



**Commentary
For
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Presented by Judy Duda**

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On January 3, 1958, I arrived in Central FL, a very young teacher, eager to begin my new career in Florida. What I saw, as I stepped down to the tarmac and then into the tiny Orlando airport of that time would be shocking, I think, for anyone more recently transplanted to Florida: the sight of racially-segregated restrooms and drinking fountains, unfortunately, was my first introduction to what life would be like in this place.

Yes, I arrived here before civil rights legislation thankfully put an end to such things; I arrived here before Orlando sprouted its very first shopping mall. Goodness! I believe I arrived here even *before Walt Disney!*

History was 'in the making' all around me even then, of course. For the most part, I learned about important issues by reading the *Sentinel Star* or from newscasts on the only three network TV stations that served our region.

But I was young, of necessity immersed in my career, then my marriage and raising a young family. Certainly there were many *issues that mattered* to me. But it was only a few years later, when my children had become a bit more independent, that I was able to widen my focus to include the greater community and to find time to become actively involved in helping to make Central FL an even better place to live.

For the past 40 years, I've been privileged to serve on the governing boards of many non-profit organizations that benefit Central FL in the areas of social services, education, cultural arts and communications. During my decade-long service to WMFE, our local PBS and NPR affiliate, I was especially privileged to work with the then-President and CEO of the stations, Stephen Mc Kenney Steck....an individual I came to admire as an extremely competent leader in his field of broadcasting and perhaps more importantly: as a man of great integrity.

I was intrigued to learn that, following his retirement from WMFE, Stephen McKenney Steck had invested his own substantial talent and resources in developing an innovational media platform for presenting *issues and voices that matter* to the people of Central FL.

And I was delighted to be invited to serve on the governing board for the new non-profit foundation which was set up to make this creative vision a reality! I'm proud to serve as the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Carroll McKenney Foundation and I invite YOU to join me in supporting the mission of CMF and also to regularly enjoy the rich programming that will be coming our way from now on!

Oh yes, a great deal has changed since I arrived in Orlando in 1958. Today there are NEW issues and NEW voices which demand our attention and...thankfully... there's also a new media platform to keep us informed and (may I say) even entertained as we learn more about the issues and voices that matter to US!

This is JUDY DUDA.