getting ready for our 20th anniversary

A Message From The President

Although many of our members are away for the summer, there is still much going on at GNL. During the past month several Board committees met and set priorities for next year. There is a tremendous amount of energy as all the committees are looking forward to making the 20th Anniversary year a great success.

This month in the Connection we continue our series on "Why GNL" with a discussion on LEARNING. As you know, our Masters Program is our initial entry into GNL followed by our ACE luncheons and dinners where more in-depth learning can take place. Learning is what they are all about! However, they are only as good as your participation and we encourage you to not only look for these programs when they are announced in the fall, but to attend them too.

Additionally, one of the priorities that I discussed last month was that we are hoping to improve internal and external communications. This month’s Connection has an article that addresses how we are hoping to provide “Consistent and Clear Communication." Keep your eyes open for future announcements as we hope to make major changes in our external communication.

This month we are also adding a new section to the Connection: “News You Can Use.” Here we will list events in our area that you might want to attend that will help you learn of current non-political issues and how they may affect you and/or the community. As you know, GNL is impartial in our presentation of material and we will try this for a few months to see if it is of value and something you want as a member.
I look forward to working with all membership in making our 20th Anniversary year truly special.

![Signature]

**issues facing the community**

**Why We Want to be in GNL**

*by JR Philp, Class XVIII*

As we have mentioned in prior *Connections*, the season of 2015-16 marks 20 years of GNL providing exceptional opportunities for our members.

This month we are going to stress **LEARNING**: or gaining a unique insider’s perspective on the issues facing your community.

How?

Through the initial Masters Program---a series of 10 dynamic, interactive sessions where we:

- Meet with a wide range of policy makers, civic and nonprofit leaders, field-of-interest specialists to discuss pressing issue.
- Participate in behind-the-scenes tours and field trips to gain first-hand knowledge.
- Engage in spirited, off-the-record Q & A sessions.

As a Masters Program graduate, we continue to be inspired by an ongoing series of stimulating speaker luncheons, special meetings and in-depth sessions that keep us abreast of developments and emerging challenges.

**THE RESULT:** *In-depth knowledge and keen insights into our community through a dynamic, ongoing learning experience that simply cannot be duplicated.*
celebrating twenty years

GNL 20th Anniversary Update

*by Ann Berlam, Class VI*

As part of the GNL 20th anniversary celebration, the Task Force responsible for planning a variety of activities for the celebration is recommending that all GNL members be invited to participate in a “Done in a Day” project.

The goals of “Done in a Day” are to promote volunteer activities by GNL members to meet specific needs identified by various nonprofits in Collier County and to promote team building among classes and within GNL.

The dates of January 4 – 15, 2016 have been identified as the time frame for “Done in a Day” projects. More information will be available as the year progresses.

meet the board

Did You Know? An Interview With Jackie Pierce
Each month we are going to take one of our board members and “personalize” each by letting you know a few things that are not in their profiles.

Last month we got great reviews on Ed Boyer’s interview. This month, we are learning more about our President-elect, Jackie Pierce.

Give us a brief summary of your background, where you grew up, how you got to Naples, how long in GNL, etc.
I was born and raised in Hannibal, Missouri (so am a “student of Mark Twain-ism”); lived in downtown Chicago and Barrington for most of my adult life; now live on Marco Island . . . after 13 years on the other side of the state in Boca Raton (all because of docking a boat!) and was in GNL Master Class XVII--one of the “magnificent ones!”

Tell us one thing our members do not know about you.
One of my travel goals (and I have many) was to see the Great Wall of China during all four seasons (as so many of the paintings reflect the four seasons) . . . and I’ve done so! Though bitter cold, I must admit that winter was the most beautiful . . . absolutely amazing! Followed closely by spring, fall . . . and summer.
What was the last book you read?
I was cruising thru the Amazon in April/May so nothing too serious . . . it was the best seller, “The Girl on the Train.”

What one thing have you gotten out of GNL? Or, Why would you recommend GNL to someone that might want to join?
I would recommend GNL to anyone who wished to have a “crash course” on the many positive reasons for residing in the Greater Naples Area.

What is your view of the future of GNL, or how might we be a better organization?
First and foremost, I wish we were not such a “secret” and I would definitely like us to be better known and recognized for the outstanding leadership efforts of our GNL membership.

what's happening

GNL Communications Committee
by JR Philip Class XVIII

Have you noticed a new “look and feel” to the Connection? Our committee’s goal is “Consistent and Clear Communication” and if you missed the last GNL Connection, here’s what’s happening now:

- The primary communication is the monthly GNL Connection with fresh and timely news, short as well as in-depth articles and event calendar information. GNL committees will be highlighted each month, e.g., ACE, Community Service, etc. offering opportunities for involvement.
- Although we promise not to bombard you with too many emails, we will continue to use “email blasts” to communicate between Connections.
- We intend to include interviews with board members, as well as with many of YOU--the GNL member. Let us know what you expect from GNL communications and we will do our best to provide the information you want.
- A focus this year is external communications and a task force is developing a “press kit” and as part of that we expect an improved relationship with the media (press, tv, and radio) with the objective of increasing the community’s
awareness of GNL.

- Additionally, we are exploring use of social media, e.g., Facebook, as many members are using Facebook and we will use this as another way to be sure you remain connected to GNL.

We look for articles in the paper, on the web, etc., about GNL’ers, and we need your input. If you know of someone who should be mentioned either internally or externally, please let us know as we cannot be everywhere. Let’s use our alumni power of 500+ to stay connected.

Any article that you think is noteworthy can be sent to the gnlooffice@gnlwebsite.org or J R Philp, Communications Chair, at hireman@aol.com. We promise to be objective and timely as articles are sent our way and we are always open for suggestions.

social networking

GNL Summer Cocktail Party

by Karen Anderson, Class XV

Aside from the rain not dampening our spirits, the Summer Cocktail Party “rocked!” Seventy of us gathered on June 11 to celebrate summer in a delightful environment at Bette and John Aymar’s home in Pelican Marsh. They were gracious hosts, and we thank them. We could have partied all night, but alas, it had to end. The last of us waltzed out--reluctantly--by mid-evening.

It was a team event, thanks to some members of Class XVIII and others who helped with registration, coordinated parking and ensured fun for all; the attendees all brought food (and drink) to share with each other. It made it communal and “all for one, one for all.”

As this was an immediate “sell out” with a waiting list, the only down note were those who were missing--and many were. In any event, it’s great to know that so many of us want to be involved. Next time get your registration in early so that you too can be a part of the action.
Top Photo: front: Arline Shapiro, Karen Anderson, Bette Aymar, John Aymar; back: Dave Stewart, JR Philip Middle Left: Sandy Parker, Elliot Feinberg, Ed Boyer; Middle Right: Jim Gburek, Karen Gburek,
community service

The Volunteer Opportunity Program

by Pat Aiken-O’Neill, Class XIX

The Volunteer Opportunity Program (VOP) might just make you want to experience your Masters Class year all over again. Introduced as an adjunct pilot program for Class XIX, VOP offered Masters Class members places on boards, or the board operating committees, of participating organizations to experience volunteer service first hand.

Eileen Connolly-Keesler (Class XVIII) suggested the Volunteer Opportunity Program (originally called the “Board Opportunity Program”). It was modeled after a successful program Eileen introduced in Oskosh. After approval by the GNL Board, 2014 President Sheila Harris-Shultz personally managed the program during its inaugural year and arranged for 16 organizations to participate. Of the eight Masters Class XIX members who volunteered for the program, five plan to continue their involvement with their host organizations.

“ . . . Since I spoke Spanish it was determined that I could be very helpful interviewing families being considered for a Habitat house. It turned out to be a very rewarding experience . . .” Ellen Granger

“A very positive experience . . . I volunteered and served on the Finance Committee and the Audit Committee.” Larry Phillips

Based on this very successful outcome, President Ed Boyer tasked the Community Service Committee (CSC) with the implementation and administration of the program. CSC has expanded the program to 35 organizations and hopes that almost all members of Class XX will volunteer when they receive the list this summer.

VOP is a natural for GNL because it emphasizes GNL’s core mission of service.
out there making a difference

**GNL Members In The News**

**Jackie Faffer, GNL Class XVIII and President of JFCS, makes a difference!**

The Naples Senior Center and Jewish Family and Community Services (JFCS) were featured on the PBS News Hour on Friday, May 22. [Click Here](#) to get a better understanding of how some seniors are in trouble in paradise (Naples).

The PBS website also did a photo essay ([click here](#)) presenting a more in-depth look into the lives of the Naples Senior Center members featured in the story. As one member of the Naples Senior Center says, “Without them (JFCS) we would be starving."

After looking at these stories, YOU WILL FEEL GOOD about the difference Jackie and JFCS are making in the lives of the seniors they serve.

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**Jackie Pierce, Class XVII, Elected President of the Florida Association of Registered Parliamentarians**
At the annual FAP state convention held in Lake Mary, Florida on May 29-31, 2015, Jackie was elected their new president.

As a registered parliamentarian, Jackie is a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians and the American Institute of Parliamentarians. She belongs to the Port Charlotte, Florida Parliamentarian’s Unit and serves several region, state and local associations as its registered parliamentarian.

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**Patricia Aiken-O'Neill, Class XIX, Honored as "Woman of Vision"**

Patricia Aiken-O’Neill, Class XIX, was just honored by the Corneal Dystrophy Foundation (CDF) as a “Woman of Vision” at their annual Symposium. CDF promotes education about diseases of the cornea, a disease that is the leading cause of corneal blindness.

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**Fun Time Director, Franny Kain, Class XV, Honored**

At 9 a.m. on June 23, the Collier County Commissioners are making a proclamation honoring Franny Kain, Executive Director of Fun Time Early Childhood Academy, who is retiring this month.

Some of Franny’s many accomplishments in her nine years include:

- Moving Fun Time from a dilapidated double wide trailer to a new state-of-the-art schoolhouse;
- Increasing enrollment from 36 preschoolers in 2006 to a maximum of 84 in the new building;
- Receiving a perfect score from the National Accreditation Commission for Early Learning Leaders for achieving all quality markers and standards for
exceptional preschools.

Fun Time is celebrating 55 years in the River Park Community with a mission of providing safe, quality, affordable education and care for children of low income working families and to prepare the children for kindergarten, ready to read and ready to learn.

At least 14 GNLers are current or past board members, and each and every one will miss her. Thanks to Franny for such a great job!

Note: the Commission Chambers are located on the third floor of the Administration Building (F) at 3301 E. Tamiami Trail, Naples FL 34112

be in the know

News You Can Use

Note: this is a new section that will provide members with current events in our area and will only appear as we receive non-political articles of interest that might affect you and/or our community.

“Understanding Florida’s Government”
- The Renaissance Academy
by Carole Roberts, Class XIX

The Renaissance Academy of Florida Gulf Coast University is offering a valuable seminar, “Understanding Florida’s Government: A Primer for Collier County Voters.”

It will be held on Thursday, July 30, in the Naples Center (1010 Fifth Avenue, Naples) from 10 a.m. - noon. The seminar is free for Renaissance members and there is a nominal charge ($20) for non-members. Call 239-434-4737 to register.

Lecturer Sandy Parker, Class X, will explain "how Florida’s government works at the state, county, and city levels, and the backgrounds, responsibilities and terms of office of the elected officials who represent you. Whether you are a new or long-time Collier county resident, understanding Florida’s government will help you be a more informed voter."

Sandy will also present a similar lecture to GNL Masters Class XX at its February 18, 2016 Government Day.
save the date
Upcoming GNL Events

As you know, we try to plan events that members enjoy. Accordingly, please grab your calendars and make a note of the following GNL social events:

- November 3 - Welcome Back Cocktail Party
- November 9 - Combined Men’s & Women’s Reunions
- December 7 - Holiday Cocktail Party
- April 9 - 20th Anniversary Gala & Distinguished Leadership Award

Details and registration information will be found on the GNL website as available, and we encourage you to sign up early as most of these fill up quickly.

Published by the GNL Communications Committee, JR Philp, chair

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