invasion. Here is an Easter Sunday photo of when we were meeting each other for the very first time during the war.

- Beth Paul



This is Jason, my Grandson and his daughter Hailey, my Great-Great Granddaughter. Hailey graduated recently with five special awards as an outstanding student. (In this photo she has three awards, then two more were added). I am invited to her graduation party on June 29, 2023.

- Margarete Ruth

My folks used to entertain here in Gainesville by having a fish fry in the backyard. Most of the fish were caught by Daddy. At right is the before photo of him with his catch and beside that, in color, is him frying that fish (the first photo I took with my new camera and my favorite photo of my father).

- Walter Wynn



Bertram James Cobner (left), my father, introduced me to two things still important to me...the Chicago Cubs and reading. He took me to my first Cubs game in about 1948 when I was 6. My last visit there was in 2001, just weeks after 9/11. I often went to daytime Cubs games while I was in nursing school, as Wrigley Field was just an "EI" ride away. As to reading, every Monday night, Dad took all of us kids to the local library to find our material for the week. I learned to use the card catalogue at a young age. I still use the library as my main resource for books. Nothing newfangled for me!

- Susan Kluge



Our Fathers

Both career military officers, graduates of West Point and Annapolis, who served in WWII and, according to their wives, were fundamentally changed by the horrors they experienced. They lived through the social upheaval of Vietnam and tried to understand their children's antiwar activities. They both died in Annapolis, MD, after a lifetime lived adhering to Duty, Honor, Country.

At left is Cmdr. Howard Howlett Montgomery, USN (1920 - 1992); and at right is Col. John Rigden Van Dickson (1912 - 1982).

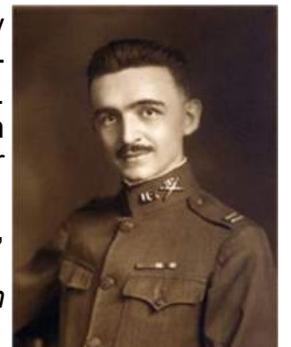


Nancy's Grandfathers

Both also career military officers. Dr. Howard Montgomery served in WW I and II in the Navy Medical Corps. He set up a special unit for burn patients using a new burn treatment he created. Karl Schwinn served in the Army and, since he was first-generation German, the army had trouble deciding whether to let him serve or lock him up.

At left, Capt. Howard Howlett Montgomery (1895-1978); at right, Col. Karl Christian Schwinn (1891-1938).

- Nancy and Jack Dickson



(Continued from page 2)

I had a wonderful father. As an only child I was my mother's daughter and my father's son. My father was in Yugoslav Army reserve, not as a pilot, but as a photographer to take aerial shots. The small picture is my father about 1924, standing next to a two-seater plane, ready to take off and take photos. The larger picture is me, 2011, in Namibia, traveling around the country in a four-seater plane, plus the pilot. I was just a passenger.



Those two pictures could have a title "Like father, like daughter". I like it because I was always more like my father, adventurous, and willing to take risks. my

mother was timid, and felt best surrounded with her family. Guess who supported my move to the USA?

- Marta Whipple

My dad, Frank Fleck, is shown here in 1980 with the GM "Electrovette," an electric vehicle prototype that could travel at up to 50 mph for up to 50 miles on a single charge. He was the Director of Engineering for GM Canada at the time and his experimental group was instrumental in the vehicle's design.

- Katherine Osman (photo from *The Toronto Star*)



Memorial Day Picnic

On May 29, residents and guests filled their plates in the Duckworth Garden, then distributed themselves among the dining rooms and the upper commons to enjoy a variety of dishes prepared by the staff. No one went away hungry! - Bill Castine



Welcome Mark Flannery and Leslie Bram

One recent Tuesday evening, I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with my new roof-mates, Mark Flannery and Leslie Bram over drinks in my back yard. This delightful couple had moved into the adjacent villa two weeks earlier and graciously agreed to interrupt the arduous process of unpacking to spend a little time chatting with me.

I learned that they are not new to the area, having previously lived in Gainesville for over thirty years, during which time Leslie, an accomplished attorney, served as Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel for the University of Florida Foundation, an independent fundraising organization. Interestingly, our own Paul Robell just happened to be her boss!

Leslie and her colleagues had an idea of establishing a Continuing Care Retirement Community which could be connected in some way with the University. A feasibility study was undertaken but did not encourage going ahead with the idea. But what if, it was suggested, the proposed Community had a sound reason for UF affiliation? The ILR was born, and the rest is history! Leslie spent nine happy years on the original Oak Hammock Board of Directors, and after a hiatus, is currently serving until the end of June, when she will retire. It seems only fitting that she and Mark decided to spend their own golden years here!

But let's go back to the beginning. Mark grew up in Morristown, NJ, attending a Catholic grade school. Like most high-spirited young boys, he chafed at restrictions imposed by the nuns in charge. In the 7th grade, he received a reprieve and was sent to a Benedictine School, where he thrived until graduation in 1968. Academic training there was rigorous, requiring six days a week in class. But it was there that he developed the great love of learning that would serve him well in later years. He attended Princeton, graduating with a degree in Economics, then went on to Yale where he earned a PhD in Economics.

Meanwhile, Leslie had been growing up in Cleveland, OH, graduating in 1969 from high school, which she didn't like, and going on to attend Carnegie Mellon University, which she loved. After graduating in 1973, she spent the next two years earning a degree in English and American Literature at Northeastern University in Boston.

Fortuitously, during that time Mark was there while on a summer fellowship from Yale and Leslie was working as a secretary. Love brought them together, and in 1976 they moved to Philadelphia where Mark began his first job teaching at the Wharton School of Business and Leslie entered the University of Pennsylvania's law school. When recounting this phase of her life, she remarked that most people do not like law school, but that she was the exception to the rule, having loved every minute of it!

A few years after law school graduation, Leslie became pregnant with her first child, Michael. A few years after that, Katie came along. They spent Leslie's 6-month maternity leave in London while Mark worked at the London Business School.

In later years, the travel bug struck again and they spent time in Sydney, New York City, and Washington, DC, while pursuing academic careers. Both workaholics, they frequently worked 60 hours a week. Their careers took them from Philly to Chapel Hill, NC, from 1984 to 1989, where Mark taught and Leslie began her career in university fundraising.

Come 1989 and Mark was invited to become the Barnett Bank Eminent Scholar in Finance at the University of Florida and Leslie soon began working for the UF Foundation. They bought a lot and built a house, from which they just moved into Oak Hammock. Gainesville proved to be a perfect place to raise their children. Katie became an immigration attorney and spent six years in Africa, after which she came home engaged to a wonderful man from Ethiopia. They live in northern Virginia. Son Michael followed his own passion as the owner/chef of a gourmet Taco restaurant, (the Blue Water Taco Company). He and his wife and two wild grandsons (aged 3 and 5) live in Jupiter, FL

Fast forward to May, 2023, when Leslie and Mark moved to Oak Hammock. Mark continues to work in the Finance Department, teaching graduate students, doing some research, finding time for bike riding and swimming. Leslie is happily looking forward to retirement, having leisure time to be a grandmother and pursuing such interests as Natural History, Literature, and Music. Hopefully, she will join the Singers!

Welcome to the Oak Hammock family, Leslie and Mark. From its inception you have come full circle, and we are so happy to have you with us!

– Jan Havre



Welcome Tim Noe

This quiet Wisconsin native is multifaceted with diverse interests and a heart for volunteerism.

The Army was Tim's first full time job after ROTC. He served four years, three in Germany with the last in Ft. Hood, TX, and Ft. Huachuca, AZ. Tim was four times in the Peace Corps: Swaziland (now Eswatini Africa), The Philippines, and Paraguay. He worked four Habitat for Humanity homebuilding projects: El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Gulfport/Biloxi MS. Tim volunteered in Americus, GA, with Habitat at their co-headquarters. He provided FEMA support in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina.

Tim moved here from Spring Hill, FL, where he lived 18 years in his parents' retirement home that he purchased from them. At his Lutheran church, Tim sang tenor in the choir, provided audio visual support, helped with church sales, and did oral readings. In the community, he was a hospital volunteer and an AARP Tax Aid volunteer.

Tim is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse with BS degrees in geography and computer science and a master's degree in education. His 20 years as a software developer reflect his interest in architecture, design, and puzzles, especially Sudoku. Tim says, "software design is a logical puzzle of its own." He loves to organize and read. Masterpiece Theater Mysteries intrigue him. Tim enjoys cartography. From a young age, he was drawing maps of imaginary places and architectural designs. He is the oldest of three siblings and has an entertaining gift for imitating voices and accents. Tim's '87 Chevy Nova has been a family member for 25 years.

Tim attended his first Recycled Riches meeting and is ready to assist there as needed. He is focused on physical fitness and healthy eating. You will see him on the stairs, taking his 45-minute to 1-hour daily morning jogs, or doing pull ups and chin ups. Welcome, Tim!

- Sandy Furches



Staff Spotlight: Lakeisha Jones

A member of Oak Hammock's Housekeeping staff, Lakeisha has been here for 4 years and is always happy and smiling. In fact, no one can even recall ever seeing her with a frown.

Housekeeping Manager Rebecca Snowden claims that, "I hit gold when Keisha joined our staff!"

- Barbara Dockery



Welcome Josh Palmer, Executive Sous Chef

Our new Executive Sous Chef, Josh Palmer, is now on board and is expected to relieve Justin Cochran from the day-to-day production responsibilities of dining services so that Justin can focus on managing our several dining venues, including our new Assisted Living Kitchen as well as focusing on improvements. At the moment, Josh is learning all about Oak Hammock and the particular ways that our residents expect their food to be prepared and served. Josh, who grew up in Pensacola, came to Gainesville in 2008. He grew up cooking and particularly liked cooking because it was a way he could support himself while continuing to tour with his band.

For fifteen years, Josh was a vegetarian, so can offer our residents interesting vegetarian options, but also is skilled with other proteins, having worked at the Top in Gainesville for 12 years. He expects to focus on quality control and has been busy learning every job we now have in the kitchen. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his dog and four-year-old daughter, playing music and visiting the butterfly museum.

We hope that in the coming months we will get to know Josh and enjoy some innovative cooking.

- Karen Miller



New Security Officer, Thomas Hostetter

If you are out and about between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. some days, you may encounter our newest security officer, Thomas Hostetter. Tom is originally from Michigan and moved, about a year ago, to Ocala. Although new to Florida, he is not new to security. He started working security when he was 18 and when he was 32 he attended the police academy in Kalamazoo, MI. He then served the Hopkins Village Police Department, a five-officer department, as a police officer and left nine years later as Acting Chief. He and his wife then acquired a semi and drove a truck for a number of years until he and his wife decided to settle down and move to sunny Florida.

Tom and his wife have a son in Michigan and a daughter who moved with them and who, along with Tom's wife, makes deliveries through Door Dash. On his time off, he enjoys being with his family.

Tom said that he had never had an interview for a job which seemed like such a good fit and he is delighted to be working here.



- Karen Miller

Making a Difference

The Oak Hammock Therapy Department is a happening place. A place that collects people who need help. And are given help. The fifteen staff are not employed by the University of Florida nor Oak Hammock, but by Therapy Management Corporation (therapymgmt.com). This independent company (founded in 1995) strives to make a positive difference in the lives of those they serve. Employees are encouraged to share goals, values, and purpose.

Therapy needn't be confined to dull exercises. Innovative movements combine the simplest items (clay, rubber bands) and the most up-to-date equipment, furnished by UF.

Smiles, hugs, and laughter add to the encouragement shared by everyone. The staff enjoy spending time together too—going to the beach, Universal Studio, doing 5k charity runs, and celebrations. Weddings, new babies. The Oak Hammock Therapy Department has the perfect Rx—sharing goals, values, and purpose—making a difference, one person at a time.

- Barbara Dockery

Kindness Starts at Home

Keep an eye out for information from Oak Hammock's new "Kindness Committee" workgroup, comprised of residents and staff. In its infancy now, the committee is looking for ways to foster everyday compassion and embrace the little acts that can make big differences.



Baby Boom!

PT Alex's identical twins Naomi and Ariel add to the baby count in Oak Hammock's Therapy Department!



Add Licensed Nursing Home Administrator to Ashley Davis Meacham's accomplishments!

- Chrissy Smoak

Street Rods

Oak Hammock recently was treated to a viewing of some of the coolest, classic cars from the Gainesville Street Rods car club and we were encouraged to vote for our favorites. They brought back many memories!
- Bill Castine



The Art League at Oak Hammock

We have two new shows going up in the next few weeks. First, we have artworks created from our open portrait studio sessions which Jane Polkowski Levy conducts the 1st and 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room. Models are Oak Hammock residents who volunteer to sit for 2 hours while both outside and Oak Hammock artists create renderings of their likeness. We welcome everyone to come to the opening reception on Sunday, June 25, 3 to 5 p.m. in the Art Studio.

As if Jane was not busy enough, she will be finding time to hang the 2023 Oak Hammock Residents and Staff Art Exhibit in the main Oak Hammock Gallery. The opening reception for that show is Sunday July 23, in the Upper Commons from 3 to 5 p.m. Again, we welcome all to the always great refreshments and to meet our own artists and, above all, enjoy the artworks. This is where we also get a chance to enjoy the creations of the artists on our splendid staff. See you there!

Our own Charlotte Newman, presented her Conceptual Art to us at our 4th Tuesday Presentation in the Oak Room last month. Who knew what talent and ingenuity was walking amongst us! She and her artworks were fascinating and spoke to the many societal concerns amongst us. Thanks Charlotte, you gave a very thought-provoking presentation and we look forward to more from you in the future.

We have Susan Bankston to thank for the presentations and classes we all are enjoying. The acrylic class with Linda McVey on June 10 winds up classes for the summer, but we encourage our in-house artists to feel free to use the art studio for making your artwork.

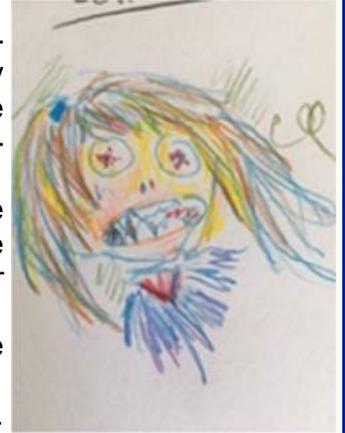
Classes will resume in September with a drawing class with Jenna Weston. The 4th Tuesday, monthly presentations will resume in the Oak Room.

Midge Smith, director of our mini gallery, just briefed us on the activities there. She told me that the Speta show is whimsical and cute and includes quite a bit of philosophy meandering around and through the 2" wrapped canvas tiles that Chuck created. (a couple of pieces sold this week). This is the first time he has had a show. In this issue, we have included a portrait he did of Midge Smith yelling at him to get to work and produce more tiles for the show.

Apparently, it worked; more and more tiles kept appearing over the weeks. They certainly make one want to stop and dawdle whilst on the way to the Health Pavilion. Thanks to both Midge and Chuck for getting the show rolling!

"Creativity takes courage"....Henri Matisse

- Marion Siegel, content; Chuck Speta, art



Creativity at The Cade

Curiosity, Imagination, Iteration, Serendipity, and Necessity are portrayed around the upper level of the Cade Museum for creativity and invention, adjacent to Gainesville's Depot Park. Teaching labs preceded the construction of this beautiful facility that opened in 2018. Constructed purposefully in an underserved neighborhood, their mission is to transform communities by inspiring and equipping future inventors, entrepreneurs, and visionaries. The building was constructed in a Fibonacci spiral and is full of interactive exhibits for everyone.

After a recent presentation here, the Cade Museum hosted 20 residents for an enjoyable guided tour. Their one permanent exhibit depicts the inventions of Dr. James Robert Cade, the lead inventor of Gatorade in 1965 at UF. Other exhibits change regularly in their galleries and the building is made for expansion. For information: CadeMuseum.org. Our group enjoyed lunch at Goldie's Burgers after their tour.

*- Sandy Furches, content;
John Furches, photo*



Amazing Young Talent

The UF International Piano Festival 2023 concluded recently with two public events. First were nine piano duets. I asked a participant how much time was taken up with duet practice. He said they had to squeeze in practice over several days. I asked him if he could choose the piece. He said they were given the music and told to practice. Those pianists were excellent. The last two duets were so well coordinated that they sounded like one person playing.

The second event was the highlight awarding certificates to all 19 participants and cash prizes to 3 winners in two divisions. Six prize winners knew that they had to play a piece after the award but did not know which award they were receiving. Rising Artist Division winners were 3rd Jennifer Wang, 2nd Liam Connor, and 1st Kendall Williams.

I had seen the senior division participants the prior evening and had chosen my winners. The young man I thought would get the first prize, got second prize. The first and third prize winners were among my 3.

Artist Division winners were 3rd Thomas Sinclair, a college student; 2nd Paul Wubbena a high school sophomore; 1st Andrew Altrock, a college student.

I'm glad I didn't have to make the choice as the young man I thought was a close 4th place and easily could have been 3rd was also an excellent pianist. Ramiro Galigniana is a college student from Argentina. He was awarded a full scholarship to participate in the UF International Piano Festival 2024 along with 13-year-old Yoyo Qu. Ramiro's professor was a judge this year. - Walter Wynn, content; Sandy Furches, photos



The Signs of Oak Hammock

A welcome home sign greets everyone driving through the security gate. Attractive directional signs, plus official red stop signs, provide information for drivers and pedestrians. How did this update happen?

Tony Lopiccolo, Director of Plant Operations, answered, saying "Upon my arrival, I was asked for a plan to modify the directional signs as they were difficult to read. After talking to a few vendors, Gainesville Neon & Signs was asked to create a proof of concept based on our new branding and sign shape. A sub-committee was formed from the then Buildings and Grounds committee. We met several times to create more easily read signs with larger arrows. It was a team effort! As the directional signs took shape, management, agreed that all our signs needed to be consistent with our branding statement." Thanks to those who made it happen. The new official signage tells everyone entering the security gate—*this is one organized community!* - Barbara Dockery



Art by Marian Siegel (top) and Jane Levy (bottom)

Recycled Riches

Thank you for your support for our recent apartment sale. Our staff was really happy to be able to get the great bargains that were available.

Recycled Riches was started with the purpose in mind to help our staff purchase items they could use at a price they could afford. Our staff buys about 75% of the items we sell. We cannot give items to the staff directly, as they would be fired for accepting. If we are going to be able to continue this service to our staff, it is critical that residents or their families call us FIRST to see if we can use any items they want to give away. The only way we can get items for our sales is to get first choice of the items your family does not want. If you think that Recycled Riches should survive, we need your support. Please give us the chance to continue to support our staff.

We also have all kinds of medical equipment for residents to use short term or to buy long term. If you have a need, please call Valerie Griffith to arrange to see what we have before you purchase equipment elsewhere. If you have equipment you no longer need, we will take it!

Our next meeting is Monday, June 26, at 11 a.m., in the Acorn Room. Please join us and give us your support.
- Valerie Griffith, Chairman, Recycled Riches

Recycling Issues

We are all concerned with saving our planet but there seem to be certain recycling issues that many residents have trouble understanding. I asked Rebecca Snowden, Manager of Housekeeping and Laundry, what she could identify as our worst problems.

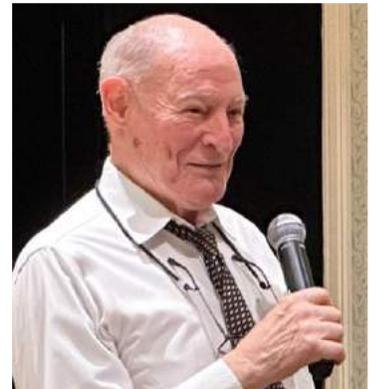
"Currently, our most challenging issue happens to be residents not reading the signage on the walls of Buildings 1 and 2. We have signage showing residents where clamshell containers should be placed, and they still place them in the wrong recycling bin. **Any of the black clamshell-like containers should be placed into the brown bins** on each of the floors in each of the buildings," answered Rebecca.

"We also have another issue," Rebecca continued. "Commingled items are ... left in plastic bags when they should be removed from those plastic bags prior to placing them in the recycling bin. **When residents do not remove the plastic, the load can be considered contaminated, and it all goes to the landfill.**"

Perhaps you know of someone in your building who is confused about the instructions and just needs a nudge to get it right going forward. Let's all try to be better stewards of our planet.
- Beth Paul

Chamber Serenade

The Oak Hammock Chamber Players provided an entertaining Spring Concert recently. Conductor R. Gary Langford, UF Professor of Music Emeritus, led about a dozen musicians proficient on violin, flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, string bass, and piano. Enjoyable classical arrangements, both familiar and unfamiliar, were shared. A clarinet trio by Michael Plaut, Cheryl Poe, and Wendy Visscher was at the midpoint in fourteen selections. The audience of about 50 enjoyed great music; Professor Langford's humor; and cookies still warm from the Oak Hammock oven. All the senses were delighted! Watch the calendar for the Chamber Players' Holiday Concert coming in December.
- Sandy Furches



ILR Funds

Inquiring minds were wondering where the collected funds for the ILR programs are spent. Bill Rossi answered some of our questions. First, the funds are managed by the ILR board, a voluntary entity. Bill said that the session presenters are not paid, but they are invited to lunch. Other funds go toward receptions that are held in the spring and the fall. ILR also sponsors a poster contest dealing with research on aging for UF and Santa Fe College students, and that is followed up by a reception. In addition, ILR funds help support the employee appreciation fund. Many thanks to the voluntary board that oversees all this activity.

- Beth Paul

Parking Garages

Apartment residents whose parking spaces are in certain zones have had to remove their cars from the garages while the structure is checked and ultimately given a clean bill of health.

Tony Lopiccolo explained that “no significant structural defects were found” and that the work was “strictly preventive maintenance to ensure the building structure is sound for many more years to come.”

Tony explained that Oak Hammock took a “proactive” stance to have the facility evaluated by an engineering consultant. He further explained that “minor defects ... include(d) vertical hairline cracks in some of the concrete support walls, small areas where concrete has been chipped, and some areas where mortar had degraded over time. Repair techniques include the high-pressure injection of an epoxy repair compound and/or application of high strength grout fill.”

All work is being monitored by the City of Gainesville Code Enforcement office as well as the structural engineering consultant. Oak Hammock residents are fortunate to live in a facility that is proactive and makes sure everyone remains safe.

- Beth Paul

By the Numbers, June 1 Independent Living

| | Total | Sold | Available |
|------------|-------|------|-----------|
| Houses | 57 | 57 | 0 |
| Apartments | 212 | 210 | 2 |

Health Pavilion

| | Total | Occupied | Available |
|----------|-------|----------|-----------|
| Assisted | 46 | 39 | 7 |
| Memory | 12 | 10 | 2 |
| Skilled | 73 | 57 | 14 |

- Nickie Doria and Ashley Davis-Meacham

Contributions to Oak Hammock

Since we last reported on the contributions to the Benevolent Fund, a total of \$1,490.00 was received.

- Jonathon Mann

The Amazon smile donation in May was \$124.59. This is the final donation to the Benevolent Fund since this program has been discontinued.

- Lori Fishel



Oak Hammock’s new signage is a hit with everyone!

- Janice Malkoff

Happy Birthday to Billy!

Fun on the Boardwalk! A very tiny dog, Billy Donovan, had his 17th birthday celebration on Saturday night! Tallulah and Bob Brown provided snacks for humans and treats for dogs to celebrate. There were lots of people there, and at least nine dogs—and very little barking, and no fighting. Thank you, Tallulah and Bob!

- Bev Cone



Bonsai Exhibition

Many Oak Hammock residents are skilled in the art of bonsai. Bonsai, the art of growing and training miniature trees in containers, can be traced back to the 6th century, but it was in the early 1400's when Japan began to embrace it. The miniature trees filled the Oak Room recently and are truly works of art. One little tree was even trained to wrap around a piece of driftwood. Another was a flowering bougainvillea. If you missed it, you can stroll by the bonsai cages in the garden or through the greenhouse where many can be viewed. Residents Nelson Logan, Jan Lowenthal, Nancy Wood, Edna Hindson and Jane Levy are some of our skilled tree artists.

- Beth Paul, content; Sandy Furches, photos



Dr. Tiffany Lu Discusses Orchestra Conducting

Dr. Lu has recently joined the UF faculty as director and conductor of the UF Orchestra, which numbers about 90 students, most of whom are not music majors. Dr. Lu is a native of the Tampa area and earned her doctorate at the University of Maryland.

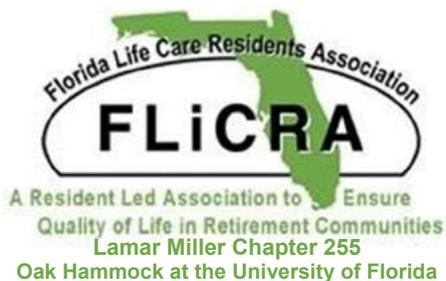
Walter Wynn served as host and facilitator and began the session by asking Dr. Lu a number of questions about how she became a conductor and who was influential to her along the way. She also discussed important aspects of conducting, including not only keeping time, but helping her musicians attend to specific aspects of the music and developing a good relationship with them. There are many behind-the-scenes aspects of being a conductor, like collaborating with other faculty and soloists, arranging rehearsal spaces and meeting with students individually. Short videos were shown of the conducting styles of some well-known conductors.

She demonstrated some of the important aspects of an orchestral score and illustrated various characteristics of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony as it played while each line of music was shown on the screen. She ended the session by answering questions from the audience.

The School of Music is fortunate to have recruited such a personable, talented, and knowledgeable musician. We learned things about conducting that are not always obvious to an audience and we look forward to seeing her performances in the future.

- Mike Plaut, content, Sandy Furches, photo





Senator Keith Perry

FLiCRA hosted Senator Perry at Oak Hammock where he gave a brief talk and then held a question-and-answer session. He was concerned with some of the animosity that seems to be prevalent in today's society and hoped that everyone could be mannerly and respectful of each other. He mentioned that he works quite well with many of the opposing party on a daily basis. A couple of the hot topics that were brought up were abortion and gun control. Thank you to the FLiCRA board for hosting the senator, who received an appreciative round of applause at the end of his visit. Senator Perry has come to the end of his term limit so cannot be seeking re-election.



- Beth Paul

Bible Study Brunch

The Women's Bible Study Group, led for the last five years by Lori Hoopes, held its Spring Celebration potluck brunch, with members bringing a specialty dish of their very own. It was delicious!

Twenty women, perhaps a few more, enjoyed Jen Wilkins' final program "Better" for the 2022-2023 series by celebrating at the brunch. This group has been in existence since 2005-2006.

Many friendships are forged and nourished here, and all are welcome!

- Tallulah Brown, content; Beth Paul, photo



Meet Us on the Boardwalk!

Every Wednesday and Saturday around 5 pm, a group gathers on the boardwalk in front of the main entrance. This convenient location allows them to be outside and enjoy the beauty of Oak Hammock. If the weather is inclement, they meet in the Upper Commons or occasionally on the first-floor verandas. Folks bring their beverage of choice, someone often brings snacks, and dogs are always welcome. But, most importantly, they bring their enthusiasm, their ideas, and their joy in each other's company.

When I joined them recently, the conversation topics ranged from books recently read or reread, to animals, to golf, and to what they've been up to recently! Because they've been meeting regularly for such a long time, the mood of the group is companionable, and discussions were punctuated with lots of laughter. They welcome new members; in fact, Michael Hollingshead and his two dogs became regular attendees very soon after moving here.

The group began meeting well before Covid struck, organized by Meredith Rowe, and has continued with a few interruptions since then. In the winter, the meeting time shifts to 4:30 to accommodate the cooler weather. Some folks come promptly at 5, others wander in later, and no attendance is taken! When I left them, I asked if they wanted anything else included in the write up. A chorus of "Y'all come!" and a friendly invitation to join them anytime cemented my impression that this is a warm, welcoming, enthusiastic group of active, involved, interesting residents. Take a stroll on the boardwalk and join them one day!



Shown above are Bev Cone, Marilyn and Don Crosby, Michael Hollingshead, Keith Berg, and Ofeilia Schutte. Others continued to join the group as the afternoon wore on.

- Nancy Dickson



Please clean up after your pet and make sure that any guests take care of their pets. We've seen an increasing amount of animal gifts. And by that, I mean POOP!

The Rockers

The Rockers have been playing together for quite a few years at Oak Hammock. If you would like more background information about the Rockers, please refer to previous years' articles in the Oak Leaf.

Once again on May 30, this group presented a fabulous sing along in the Upper Commons. They began with a favorite old song, *Enjoy Yourself*. And indeed the audience definitely did, with people from IL and AL singing many old familiar songs from the 1950's, and earlier. Ron Hoopes gave the background of each song, and sang a solo; Keith Berg not only played the drums, he also played "Jambalaya" on his drum board; Al Goebel played the accordion; and Hank Pennypacker played accompaniment on his ukulele.

We are so fortunate to have such talented residents among us!

- Bev Cone content;
Sandy Furches, photos



STAR Lunches

These two groups of students from Caring and Sharing Learning School enjoyed a special luncheon at Oak Hammock. They were chosen because they were the top STAR readers in their third grade class. STAR [Stop Today And Read] is a classroom library of books to be checked out to read at home.

- Janet Janke



Sophie's Flute and Piano Recital

Residents were treated to a creative recital by the students of Ted and Barbara Wasserman's daughter-in-law, Sophie Wasserman. Sophie's young students, including son Eli (the Wasserman's grandson), shown far left below in shirt and tie, played excerpts from tv and movie shows while videos played on the screen behind them. A giant remote control was passed to parents to key in the correct video, and props were used as well. For instance, a Darth Vader Gator hat showed up for Star Wars, a stapler in a Jello mold for The Office, and a magic wand for Harry Potter.

Sophie interviewed each child, giving the audience an opportunity not only to hear them perform but also to get a feel for their personalities. Commercial breaks also popped up in the middle of the program, giving the older students a chance to act.

This was Sophie's 11th visit to Oak Hammock, and the reason Ted and Barbara chose our facility as their home. You will not want to miss Sophie's 12th visit.

- Beth Paul, content; Ted Wasserman, photo



No Longer a Parking Lot!

The corner of Newberry Road and NW 62nd Avenue was an important visual—an entrance to the Oaks Mall. A large, paved parking lot, near Belk’s store, welcomed weary shoppers. Occasionally, small traveling carnivals set up merry-go-rounds and family type entertainment. Fast forward: a new Fresh Kitchen is entertaining lots and lots of hungry folks. Yes, it’s a “bowl-type” restaurant, but with a new approach—to make healthy food that tastes great, accessible to everyone. To get the very freshest ingredients, management decided to take the restaurants *to the fields*, or at least near them. At present there are fourteen Fresh Kitchens, all located in Florida.



Stores have a smaller footprint with focus on freshness of food. Customers’ “build-your-own bowl” service offers hormone and antibiotic-free grilled meats, plus roasted vegetables. Offerings are cooked in small batches to keep that fresh taste.

Visit Fresh Kitchen for great food, served fast, with countless combinations. Call ahead—drive through pick up is available also. Open Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-9:35 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m.-9:05 p.m. (yes! the 05 is correct). Phone: 352-415-2569. Credit cards accepted. Both indoor and outdoor seating. Sorry, the merry-go-round has left the parking lot.

- Barbara Dockery

It’s Red-White-Blue Time!

The Oak Hammock Needlers set the pace, creating a display case with a salute to our fallen soldiers—giving thanks for our freedom on Memorial Day. Time to dust off and display American flags, especially on Flag Day. Stand tall, sing patriotic songs. Enjoy a hot dog on the Fourth of July. Be proud of all who labor to make things happen. And celebrate that great Hallmark holiday, Father’s Day. It’s truly a banner time of the year. Rejoice!

- Barbara Dockery



Have you found the most relaxing room at Oak Hammock?

Rebecca Tate’s reflexology and massage is at your fingertips adjacent to the fitness center. Schedule a session for yourself or someone special: RebeccaTateLMT@gmail.com or 352-222-6786.

Arianna Tekker, our newly-minted LMT, is also available for massage therapy and can be reached at 352-222-9448.

- Sandy Furches



Health Pavilion residents get up-close and personal with a custom car during the Rockabilly street rod parade.

- Chrissy Smoak



Editor: Patsy Nelms; **Proofreader:** Bill Castine

Oak Leaf Committee

Janet Bostrom, Tallulah Brown, Bill Castine, Bev Cone, Nancy Dickson, Barbara Dockery, Sybil Farwell, Sandy Furches, Jan Havre, Beth Paul

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Additional Proofreaders

Beth Paul, Martha Rader

Graphics

Katherine Osman, Layout

Taps Across America



Each Memorial Day at precisely 3:00 p.m., buglers, trumpeters, or cornetists play “Taps” to honor those brave men and women who lost their lives in military service to America. We appreciate Craig Eaton’s playing several patriotic songs leading up to and concluding with “Taps.”

- Bill Castine, content; Sandy Furches, photo

2023 Residents’ Council

President: Martha Rader

Vice President: Michael Plaut **Secretary:** Doug Merrey

One Oak Hammock Coordinator: Mary Kilgour **Assisted Living Representative:** Fred Harden

| Committee | Meeting Time | Chair |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Active Lifestyle and Outreach | 1 st Monday, 11:00am | Marilyn Crosby |
| Dining Experience | 1 st Friday, 10:00am | Bruce Blackwell |
| Planning and Design | 2 nd Wednesday, 3:15pm | Dick Suttor |
| Landscape and Grounds | 2 nd Thursday, 10:00am | Jan Lowenthal |
| Health and Wellbeing | 3 rd Tuesday, 3:30pm | Ellyn Ahlstrom |
| Buildings and Infrastructure | 3 rd Wednesday, 1:30pm | Bob Brown |
| Finance and Stewardship | 3 rd Thursday, 1:30pm | Pat Kelley |
| Technology Services and Innovation | 3 rd Friday, 10:00am | Bill Zegel |

The Council meets at 10:00 a.m. on the second Friday of each month in the Oak Room and via Zoom. Committees meet using a variety of formats and in various locations. Please contact the Committee chair for specific information.

As Seen Around Oak Hammock: So Much to See and Do!

- Chrissy Smoak



THANKS—OAK HAMMOCK

Thanks for my neighbors across the hall
Thanks for Security should I fall
Thanks for all the pictures on the wall
And all the great trips I can recall

Thanks to those who reside on the Street
Who smile as I pass by on my feet
Thanks for the new members that I meet
Thanks for the A/C to beat the heat

Thanks for the most wonderful cuisine
For those who keep my apartment clean
And those who keep the neighborhood green
Thanks to the staff who remain unseen

Thanks for that maze Assisted Living
And the angels who keep on giving
To all those who are so forgiving
And most devoted to caregiving

Thanks to the tireless Skilled Nursing Staff
Who strive on the residents behalf
Calmly working a job and a half
And all those antics which make us laugh

Thanks for the fitness facility
And all the artists ability
Chauffeurs who provide mobility
Those who deal with our senility

Thanks to the expert maintenance crew
Who keep our appliances like new
Who clear the drains and unplug the loo
Those who deliver the paper too

Thanks to the Staff who command this ship
The Residents Council's leadership
To the wise Board for their stewardship
And to those who make the units flip

Thanks for the nature trails through the woods
And the cooling shade of the hardwoods
The Ice cream shop with all the goods
And the lovely street-side neighborhoods

Thanks to UF Health who cure our ills
To the nurses who manage our pills
And the therapists with all their skills
Thanks to those deigned to clean up the spills

Thanks to those who take out all the trash
And who augment the recycling cache
To the CFO who guards the cash
And the locked cages holding our stash

Thanks for the elaborate menus
And the Oak Leaf with the latest news
Thanks for the many courtyard venues
And all the wonderful woodland views

Thanks for the great music repertoire
And those nature films from near and far
For all the programs in ILR
Thanks for the garage to park my car

Thanks for the events in the Oak room
And the garrulous meetings on ZOOM
Benevolent fund to skirt our doom
Those flowers that continue to bloom

Thanks for the noisy woodworking shop
Recycled Riches who manage the swap
Pros who fix the TV and laptop
There are many more but I must stop

Thank YOU for reading this inane verse
I could have dawdled on something worse
Gene Ziegler June 2023



Photos around our campus.
- *Walter Wynn*