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In This Issue

- Editorial Howdy from Texas
- Friends Board Update
- The Good Times Rolled in New Orleans
- Meet Your Neighbor on a Friends Trip
- The Art of Downsizing, Part 1
- You Can Still Order Our New Pins!
- You Might Like to Read...
- Flexible Grandkid Holidays
- A Thank-you from Marian Tompson

Welcome, Sue Ann Kendall!

Here's your newest Continuum, chock full of New Orleans trip memories and news. Hope you enjoy it!

Welcome, Sue Ann Kendall!

Keep Up With Us

- Facebook
- Website

Friends of La Leche League Board:

Anne Hutton
Edna Kelly
Sue Ann Kendall
Gail Moak

Call for Articles
Editorial: Howdy from Texas
Hey, Friends! I thought I’d get off my horse and share all the Friends of LLL news. I’m still processing all the fun and learning that went on last month on the Friends of LLL trip to New Orleans.

We decided to focus this final issue of 2019 on sharing stories and pictures from the trip. It will be a souvenir for some and provide a real taste of our fun for those of you unable to join us.

Our fondest dream is that even MORE of us can get together in 2021.

Of course, we can't resist sneaking in a few other articles, especially since it’s time for all the end-of-year holidays.

The best gift we could receive would be for you to encourage your friends to become members, too. Share our membership page with your friends and let them know that you enjoy hearing from us four times a year.

We've had some great suggestions for Continuum and are putting together a top-notch team of contributors. We plan to make your newsletter better and better.

Your editorial friend, Sue Ann Kendall
Chris Newlon and Terry Jordan cemented their friendship in New Orleans.

Friends Board Update
Dear Sue Ann,

It’s a fact — the New Orleans gathering filled my cup to overflowing. Thank you to the 59 friends, and friend’s friends, who made it such a special time. I look forward to 2021 wherever it might be. Maybe Chicago or Austin, TX or Portland, OR or Tucson, AZ? Where would you like to go in 2021?

After much deliberation and investigation, a web designer is being engaged to update our website. The site will be linked to Ilili.org. La Leche League International is happy to coordinate with the Friends on this and other projects.

The Friends had a productive year in 2019 making a difference in the world as we expanded our reach beyond LLL Alumnae. Memberships from anyone who wants to support the LLL community are always welcome.

Continuum is beautiful, interesting, entertaining and timely! While a print edition would be nice too, financial and time concerns make the online version much more practical. I hope you take time to enjoy it. Past issues are available here.

Our mini-grants continue to make a real difference in the lives of mothers, babies and Leaders. I’m proud to announce a second cycle of Mini-grants available in 2020. Our “We Remember” program is the only recognition of Leaders who have died. Leader pins are a beautiful, reasonably priced way to recognize years of service. Our new Friends pin celebrating A Lifelong Connection makes a lovely gift for your LLL family and friends.

I’m so glad you are one of my Friends. La Leche League has meant the world to me and my family and I’m forever grateful. Friends keeps me connected to the LLL community.

With warm regards,
Edna Kelly, President

Keep Your Membership Going and Encourage Others!

You can help us greatly by sharing our membership link on social media or however you keep in touch with your friends whose membership may have lapsed or who might want to join us. And if your membership is expiring, update it now:

Sue Ann Kendall, your membership expiration date is 11/12/2020.
Edna Kelly, Friends Board President, and Evy Simon, this year's trip coordinator, share a light-hearted moment as our New Orleans trip gets underway at Deanie's restaurant.

The Good Times Rolled in New Orleans
Around 60 Friends of La Leche League, plus a few family members descended upon the French Quarter in New Orleans from November 7-11, and a good time (bon temp) was enjoyed by all. While we had lots and lots of planned activities, we also scheduled in free time, so that the more energetic among us could choose our own adventures, while others were free to rest, relax, and catch up with friends.

It was my first Friends trip, so I'll share some of my impressions. First, the hotel we stayed at, the Astor Crowne Plaza, was really interesting and beautiful. It was really two hotels combined, which made it a lot of fun to navigate!
On Thursday, I helped set up, then had a lot of fun meeting people as we checked in. Then we all headed to Deanie’s, a beautiful old place where they set up a room just for us. We all wore crowns and beads as we ate a family-style meal. It was a short walk from the hotel, which made getting back part of the fun.

Friday is when the fun really got going! Whoever had the idea to take a bus tour around New Orleans as our first activity was a genius (Evy? Carroll?). We all really enjoyed our
drivers' commentary, and the chance to see the whole city gave us a chance to see things we might want to return to later on the trip.

We got to get off the bus a few times, and who's to say what was more fun, a chance to explore an old New Orleans cemetery or eating beignets at the Cafe du Monde in the beautiful city park? I liked BOTH. The photos below show beignets being made, a row of tombs, and a random tree strung with jellyfish. We saw all sorts of things out the windows (in fact, I saw a wookie, but didn't get a good photo).
After the bus tour, we took a very short walk to the historic Court of Two Sisters restaurant. It was a great introduction to New Orleans architecture and music, both, since there was a jazz combo playing during our buffet meal. All the food was lovely, but I must note that the bread pudding was most popular. In fact, I'd say that was true of many of the places we ate. It was like a tour of bread pudding recipes, each with its own charm.

The excitement in the room rose when Marian Tompson and her daughter arrived. In fact, one of the musicians asked me who that woman was, thinking Marian was a celebrity. I said, she’s famous to us!
Right across from the Court of Two Sisters is a hidden gem of the city, the Williams Residence, which is part of the New Orleans Historic Collection. We were privileged to have a docent-led tour of this home, which preserves the lifestyle in the French Quarter once people started renovating the buildings after years of disuse. The courtyards, elegant "morning room" and entertaining areas have been meticulously maintained, and we learned a lot about the Williams family and their contributions to preserving the historic architecture of this unique city.
After all this excitement, we got some downtime, and then got to explore the French Quarter for dinner. My group went to the Redfish Grill, right across the street from our hotel. I was happy to see that my beautiful redfish was served on a bed of roasted vegetables. They were so good that I had to come back later on the visit, after the Board meeting!
I ate my food too fast to get a photo, but here's the pretty ceiling in the Redfish Grill!
Want to read more about our trip and see more photos? There will be lots more in the next Continuum, with, as they say, "The rest of the story."

Eight members of the Power-Surge group, which formed as an email list back when La Leche League first went high-tech, attended the New Orleans trip. Top row, left to right: Susan Mocsny Thomas, Kathie Zettervall, Carroll Beckham, and Nancy Sherwood. Bottom row, left to right: Sue Ann Kendall, Linda Parry, Ann Calandro, and Joan Crothers.
Meet Your Neighbor on a Friends of LLL Trip

You just never know when you'll run into your neighbors. In this case, lunch at the Court of Two Sisters proved to be a way for neighbors in Oswego, Oregon to meet each other.

While having lunch, table-mates were talking about where they came from, what they did, etc. In addition to learning about her running hobby, Terry Jordan shared that she lived in Oswego. Someone said how odd it was that she'd just been talking to someone at another table who said she was from there.

Terry just had to go over to see this fellow La Leche League volunteer, and was directed to the right lunch table. The two of them began talking, and it soon became clear that not only did Agnes Rapp Leistico live in the same town as her, but they were actually neighbors.
Since the trip, the two of them have visited and shown each other their favorite haunts. The photo above shows them on their visit in mid-December. What a great way to keep trip memories alive and make new friends!

The Art of Downsizing, Part 1

by Barbara Parker

For almost two years, I have been working on downsizing in preparation for moving into a retirement apartment, balancing the ‘all deliberate speed’ preference I have in making decisions with the ‘keep it just in case’ preference of my husband. Now that our house is sold (while I was in New Orleans!) and the move is in sight (end of January), I can share a few things that have worked for us so far. I’ll share more in the next issue of Continuum.

1. Clothes closet: hang all your clothes with the hangers facing backward. As you use them, return them to your closet with the hangers facing forward. After a few months (season? year?) it will be clear what you use and what you don’t. Box up all the clothes with hangers still facing backward and pass them on to a charity. If you REALLY don’t want to take the final step yet, put the box in a back room, attic, basement, etc., for six months. If you STILL haven’t used them, it’s time for them to find another home. Assess how you dress at this stage of life. After I retired from employment, I didn’t need all the “business casual” outfits in my closet, and they have gradually disappeared from my closet. Now I usually wear jeans.
How about you? Have you lost or gained weight and are hanging on to things in your former size, just in case? If it has been years since you needed them, it is time to let those items go. Allow yourself a few exceptions: clothes for special occasions like weddings, funerals or sentimental value…but not more than a few!

2. **Books**: my husband REALLY doesn’t like to let go of books and we have a LOT…many purchased for a few dollars at thrift stores. The strategy that has worked for us is for ME to gather all the books I think we don’t need to hang onto anymore and stack them on our dining table. Then he gets to look at them and “rescue” those he thinks I mistakenly included. Usually about 100 books are stacked on the table, and he rescues about half a dozen. Those that remain get boxed up and taken to the public library main office for the next library sale.

A variation: he LOVES certain detective/mystery books and even if he has read them doesn’t want to let them go, since he might want to read them again (never mind their availability in the library)! He has agreed to box them up and keep them in a back room (see above) to decide on later. I hope he will agree that if he hasn’t wanted them to read in the last couple years, it’s time for someone else to enjoy them. Maybe donation to a “little free library”?
3. **Old magazines and other treasured stuff you no longer use:** How often have you actually read back issues of magazines you've saved (with the possible exception of car buying issues of *Consumer Reports*)? If there are particular topics that would be of interest to members of a club or organization (woodworkers, design, knitting, etc.) find a local group and offer your “treasured volumes” to them. My retired physicist husband felt good about passing along his professional journals to physics grad students.

Otherwise, paper can be recycled. Do IT! I felt good about passing along a pregnant/breastfeeding doll I ordered from Sweden YEARS ago to Katy Lebbing, who will market it to interested people, using the proceeds to help defray expenses to repair the breastfeeding dolls she recently uncovered.
4. If you are moving to a smaller space, calculate how many square feet of space you will have and what percent of your current possessions will fit, and begin thinking of what favorite things you MUST have. We knew our space - thus our possessions - would be cut in half, so I made a list in the middle of a sheet of paper of what furniture, tables, lamps, carpet/rugs, and such each room had in it and put my initial on one side of the page and my husband's initial on the other side. Then we went through each room and checked off which items we each wanted to take. To my surprise, we agreed on everything except which of two love seats and which of two occasional tables we wanted to take. That was easier than we anticipated. Not so much on the voluminous other stuff in our house!
5. One structured way to **decide on what to “re-home”** is to pick a definite time (for us it was Lent, it could be Advent or a certain month) and agree to select one item each day to donate. You’ll be surprised how much has accumulated at the end of that time, because of the discipline imposed by the time agreement. Note: I used that agreement to get rid of whole categories of some small things like pantyhose, cotton balls, etc., while I had to remind my husband that he hadn’t selected anything for several days and needed to “catch up.” We both agreed that we felt much “freer” after this experience. Another way to use structured time, is to pick a specific spot (kitchen drawer, bathroom shelves, etc.), set a timer and “have at it” for the period you’ve chosen.

**Look for Part 2 in our next issue!**
The Friends of La Leche League Board, the New Orleans trip committee, and Marian Tompson after enjoying a ride on the steamboat Natchez. From left to right: Sue Ann Kendall, Edna Kelly, Kathy Parkes, Janet Jendron, Carroll Beckham, Gail Moak. Seated: Marian Tompson and Evy Simon.

You Can Still Order Our New Pins!

We recently gave each attendee at the New Orleans trip one of our new Friends of La Leche League pins, which feature our logo and our motto, "A Lifelong Connection." We still have plenty left, so you can have one of your own, or one to give as gifts. Order today!

The Friends of La Leche League are still your source for Leader recognition pins. These make great gifts for all occasions and are treasured by long-time Leaders. Pins are available for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, or 50 years of active Leader service to La Leche League, as well as pins without a year designation.

1-9 pins are $6.00 each.
10-25 pins are $5.00 each.
26 or more pins are $4.00 each.

Order at the link above!
Rebecca Magalhães celebrated her 80th birthday with a surprise visit from many of her former LLLI colleagues and friends. What a beautiful sight (and site!).

You Might Like to Read...

by Mary Gisch

*Where the Crawdads Sing*, 2018, by Delia Owens, is a novel poetically written about Kya, a six-year-old girl abandoned in the swamp areas of North Carolina’s coast. With help from friends she comes to learn and love the
swamp creatures.

My American Dream, 2019, is the delightful biography of Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, who gives vivid descriptions of her life in Yugoslavia and America. Her love of cooking has carried her far! Have you watched her Cooking Shows?

Long Road to Mercy, 2018, by David Baldacci, features Atlee Pine, who is an FBI Agent assigned to the Grand Canyon, Arizona. She has to solve the intriguing mystery of a dead mule found with two letters carved in its hide.

The Last Year of the War, 2019, by Susan Meissner, tells the story of Elise and her German-born parents, who meet Mariko and her Japanese-born parents in an American Internment Camp. In exchange for captured soldiers, the families are sent “home,” which they left many years ago. Stirring novel!
Melissa Vickers and her grandchildren

Flexible Grandkid Holidays

by Melissa Clark Vickers

For those of us with grandkids, major holidays bring thoughts of good times with family, good food—with lots of help preparing it—and the stress that comes with trying to schedule all these good memories around a growing list of work and other family obligations. I decided years ago when my kids first got married that having everybody here was far more important than ensuring that everybody was here on a particular day on a calendar. That meant not competing with in-law plans, and not making my kids choose which house to spend the day at.

It’s only gotten further complicated now that we have five grandkids, three of whom live
two hours away, and the other two live 12 hours away—and those grandkids each have another set of doting grandparents to visit as well. Throw in work schedules for three of the four, plus my work schedule, and up until a couple of months ago till he retired, my husband’s work schedule, it’s a challenge to find any date that works for everybody.

It’s not just about schedules either—by scheduling holidays like this it allows my kids to establish their own traditions. My daughter loves to have Christmas Day at her house for that magic that happens when little kids wake up to surprises left under the tree. Christmas with Grandma and Grandpa can wait.

Most of the last 12 years Christmas fell on some other day than December 25th. And Thanksgiving could happen on that Thursday, or Friday, or even Saturday. And that’s fine with me. Any day that I get all my kids, their spouses, and the grandkids together is a holiday. For those rare years that something else determines that the holiday has to fall on “the day,” then I don’t feel bad about asking all the in-laws to accommodate our schedule.

So this year, we celebrated Thanksgiving on Friday, and we’ll celebrate Christmas on December 29—with everybody. And that’s just one more reason to celebrate!
We celebrated Marian Tompson’s 90th birthday a little early at the New Orleans trip. She didn’t mind one bit! Here, Edna Kelly and Janet Jendron look on as Marian attacks the past, present and future candles.

A Thank-you from Marian Tompson

by Marian Tompson

While I can’t exactly remember when, because of the generous donations of members, the Alums started offering all-expense-paid invitations to the Founders to attend their biannual excursions. I think I’ve been to all of them.

But this year was different, when the Friends also offered to cover transportation and registration for a traveling companion for me, which made it possible for my daughter,
Sheila, to come along. We both enjoyed every minute of the trip, including the surprise birthday party and even conversations in the airport when our flight was delayed.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, for a weekend spent in a fascinating city with some of the nicest ladies in the world!

Marian and her amazing daughter Sheila Doucet, who lives in New York.
Member Update: Bernice Silver Rothman

[We would like to include one or two member updates in Continuum each quarter. We would love to include yours! Please make them less than 500 words, and send along a photo of yourself for our readers to enjoy. Send your updates to Sue Ann at suna@hermithaus.com. We hope you enjoy hearing from long-time Leader, Bernice Rothman.]

Well, hello there.

I’m Bernice Silver Rothman, and I joined LLL in 1960 when I was expecting my #1. It changed my life.

I went from being an only child to mothering 5, going to several conventions, editing the Ohio newsletter before there was a magazine out of Franklin Park, was editor under Mary White of all the state newsletters east of the Mississippi, and being active for many, many years.

Having some walking issues now I really don’t travel anymore. My husband and I had a camper for many years so got lots of travelling then, and also went on several Elderhostels (now Road Scholar). Anyway, here I am still in Cleveland, OH.

I’m probably one of the oldest ones left. Cleveland had the first group after Franklin Park, and there are still a few of us here. We stay in touch and go to 90th birthday parties! (I’m only 83 and still have my wits about me.)

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On Parenting Adult Children
Parenting adult children, especially when they become parents, is a sticky issue, I’ve found.

When my daughter was pregnant, I asked a longtime friend for advice. She told me to, “buy a roll of duct tape and cut it into mouth-sized pieces.”

Beverly Femino is at right, attending a Virginia Area Conference in 1989. With her are Mary Renard and Patsy Leininger. Photo courtesy of Nancy Sherwood.

**Remembering Beverly Femino**
by Nancy Sherwood

In November 2019, I attended the Friends of LLL New Orleans trip. This was my third trip with this group.

An important part of this event is the "We Remember" ceremony (see article below). We read a prayer together and the names of the LLL Leaders who have died in the last year, or whose names have recently been added to the list and were not read at a prior ceremony.

While looking through the list I saw the name "Beverly Femino." Beverly lived in Virginia and that's where I'd known her. She died over a year ago, but I didn't know it. A mutual friend said that she thought that I knew. Maybe I forgot? I cried when I saw that name. Beverly and I knew each other for over 30 years.

Beverly and I led a workshop at an Area Conference entitled, "Saying goodbye to babies; how do you know when you are done having babies?" Beverly took the position that she knew that her two sons were enough, and she and her husband had no doubt that their family was complete with their two sons. I had four children at that point and was not ready to say I was done.

We went overseas, and were on home leave in time for me to attend another conference. I walked into the workshop that Beverly was leading. I was clearly pregnant, and Beverly laughed and told the group about the joint session we had done.

I took the exam to become an IBCLC (International Board Certified lactation Consultant) in 1993 and became a Lactation Consultant that year. Beverly took the exam the following year. Neither of us had the money to purchase the forms we needed to have our own business. So, we ordered all of the forms together, and split the charges and the materials. We placed advertisements in newsletters for parents. Since we practiced in different areas of Virginia, we shared ads listing the areas we each covered.
I will always remember Beverly for her brilliant red hair that faded over the years. I remember her ready smile and wonderful hugs.

Even though I have not seen her in years, I am sad knowing that I will never see her again.

My La Leche League sisters are the most wonderful people and friends I have.

Bev, love ya girl. May we meet again.
Nancy Sherwood brought her sister, Carol, to the New Orleans trip.

We Remember: A Friends of La Leche League Tradition

by Janet Jendron

“So as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.”

“We Remember” is a tradition started by the Friends of La Leche League in 2001. We pay tribute to Leaders who have died.

Throughout the history of La Leche League, we have connected to each other on a deep level across countries and cultures. Part of our mission as Friends of LLL is to keep connections strong as we remember and appreciate those who have died.

Leaders’ names are recorded in calligraphy in the “We Remember” album by Susan Mocsny Thomas and posted on the Friends of LLL We Remember page. We also have a special event at each Friends of LLL trip, this year in New Orleans November 7-11. Help us keep an updated list of deceased Leaders’ names by completing the online form, or by emailing Janet Jendron the Leader’s name, year of death, and state/country where Leader was active. When possible, include an obituary link.

For the year 2019, we have heard of the passing of these Leaders:

Renate Margarete Ahlers Koening ~ Mexico
Shoshana Creshkof ~ Ifran ~ Israel
Martha Collier ~ Alabama
Sherryl Dombeck ~ Illinois
Kathy Glucksman ~ Connecticut
The We Remember ceremony in New Orleans was led by Joan Crothers, Janet Jendron, Marian Tompson, and Susan Mocsny Thomas. It was very moving to hear all the names of Leaders who passed on in the past two years.
Tributes

These are the tributes to Leaders and friends of La Leche League that are current. Want to honor someone with a tribute? Use these instructions and form to submit them.

4/10/2016 Five-year tribute from Barbara Sasser, Galveston, Texas USA, to honor Kathy Grossman, Moab, Utah USA.
"Kathy has given much to LLLI as a Leader and editor of many LLL publications."

9/10/2019 One-year tribute from Karen Berg, Eugene, Oregon USA, to honor Kathleen Glucksman, deceased on August 1, 2019.
"In memory of Kathy Glucksman, Tolland, Connecticut, who devoted her life to helping mothers."

8/16/2019 One-year tribute from Judie Gubala, Rocky Hill, Connecticut USA, to honor Kathleen Glucksman, deceased on August 1, 2019.
"Dear friend, fellow IBCLC/RN, chased CA for 12 years."

8/14/2019 One-year tribute from Elizabeth P. Connelly, Houston, Texas USA, to honor Edna Kelly, of Houston, Texas USA.
"Her volunteer time with LLL changed my life for better."

8/5/2019 One-year tribute from Gloria Glidewell (Cotney), Tampa, Florida USA, to honor Freddie Furnas, formerly of Eustis, Florida, now Maine USA.
"The LLL who precepted me into Leadership."

7/31/2019 One-year tribute from Ann Rosenwinkle, Houston, Texas USA, to honor Edna Kelly, Houston, Texas USA.
"Edna Kelly's compassion helps LLL, and also has her in other critical community endeavors."
7/4/2019 One-year tribute from Cindy Garrison, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania USA, to honor Amy Shaw, Hull, Massachusetts USA.
"A friend, a colleague, an amazing Leader, and now Board member!!"

6/30/2019 One-year tribute from Rhondda Hartman, Denver, Colorado USA, to honor Mary Ann Kerwin, Denver, Colorado USA.
"My dear friend who has brought help and encouragement to mothers around the world."

6/21/2019 One-year tribute from Mary Jeanne Hickey, Weymouth, Massachusetts USA, to honor Rosemary Peterson, Melrose, Massachusetts USA.
"Rosemary was a Founding Leader in Massachusetts and one of the first Lactation Consultants in the country."

6/19/2019 One-year tribute from Barbara Sasser, Galveston, Texas USA, to honor Carol Roberts, Billings, Montana USA.
"For her continued enthusiasm for helping new mothers breastfeed their babies"

5/23/2019 One-year tribute from Janet Hilton, Corpus Christi, Texas USA, to honor Ellen Flood, Corpus Christi, Texas USA.
"In love and gratitude in memory of George Flood, MD"

5/17/2019 One-year tribute from Judy Mieger, Camano Island, Washington USA, to honor Chrissy Anderson, Cottage Grove, Oregon USA.
"You were PERFECTION in a Co-Leader. What a great time in my life!"

5/11/2019 One-year tribute from Ellen King, Houston, Texas USA, to honor Trish Hamilton.
"Trish introduced me to LLL, and we then served together as ACL & ACLA in the '70s."

"My dear friend Randee, who has supported me from our first meeting."
3/25/2019 One-year tribute from **Kathleen Lange**, St. Louis, Missouri USA, to honor **Marcella Lowe**, deceased.

"She was my 1st Leader and my adopted mother. She asked me to be a Leader."

3/17/2019 One-year tribute from **Carol Meredith**, Trappe, Maryland USA, to honor **Dr. Polly and Scott Roberts**, Cockysville, Maryland USA.

3/13/2019 One-year tribute from **Kim Moreno**, Coronado, California USA, to honor **Jody Nathanson**, Redondo Beach, California USA.

"For encouraging and guiding me as I forged my path to maturity"
Friends trip participants Dorothy (Dottie) Johnson and Rae Schopp send a fond farewell toast until next issue. We’d like to thank Rae for being our official New Orleans trip photographer.

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**A Message from Founder Mary Ann Kerwin about Our New Orleans Trip**

Please give my love and best wishes to the Friends of La Leche League. I wish I could be with all of you during those special days. The organization of alumnae and friends has greatly enriched and enhanced La Leche League. I’m deeply grateful to all of you for carrying on the work we started so many years ago!

With much love always,

Mary Ann Kerwin

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**Call for Articles**
Congratulations! You've reached the end of our third online Continuum. Is there something you wish you'd seen here? You can always fix that by sending Sue Ann an email with an idea, some words, or a picture that you'd like to share with fellow Friends of LLL. As you can see, they can be long, short, or in between. We would like to see articles about various stages of parenting, all the way through the years, memories of special Leaders, members, or friends of our organization, notices of books by former Leaders, and photos of friends enjoying life.

Not a writer? Not a problem! Sue Ann's an editor!