



# LIFetimes Connections

## In this Issue

**Ann Barretta  
"Sings Gently"**

**FREE Apple classes  
for LIFE members**

**UCF's "Revamped  
Student Union to Open"**

**Join us on FACEBOOK!**

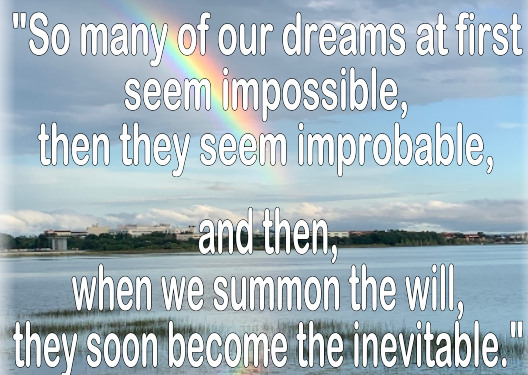
**LIFE Book Club;  
interested?**

**Shutt the Door!**

**Rich Sloane's  
"Outlook on LIFE"**

**A Wink at LIFE  
TV: Then & Now**

**Armor Up!  
Free UCF face coverings**



"So many of our dreams at first  
seem impossible,  
then they seem improbable,  
and then,  
when we summon the will,  
they soon become the inevitable."

- Christopher Reeve

The last few months, thanks to Covid-19, have been full of ups and downs and each of us has met the challenges with complaints, stoicism... and yes, even creativity. Whether you opted to help home school grandchildren, virtually tour foreign lands or continue in the

pursuit of lifelong learning from one of the many online offerings from museums, zoos, etc., we have, each, risen to the task in a multitude of ways.

Tuesday mornings will also be a bit different. Our LIFE board has worked diligently throughout the summer to develop the best solution for our in-person LIFE sessions since UCF, understandably, has reduced access to a number of on-campus activities.

That being said, welcome to our "new normal" and while doing so, keep your pajamas on, grab a cup of coffee and cuddle up to your computer as we enjoy the array of fine classes we have come to expect from our curriculum committee. -Gail

Ann Barretta

## “Sings Gently”



Once again, we have a great story/video that includes LIFE Treasurer, Ann Barretta. She was part of a virtual choir that included 17, 572 singers from 129 countries. You might remember that Ann, an employee of Walt Disney World, participates, yearly, in the beautiful Christmas Processional at Epcot. Sadly, this year, she reports the tradition that many of us enjoy, will probably be cancelled.

I asked Ann for information about her involvement in this emotional and heart warming presentation. She told me that she has been following Eric Witacre, director, for a while. When she saw this new opportunity, during this time of isolation, she decided to go for it after previewing the song. She immediately loved the music! The process involves downloading the sheet music and then recording your part (Ann is an alto) by setting up a camera and recording yourself singing the part while watching as Witacre directs; just as you would do in a live concert. Ann was proud to be one of the singers and adds that, “I never imagined it would grow so large and worldwide! These are hard times and sometimes there seems to be nothing but noise. When I listen to this and watch the video, it reminds me that there are many people like me, all over the world, who want to ‘Sing Gently’.” (Editor’s note: I watched/listened to this amazing recording and was moved to tears! Join me, and the 1,055,872, as of this writing, others who have enjoyed this uplifting video. Although the link shows that the video is over 10 minutes, the recording is just over 3 minutes, the rest is a listing of all the vocalists who contributed their beautiful voices.) Click on “sing” below!





## Apple Classes for LIFE members

We had over 80 responses to our Apple survey in last months LIFE CONNECTIONS and have selected two classes for LIFE members to participate in! Each class can accommodate 30 participants. A separate email will be sent out for members to sign-up 3 weeks prior to the event. Classes will be held on ZOOM.

### iOS Skills: 202

Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 2pm via ZOOM

Device: iPhone/iPad

Explore built-in apps on iPhone and iPad. You'll learn how to stay organized with Calendar and Notes, access thousands of songs and podcasts on Apple Music, and discover how Siri Shortcuts can help you customize your device. iPhone or iPad devices will be needed.

### Photography on iPhone

Date: Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 2pm via ZOOM

Device: iPhone

Create better photos and videos using iPhone. We'll show you the latest camera features to compose a great shot. You'll experiment with focus and exposure, practice using lighting effects, and even learn how to take your first selfie. iPhone devices will be needed.



## COLLEGES & CAMPUS NEWS

### UCF's Revamped Student Union to Reopen

The Heart of Campus — which now includes a full-service Starbucks, will open its doors Aug. 8. BY JENNA MARINA LEE | AUGUST 3, 2020

Editor's Note: I have reduced, due to spacing, some of the original story. See the whole article: <https://www.ucf.edu/news/ucfs-revamped-student-union-to-reopen/>

The long-awaited renovation of the Student Union will be unveiled when the Heart of Campus reopens Aug. 8 with limited hours. The three-year project saw its final phase of renovations completed just in time for campus to welcome back students for the fall semester. Expanding dining options now include a full-service Starbucks on the second floor.

Boardwalks, which have been closed due to construction on the building, will open again to allow for pedestrian traffic between the Union and Memory Mall.

"We hope to set up an environment that allows for students to still enjoy our facilities while staying safe," says Rick Falco, director of the Student Union.

As such, in accordance with university guidelines, face coverings are required inside the building.

### Information Desk

The desk will be operational during the Union's regular business hours. Plexiglass screens, social distancing signage, including floor stickers, have been added as safety measures.

Cont. on next page

### **Lounges and Open Seating**

Seats will be set in small clusters of 1-4 seats to allow for small group study and conversation. Clusters will be a minimum of 6-feet apart in all spaces, with no space having more than 50 percent capacity.

### **Restaurants and Eating in Public Spaces**

Guidelines are still being finalized and details will be shared soon.

### **SG Ticket Center**

The SG Ticket Center will reopen on Monday, Aug. 24, with limited ticket availability based on updated agreements with the attractions. Click for a complete list of tickets, prices and availability.

### **Where to Find Up-to-Date Information**

- [studentunion.ucf.edu](http://studentunion.ucf.edu)
- @UCFSU on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram

### **Knights Helping Knights Pantry**

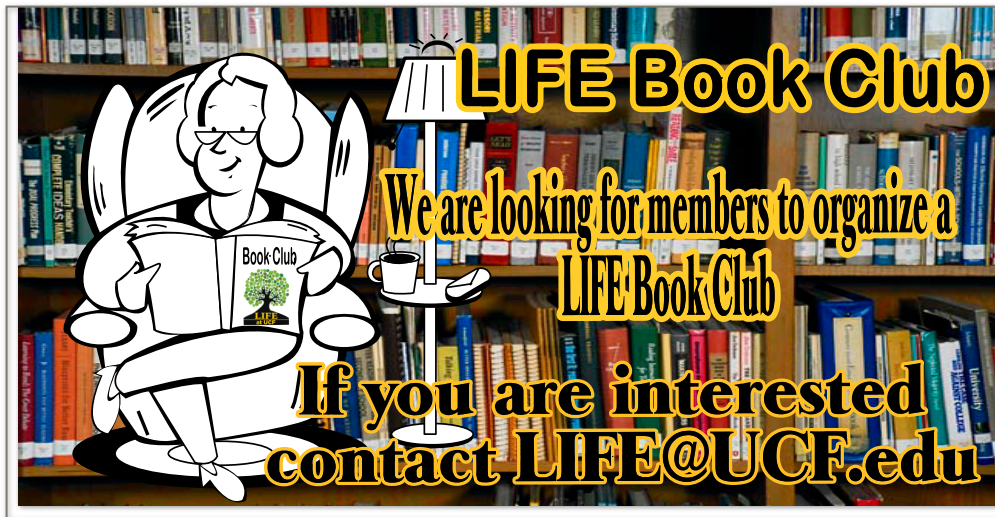
The pantry is open Monday through Friday on the main campus from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. While the pantry is still accepting food donations, pantry staff kindly requests no clothing donations at this time. Contactless drop-off of food items can be donated at the two bins located outside of the pantry's entrance and it is highly encouraged to donate during our hours of operation so on-site staff can process the items quickly and efficiently.

For even MORE information and articles, go to  
**Learning Institute for Elders on Facebook.**  
Click on the link, below, and "like!"



<https://www.facebook.com/LIFEatUCF>

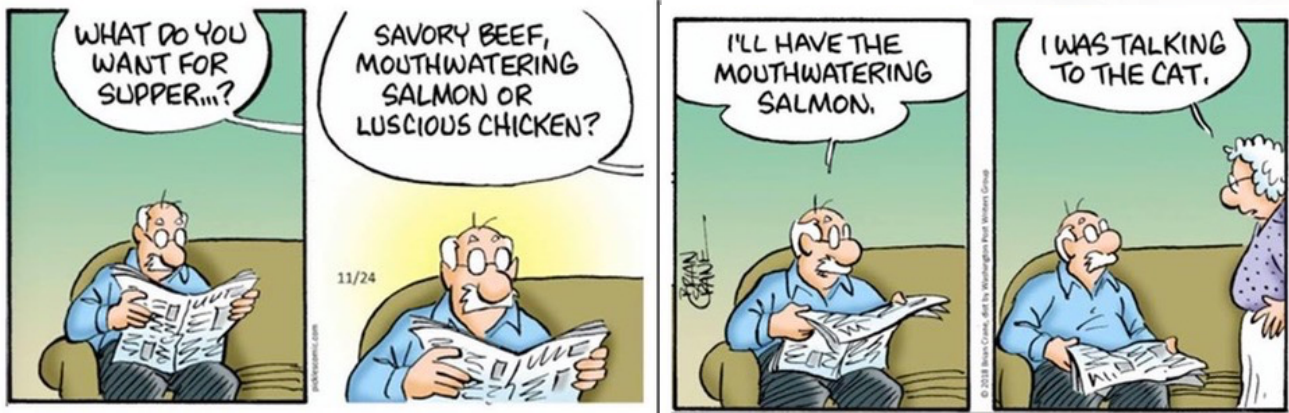




Since the closing up of...well...  
EVERYTHING, Sam Shutt has kept me  
laughing with the emails he sends. With  
that in mind, I decided to change up his  
logo from the previously L.O.L. (LIFE  
out Loud) to "Shutt the Door." Enjoy! -  
Gail



A couple had lived together for many years. As sometimes happens, one partner was more romantic than the other. The romanticist sent a text, "If you're sleeping, send me your dreams. If you're laughing, send me your smile. If you're eating, send me a bite. If you're drinking, send me a sip. If you're crying, send me our tears. I love you." Immediately a response text dinged on the phone. "I am on the toilet. Please advise."





## Rich Sloane's Outlook on LIFE

Originally printed, Orlando Sentinel; July 26, 2020

Tiger Woods' recent pronouncement, "Aging is not fun," ("Tiger barely makes cut," July 16) gave me cause to be grateful I'm not a professional golfer. His outlook conflicts with what I've believed for a long time, that attitude is everything. Aging is fun. Last week amid the vagaries of dealing with COVID-19, my wife and I decided it was time to settle the future of the thousands of family photos we'd accumulated over the span of our lifetime. These are "real" photographs, not the pixelated, digitized, artificial images that would make George Eastman turn over in his grave. The exercise made me realize what a wonderful experience aging can be if you have the right attitude. Photos of my grandfather made it clear to me that he was my grandchildren's great, great grandfather, something I'd never reflected on until going through the pictures. Here was a veteran of the Spanish-American War, a Fulton Fish Market monger, and the man whose knee I sat at as a wide-eyed youngster. Another photo catalogued my wife's grandparents, who arrived on a boat from Ireland. We had seen their names while visiting a museum in Halifax, Nova Scotia, some years back, in a register of immigrant arrivals. There were my mom and dad dancing at someone's wedding, celebrating in a New York nightclub, and one of them seeing me off on my way to war. Pictures of brothers, uncles, aunts, cousins, college friends and career companions. And of course, photos of my wife and me, from the time of our birth to the year Kodak bowed to the digital camera. The kids will get these photos. They need to know that their

parents and every earlier generation of their family had fun along the way. That aging was fun. Not every day, not every year, not every experience. But given the whole, it was fun. And fun will always be there with the right attitude. Those long-gone relatives would smile down knowing that the fun of aging continued through the birth of generations that came after them. Woods went on to say, "Early on in my career, I thought it was fantastic because I was getting better and better and better. And now I'm just trying to hold on." Life is not about improving your golf handicap. You can get better and better, even with aging, if you have the right attitude. Later in life I spent some time working at a university, not in a teaching capacity, but in company with some very accomplished educators. It was there I was introduced to life-long learning and came to realize it wasn't too late to get better. There's a photo of me taken after the New York City blizzard of 1947, sitting in a snow hut built by my older brothers. There's a few of my wedding day, and many of my children at birth. I hope the kids keep them all and remember as they age that attitude is everything.





# TV: then & now

**Diane Wink**

The world of television has exploded to include hundreds of TV series, movies, news shows, ads and, what seems like everything ever recorded; all available 24/7. Thus, when stay at home mandates were announced, we could turn to our flat screen displays for an infinite number of options to fill the time. But, as I manipulated varied controllers and tried to remember how to access one of the 126+ cable channels, streaming shows, programs on YouTube, or (horrors) “please, reboot the system,” I think back to how simple watching TV once was.

Growing up in NYC 70+ years ago, my family was in, TV heaven. We watched shows on a 14-inch TV housed in a wood case that looked like a



fancy radio with a screen. Broadcasts were clear if no one messed with the antenna. All the stations signed off overnight after playing the national anthem.

Console TVs with larger screens, followed, and programs were soon in “Living Color.” Choices were limited to what was broadcast at a specific time but we did have the three major networks plus four “independent” channels - one of which was “Educational Television,” that became home to Sesame Street. There were, what seemed to be an immense number of TV shows, (comedy, drama, cowboy, variety), movies plus local and national news shows.

Over the years, Walter Cronkite and other broadcasters brought news of the assassinations of JFK, Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy into our living rooms. We saw the Vietnam war and the national discord which surrounded it, as well as rocket launches and men walking on the moon.

The weekly arrival of TV Guide was a big event.



Besides stories about TV shows and their stars, there was a single page for each day of the week showing ALL the shows available in our area and descriptions of most every show allowing careful review before making choices. The most exciting issue of TV Guide was the “Fall Preview” which had stories about the new shows. Sometimes we did miss a show because it aired at the same time as another favorite. But, this was usually not a problem since many series were rebroadcast during the long summer months.

We had to adjust our TV viewing when moving to Orlando in 1976, since there were only four channels WESH, WKMG, WFTD, and a PBS channel. The number of channels grew and, with the arrival of the VCR, we could record shows to watch later, with the ability to skip commercials.



Today, depending what we choose to pay for; options include traditional networks, cable channels, as well as streaming and internet viewing from an astronomical number of sources. The ability of any television guide to list all shows available at any one time is long gone. We must also remember which channel and/or service a desired show is on, which controller to use and how to get to the show. Others can be watched on demand but not recorded. Fast forwarding though the dull parts and ads, may not be possible. There are still times when there is simply “nothing good on” and, of course the “please reboot the system” message can appear at any time.



## Face Coverings



It's time to Armor Up, Knights. Cloth face coverings are being distributed at several locations on the main campus, as well as at UCF Downtown. One face covering will be assigned to each member of the UCF community, and a valid UCF ID card is required to obtain one.

## Distribution Locations

Our very own Rebecca!



### Main Campus

Monday through Friday

9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

- The All Knight Study locations at Ferrell Commons and Knights Plaza (Open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.)
- The Barnes & Noble bookstore locations at the John T. Washington Center Breezeway and Knights Plaza (Open at 10 a.m.)
- The Spot @ UCF at the John T. Washington Center Breezeway
- The Card Services office at the John T. Washington Center Breezeway
- Reflections Kiosk (Toppers Creamery)
- UCF Print Shop

### UCF Downtown

Dr. Phillips Academic Commons east wing

- Mondays and Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays and Thursdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Card Services Office, located inside the Communication and Media Building

- Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

UCF Downtown

