



THE BRIDGE

BRIDGING GENERATIONS WITH AGELESS FRIENDSHIPS

Friends Across the Ages • Nursing Home Outreach in Gainesville, Florida

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STEVE & ALLISON BLAY

Directors' Message

Themes for the Future

The Friends Across the Ages Board of Directors and some other dedicated volunteers have recently conducted "appreciative interviews" with many nursing home residents and volunteers as part of our five year strategic planning process. The purpose of these interviews was to identify what to keep in the future of Friends, what to build on, and new ideas to incorporate.

Here are some of the themes from the Appreciative Interviews:

- *Seeing the whole person*
- *Friendship among equals*
- *New strategies for building presence*
- *Events designed to express residents' talents*
- *Shared leadership structure within Friends Across the Ages*

Two working groups have been formed to follow up on the practical implications of these and other themes from the interviews. We'll keep you posted as our plans unfold! Through the work of these dedicated people and the support of all of you, our dreams for "bridging generations with ageless friendship" will be realized more than ever over the next five years.

Fifth Annual Bingo-a-thon Goes Western!

Cowboys and cacti are not too common around Gainesville, but on Saturday, April 19, these and other tokens from the Wild West will be found all around town! The Fifth Annual Friends Across the Ages Bingo-a-thon will run from 2:15 to 3:30 p.m. at five area nursing homes. Volunteers and residents can put on their cowboy hats and try their luck at bingo together. And, as in past years, bingo will be followed up by a volunteer appreciation party from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Barr Systems courtyard, with free food for everyone and T-shirts for all volunteers.

What makes the Bingo-a-thon so special that it has happened five years in a row? The people who participate! The residents bring a lot of cheer and good sportsmanship to the bingo table, and they proudly wear their "gold" medals for weeks afterward. The volunteers—between 50 and 100



Agnes Bierbaum, Ruth Hazen and Dianne Walsh are chillin' out at the Bingo-a-thon 2007 wrap-up party.

of them—span all age groups, some in their 70s and 80s, and others not old enough to remember the year 2000.

Ena Schentrup, 8, has participated every year, which means she's been doing this since age 4. Her little brother Max, who is now 3, also has been doing this every year, which means he's been at it since birth! Their parents, Anne and Joe Schentrup, have been Bingo-a-thon coordinators all five years. It is this kind of dedication

Bingo-a-thon continues other side



GONE FISHIN' —
Janie Mae Dinkins (left, foreground) tries to hook the big one on a recent fishing outing to Hawthorne!

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: MOSES MCCRIMMAGER

Recorded by **Marcia-Lynn Fern**, Activities Director
Parklands Nursing and Rehab



Note: Mr. McCrimmager shared his story about integrating the work place in the 1960s with Marcia-Lynn Fern and the rest of the Parklands "Down Memory Lane" group on the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. The first part is told in the original words of Mr. McCrimmager.

"When I was a young man, our workplace was segregated. I had gone to school to be a certified welder, but

all the 'colored' folk, we worked as laborers, while the fellers that was white had the better paying jobs, and all the welders were white. All the talk about equal rights got me to thinking I'd like to be making more money in the trade I went to school for. So one day, I went to the supervisor and told him I was interested in being a welder too, and was certified to do the job. The supervisor told me, 'Mo, I wish I could help you, and I know you could do the job, but if I hired you to be a welder, all the white men would quit.'"

Moses was surprised when a few days later, the foreman called him at home and asked if he wanted a welding job. Moses told him what his supervisor said but that he still wanted the promotion. The foreman told him not to worry, that he'd handle the supervisor. The next day, Moses reported to work, welding vertical beams, and was soon followed by many other persons of color, opening their workplace to integration.

Bingo-a-thon

Continued from front page

that makes this event such a success.

The Bingo-a-thon started as a fundraiser for *Friends Across the Ages* but now is just purely for fun and friendship. It's a day for nursing home residents to feel special and know that they are loved. The *Friends* Board of Directors decided to start adding the concept of themed decorations and prizes last year with an "island" theme. This year's Western theme promises to be a lot of fun as well. We'll have cowboy hats, sheriff's badges and bandanas for everybody.

If you'd like to volunteer this year, hurry (don't mosey!) over to www.bingoathon.com to sign up! If you have questions, call cowpokes Steve and Allison at 352.381.1117 or email info@acrosstheages.org. This is sure to be the wildest bingo game this side of the Mississippi, so don't miss it!

Welcome New Volunteers

- ☛ TRAVIS MOUNTAIN AND TAYLOR VANDERARK AT PARKLANDS
- ☛ KIM AND ANDREW MITCHELL, LAUREN MUNOZ, AND ANDREW SCHNEIDER AT UNIVERSITY PLACE
- ☛ RACHEL MATTIO AND ROSA AJOY AT GAINESVILLE HEALTH CARE CENTER
- ☛ LISA NACKERS AT PARK MEADOWS
- ☛ KELLEY OFTEDAL AND KATIE KING AT PALM GARDEN

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