

## Bruce Gotts

Bruce is almost a native Floridian. He spent winters and was home-schooled in Pinellas County since the early 50's. After completing his studies, which took a couple of hours, he and his sister, Mary, would take the bust to Pier 60, where he would spend the day fishing for pinfish, which he would sell to the fishing party boats for bait at a penny apiece. That would give him enough money for bus fare home and the next day. It also was usually enough to be able to buy an ice cream cone on the way home.

Although most of the "Smart People" in his family moved to Florida full-time in the '60s, Bruce stayed in Michigan to pursue a career in Retail Marketing and eventually published his own community newspaper/shopping guide for 25 years in Southeastern Michigan, as well as a regional real estate publication.

Professional and community service has always been a large part of Bruce's journey. He was a board member and president of several associations, including the Sales and Marketing Council of Washtenaw County, Michigan, Community Papers of Michigan, and the International Association of Free Community Papers.

Locally, he was the President of Associated Charities of Lenawee County (MI), and served on the Board of United Way of Lenawee County and Croswell Opera House.

He has been accused of being a "Spiritual Sight-seer," which is an apt description. As a young man, he was very involved in The Society of Friends (Quakers), then became a convert to Roman Catholicism for about 50 years, and was very involved in parish work, serving as the librarian of Corpus Christi University Parish, in Toledo, Ohio for several years. Meanwhile, while attending the University of Michigan, Boston College, and Siena Heights University and a founding director of The Multifaith Council of Northwest Ohio, he was introduced to Buddhism, Taoism and Vedanta Hinduism, which strongly influenced his present-day worldview, and the journey continues.

Bruce and his late wife, Beth, moved to Florida full-time about 18 years ago and he currently lives at On Top of the World Condominium complex in Clearwater.

