

Surviving Uri in a Retirement Community

PAUL HARTMAN

When we woke on that cold, dark Monday, February 15, in #3403 at Trinity Terrace, our downtown Fort Worth retirement community, my first thought was coffee. No electricity, ergo no coffee! Little did Becky and I know that, not only was there no electricity that morning, but there would be three days without electricity and all the amenities it makes possible especially heat, but also coffee.

We might have expired that first day except for a member of the maintenance staff I encountered in the hall. He had a coffee pot connected to an outlet providing emergency power in an electrical equipment closet. Noticing the near-death look in my eyes, he gave me two cups of truck-driver coffee I could sneak up to our apartment. We bundled up and, after exhausting the charge on both of our cell phones and iPads, spent the rest of the day reading books (I heartily recommend *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson) and magazines. We used miniature lamps to continue reading before taking our strained eyes to bed while wearing our clothes.

Lest you think we suffered too much, I must confess the temperature in our apartment never dropped below 52 degrees. We were fortunate in many other ways, too. From the very first day of the blackout the Trinity Terrace staff worked hard to take care of us. When the snow and ice came Sunday, many members of the maintenance and dining service staffs spent the night here. The next morning, they sent four-wheel drive vehicles to collect others plus the next shift of caregivers for the hospital and memory care floors.

On Monday the dining service sent sandwiches, chips, a fruit, and dessert to our doors at lunch and dinner. Tuesday they added a hot soup to the fare and the sandwiches were a gourmet version. By Wednesday the staff began delivering good nourishing meals delivered right to our door just as if the campus had power. Oh yes, there was coffee (Seattle's Best) in the Bistro by the second day.

Since moving to Trinity Terrace in April, 2018, there have been moments, not often but occasionally, when both Becky



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and I wondered if we had made this move too soon. Since that first dark day, when my thoughts have turned to our home in Meadows West, there's no more second guessing. I know I would have been in panic mode all that painful week had we still lived there. I would have worried constantly about a broken pipe leaking in an upstairs bath,

plunging sink, tub and all into the living room. Or I would have lain sleepless wondering whether one of those 16-years old, \$7,000 heat units would go south, the pool filter might freeze up, or any number of potential calamities.

Becky and I know we are a very fortunate couple. In gratitude we will do our part to support organizations trying to help those who have suffered so much. Meanwhile we will hope Texas politicians who ignored the lessons of 2011 may learn from Winter Storm Uri.

**THE WINDING ROAD TO NORMALCY**

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

**LINDA MOORE**

Happy Valentine's Day. This is where this newsletter began. It started as the March newsletter as I was looking out my window at the snow of the worst winter storm in Texas history. Then we realized that we couldn't pull it off. During this historical year with political events, climate change of movie proportions here, and closing of TCU for other than COVID, I was thankful every day that I am retired and not going to work in the March cold. Even old Yankees appreciate a warm Texas. I hope you all stayed warm, cursing Punxsutawney Phil, and are now ready for a more hopeful spring. By the time you get this newsletter, we should be awash in spring weather, baseball, tennis and best of all, vaccinations.

There is little to share on the TCU side. Vaccine has come to TCU so many folks have received shots since February 27 and they will be vaccinating in larger numbers as they get the doses. We are eligible to join the list but there are no guarantees at this point that retirees are included. Watch the notices in TCU This Week for more information.

We had a significant increase in retirees this past year and so far have seen many folks enthusiastic about

joining us if and when we get together again. As I said last month, some of these retirements are a result of budget cutting options allowing employees to take early or less scheduled retirements. Speaking of budget cuts, UCAC met twice on Zoom and had several email discussions regarding our recommendations for merit and other compensation increases. According to some communication, no merit increases were approved. UCAC recommendations were basically ignored although there has been no communication about that as of March.

The saddest news you heard about in our special newsletter. Tracy Thompson, our rock and information system regarding all things retirement died unexpectedly on February 26. There was a moving virtual memorial at the Frog Fountain with candles reflecting comments made about Tracy. Over 100 candles were placed around the fountain and I'm proud that retirees were represented among those. We had good things to say. Tracy's funeral at University Baptist Church was also available online and was a joyful, touching, and personal reflection of the terrific person she was. I laughed. I cried. And I remembered all she did for us as we went through the personal journeys of retiring without losing our minds

Another tidbit of change includes our Board member

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HEADLINES OF INTEREST

KEY TCU NEWS TO KEEP YOU INFORMED



NEW EDITION OF ENDEAVORS - TCU'S RESEARCH MAGAZINE - NOW LIVE

Now available online, the latest issue of Endeavors highlights a cross section of the ambitious academic research and scholastic inquiry happening throughout the TCU community. The 2021 issue spotlights the ways Horned Frogs are utilizing big data, TCU's own emerging experts in health care communications, the Texas roots of populist ideology, anti-oppressive systems in public education, the resilience of human trafficking survivors and much more.

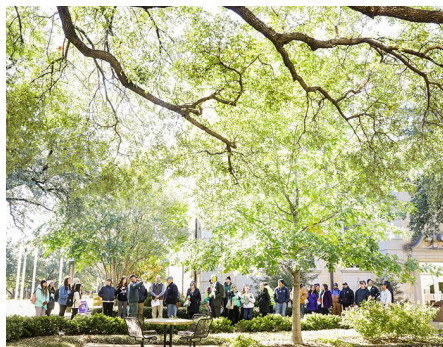
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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE'S CHAIR OF INTERNAL MEDICINE EXPLAINS CDC GUIDELINES FOR THE VACCINATED

TCU and UNTHSC School of Medicine's Dr. Mohanakrishnan Sathyamoorthy, professor and chair, internal medicine, visited with Fox 4 and explained how behaviors can change for those who have received the full vaccination against COVID-19. He told the news outlet that he sees three major takeaways from the recent guidance given by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

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FOR FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR, TCU IS RECOGNIZED FOR CAMPUS TREES

Just in time for spring, TCU was designated a 2020 Tree Campus Higher Learning. This is the fifth year the campus has received such a recognition. Awarded by the Arbor Day Foundation, the program was previously called Tree Campus USA. The designation - obtained through the work of TCU's Campus Tree Advisory Committee - demonstrates the university's commitment to effectively manage trees, develop connectivity with communities beyond campus to foster urban forests and engage students in service-learning opportunities centered on forestry efforts.

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TCU ENERGY INSTITUTE MOVES TO NEELEY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

The TCU Energy Institute, a vital resource for students, faculty and professionals for more than a decade, is transitioning from the College of Science & Engineering to the Neeley School of Business. Administration of the energy certificate, energy minor, scholarships and internships will move to the Neeley School. The CSE will provide expertise in geology, environmental sciences and engineering. Ann Bluntzer, associate professor of professional practice in management and leadership will serve as the institute's acting director. Dr. Bluntzer is program director for the TCU Energy MBA and has served on the TCU Energy Institute board since 2013. She has taught Geopolitics of Energy, Energy in the 21st Century, and Renewable Energy Viability at the Neeley School for the past eight years.

[CLICK FOR MORE...](#)

THE WINDING ROAD TO NORMALCY

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and wellness chair Andy Fort. He has moved to Denver to be more of a full-time grandfather, something he is pretty excited about as seen by his Facebook posts. He will still be

available for conversation and emails so all is not lost. I remember early in our tenure as faculty when Andy scheduled his teaching and service responsibilities around his children so he could pick them up after school and be with them. It was a highlight of my work at TCU for social justice and equality. So it makes sense that his focus continues to the next

generation. Way to go Andy!

So welcome to spring. I hope you all get vaccinated soon as I will be. We are in the thinking stages of how to come together again so will keep you posted about any possibilities and options. Go Frogs and congratulations to our National Champion air rifle team. I can't wait to see you folks soon.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SHARED BY SUZANNE HUFFMAN

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the much older lady that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags are not good for the environment.

The woman apologized to the young girl and explained, "We didn't have this 'green thing' back in my earlier days."

The young clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

The older lady said that she was right - our generation didn't have the "green thing" in its day. The older lady went on to explain: Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles, and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. But we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags that we reused for numerous things. Most memorable besides household

garbage bags was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our school books. This was to ensure that public property (the books provided for our use by the school) was not defaced by our scribbles. Then we were able to personalize our books on the brown paper bags. But, too bad we didn't do the "green thing" back then.

We walked upstairs because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. But she was right. We didn't have the "green thing" in our day.

Back then we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up

220 volts. Wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that young lady is right; we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

But isn't it sad that the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the "green thing" back then?



ADVOCATING FOR SELF FOR COVID-19 VACCINE PROTECTION

BY CAROLYN SPENCE CAGLE PHD, RNC-E

Multiple news sources and governmental agencies urge current vaccination of older persons and those with certain chronic illnesses who face increased illness and death from COVID-19. Persons age 65+ compose 80% of COVID deaths. As of February 10, 2021, U.S. COVID deaths number 450,000+ persons, and over 32M+ persons have received at least one dose of two recently approved vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) to prevent severe coronavirus illness. The new presidential administration promises to “ramp up” vaccination

access for all Americans who lack current vaccination. Recent reports document the urgent need to impose “old school” strategies to reach older persons who may lack internet, computer comfort, or smartphone literacy (only 59% of those over age 65 have home broadband). Such digital communication, used in many communities (including mine) to inform persons about vaccine sign-up and delivery of vaccine doses, but may not work for older persons.

In reality, all of us will benefit from working together in multiple ways to inform people about needed

vaccine access. More vaccinated people will minimize viral mutations and allow us to exit a pandemic that has changed our lives for the past year.

References:

Nash, S. (January 29, 2021), *OPINION: Go old school with the COVID-19 vaccine rollout for older adults*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nextavenue.org/opinion-go-old-school-with-the-COVID-19-vaccine>.

Abramson, A. & Bennett, B. (February 1-8, 2021). *Crisis mode: Inside Joe Biden's Agenda for His First 100 days*. *Time*, 197(3-4), pp. 33-37.

HOW TO INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF OBTAINING A COVID VACCINE (IF YOU CHOOSE TO RECEIVE ONE):

- **Safely connect to your neighbors and family to gain information about vaccination opportunities;** I made it my job to inform all my neighbors about our local health department's vaccine sign up and, 3 weeks later, we've all received our first vaccine dose.
- **Connect to people who know the local community** (churches, schools, healthcare systems and providers, senior citizen centers) and follow community COVID precautions to find information about local vaccine clinic plans.
- **Work with local businesses to advocate for signage and uncover vaccination opportunities;** grocery stores can post flyers about those or develop insets about the vaccine and COVID to place in patron groceries; Meals on Wheels can also provide such information; banks can run vaccine clinic messages on their e-signs.
- **Ask for help to sign up** at your local health department, healthcare system, pharmacy, senior citizen center, and places where a vaccine “roll-out” will happen; our local health department was 1 of 4 places where we signed up and where we received our first shot.
- **Volunteer at a vaccine clinic for an organized event;** diverse skilled people can help and receive a vaccine as “payback” for their valuable service!
- **Listen to the local tv news and radio and read the local newspaper** for vaccination site information
- **Safely work to market vaccine truth in your community** by posting flyers, calling homebound persons, posting road signs, etc. to inform older persons about vaccine sign-up and clinics
- **Persist in conversations with informed vaccinators** to advocate for vaccine access!



MISSION STATEMENT

The TCU Retirees' Association exists to provide opportunities for fellowship, to promote lifelong learning, to advocate for fair benefits, to recognize the accomplishments of its members, and to strengthen the relationship between the retirees and the University.

In Memoriam

Tracy Thompson
Human Resources
Liaison with TCURA
February 26

Dave Cravens
Professor of Marketing
February 28

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IN THEIR OWN WORDS: FORGOTTEN WOMEN PILOTS OF EARLY AVIATION

LATEST BOOK BY FRED ERISMAN

Amelia Earhart's prominence in American aviation during the 1930s obscures a crucial point: she was but one of a closely knit community of women pilots. Although the women were well known in the profession and widely publicized in the press at the time, they are largely overlooked today. Like Earhart, they wrote extensively about aviation and women's causes, producing an absorbing record of the life of women fliers during the emergence and peak of the Golden Age of Aviation (1925–1940). Earhart and her contemporaries, however, were only the most recent in a long line of women pilots whose activities reached back to the earliest days of aviation. These women, too, wrote about aviation, speaking out for new and progressive technology and its potential for the advancement of the status of women. With those of their more recent counterparts, their writings form a long, sustained text that documents the maturation of the airplane, aviation, and women's growing desire for equality in American society.

In Their Own Words takes up the writings of eight women pilots as evidence of the ties between the growth of American aviation and the changing role of women. Harriet Quimby (1875–1912), Ruth Law (1887–1970), and the sisters Katherine and Marjorie Stinson (1893–1977; 1896–1975) came to prominence in the years between the Wright brothers and World War I. Earhart (1897–1937),

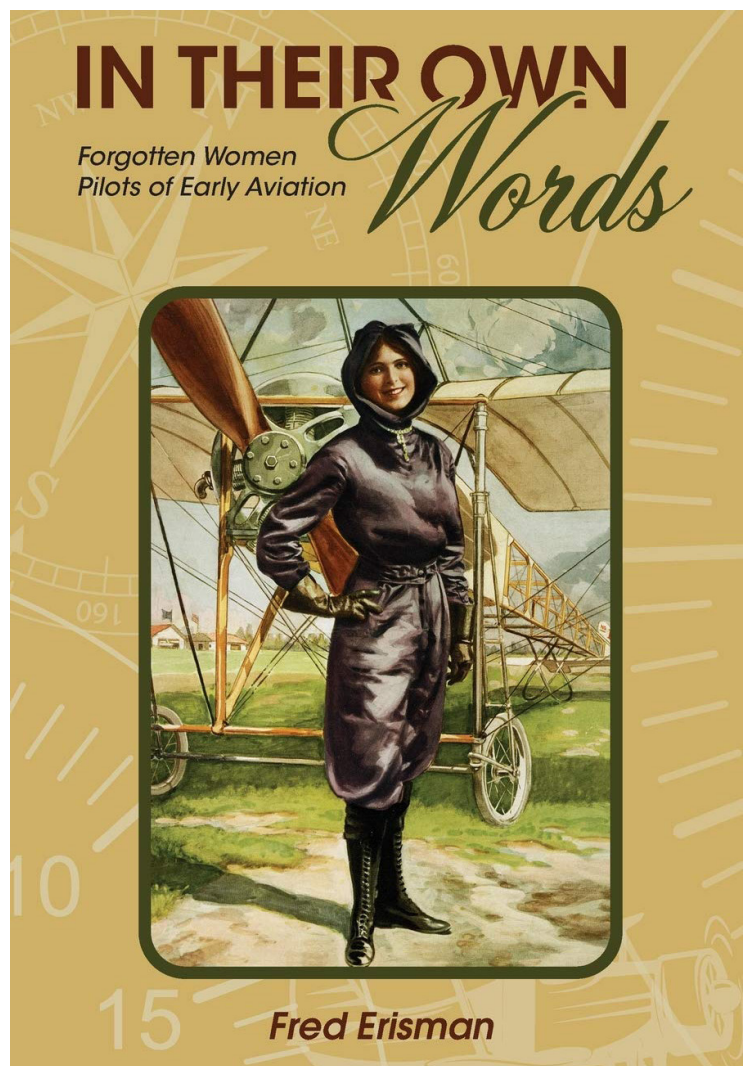
Louise Thaden (1905–1979), and Ruth Nichols (1901–1960) were the voices of women in aviation during the Golden Age of Aviation. Anne Morrow Lindbergh (1906–2001), the only one of the eight who legitimately can be called an artist, bridges the time from her husband's 1927 flight through the World War II years and the coming of the Space Age. Each of them confronts issues relating to the developing technology and possibilities of aviation. Each speaks to the importance of assimilating aviation into daily life. Each details the part that women might—and should—play in advancing aviation. Each talks about how aviation may enhance women's participation in contemporary American society, making their works significant documents in the history of American culture.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

FRED ERISMAN is the Lorraine Sherley Professor of Literature Emeritus at TCU. A specialist in American cultural history, he holds a PhD in American studies from the University of Minnesota. His works include studies of aviation materials, children's literature, science fiction, detective and suspense fiction, and the American West.

If you would like to purchase Mr. Erisman's latest title, you can receive 30% off retail price when you order directly from Purdue University Press and use discount code PURDUE30. E-book and hard copy available.

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TCU PLANNING FOR IN-PERSON, ON-CAMPUS EXPERIENCE FALL 2021

TCU NEWS

After a pandemic year that has tested the grit, resilience and innovation of Horned Frogs, Chancellor Victor J. Boschini, Jr., announced that the university is planning for an in-person, on-campus experience for fall 2021.

“Because of continued vigilance with our health and safety measures, COVID case count remains low on campus and within our community. The pandemic has taught us to stay flexible, remain humble and to be prepared for changes in guidance. We proved that prioritizing health and safety as part of the Connected Campus experience can be done,” Chancellor Boschini said.

The university will utilize its full schedule, Monday through Friday, to achieve an on-campus experience with nearly all classes in-person. Space limitations and classroom structure mean only a small number of classes will be held online. At this time, TCU plans to continue to observe social distancing protocols and other prevention measures.

TCU’s decision for a full on-campus experience was made in collaboration with the Campus Readiness Task Force and TCU’s Public Health Group, the same teams who led the university’s planning and safety precautions for the past year. The university will continue to

closely monitor conditions across the country, as well as the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“Healthy decisions now will put us in a better position as we complete spring and enter summer,” Chancellor Boschini continued. “Our faculty, staff and students are actively part of the solution; we know of at least 1,600 TCU faculty, staff and students who have been vaccinated, and that number is growing every day.”

TCU will share more details as plans develop regarding student events, athletics and academic activities, including study abroad.

