

THE ACORN

SHERWOOD OAKS NEWSLETTER
100 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066
www.sherwood-oaks.com

November 2019 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. 20 No. 9

Flowers in the Fall



Photo by Tabby Alford

FROM THE EDITORS

Gentle Readers:

November is a month of remembering. Not only do we have Veterans Day (see page 5 of this issue), but we also have Thanksgiving Day (see page 9).

Most of us recall that Veterans Day became the new name (in 1954) of Armistice Day, which marked the end of the First World War. But did you know that the first Thanksgiving Day was proclaimed by Abraham Lincoln on October 4, 1863? Although the country was in the midst of a Civil War, President Lincoln evidently believed that it was important for the nation to remember to be grateful.

As for the story of the first Thanksgiving, when the Pilgrims were feasted by local Natives who brought squash, corn, deer, duck, etc. (but not turkey!) to the table, it is, of course, not the whole story of the early relationship between the people who were already living here and the people who came afterwards. The newcomers brought with them prejudices and projects that ended up killing high percentages of those who preceded them and cheating most of those who remained out of their land.

As we celebrate the Fall harvest with friends and family members, therefore, let us remember to pause and reflect on the danger of hubris and the importance of respecting the principles and ways of relating to the world of people who are not like us. We are all part of the fabric of life, all deserving of a chance to share in the bounty of the world in which we live.

Rosemary Coffey & Ruth Becker

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Standard Time Resumes	Nov. 3
Election Day	Nov. 5
Veterans Day	Nov. 11
Thanksgiving Day	Nov. 28

THE ACORN

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Submissions for the December 2019 ACORN must be sent to the Editors no later than **November 15, 2019.**

CAROL KAUFMAN

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by Jan Wendt



Photo by Rabe Marsh

When Carol Kaufman moved to Pittsburgh in 1958 from New York City with her attorney husband, she was disheartened to find the “smoky city” of that day and few interesting volunteer activities for women. Fast forward a few years, and she was thriving in Pittsburgh’s East End, working at CMU, raising a son and daughter. She and a group of like-minded young women spearheaded a movement to open Pittsburgh City Council meetings to the public, and to increase funding for the public schools.

Carol had grown up in Liberty, NY, in the Catskills. She stayed close to home for college by attending Vassar. For a time after graduation, she lived with college pals and worked for Golden Books at Simon and Schuster, having good times and enjoying big city life.

Later, when her husband’s job brought them to the ‘Burgh, she was pregnant with her first child. Once the second child entered first grade, Carol worked in administration in the faculty center at CMU. She also pursued and received a Master’s degree in Higher Education Administration at Pitt.

Her favorite and longest post was at Western Psychiatric Institute and Hospital, where she had responsibility for all the research monies, in conjunction with NIMH (National Institutes of Mental Health). She also did some consultant work with the Alzheimer’s Association and the Pittsburgh VA Hospital. Carol truly loved volunteering as a hostess at Family House in Oakland (a residence for families of patients at UPMC) and also with a program that served meals to children in the juvenile court system.

Her son, an attorney, now lives in Nebraska, and her daughter has moved to New Mexico. Her four grandchildren are living in New York, Los Angeles, Minnesota, and Louisiana (Tulane U.). Attorneys run into the next generation.

Carol had been planning a move to Sherwood Oaks for several years. She first toured with longtime neighbor Linda Mamaux, but delayed coming so her dear canine companion could live out his years in the house and yard he knew. She has also known Ruth Becker from Vassar days and was tickled to discover that her next-door neighbor here is Rosemary Coffey, also a Vassar alumna.

She is settling in, and looking forward to regular attendance at exercise class, bus rides to the Symphony, and reconnecting with old friends. Look for her on campus, and become one of her *new* friends.



Photo by Mike Mills

BILL YORK

By Jean Henderson

Let me introduce you to Bill York – a man of many initials! Here are a few:

MA – born in Massachusetts in 1941. FL – enjoyed early school days in Florida. JA – attended high school in Jamaica.

And then, like many of our residents, USN during the VN War – enlisted in the Navy and did a lot of traveling: BMU – Bermuda, HI – Hawaii, JP – Japan, and the WP – Western Pacific.

During his Navy days, Bill married and called San Diego, CA, home, where the couple welcomed a daughter into the family. He attended NU – the National University in California – for his MBA, after having earned a BSEE – Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering – earlier. For 35 years Bill worked for HP – Hewlett Packard – as a support engineer for computer languages, as a writer of service manuals, and as a designer of computer-aided drawing materials, among other jobs. His boss declared in one of Bill’s reviews that Bill had “created a job that no one could

supervise”! He was clearly a man of many talents.

During his years at HP, he and his family used their VW van to travel all over the 48 United States. His wife died about a decade ago, and, after 8 years in Madison, WI, Bill moved to Sherwood Oaks to be near his daughter and her husband in Rochester, PA. His daughter works for CMU in computers. He’s also a bit closer to his brother in Dover, DE.

Bill is currently living in patio home #152, as he waits for his home of choice – patio home #330 – to be ready for him. After settling into his new unit, Bill hopes to explore all the activities that Sherwood has to offer. We welcome Bill to SO and Western PA.

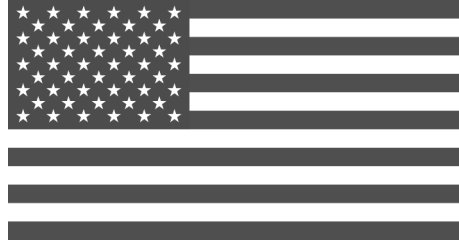
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Biographers Needed

Do you enjoy meeting new Sherwood Oaks residents? The steady stream of new faces brings with it a wonderful variety of personalities, experiences, and interests. If you’d like to be among the first to get to know the folks behind the faces on the mailroom bulletin board, we have an opportunity for you to do so. A representative of *The Acorn* typically meets with new residents two-three months after they move in, for a chance to talk, to discover what drew them to our community, and to find out some of the highlights of their LBS – Lives Before Sherwood.

After the meeting, *The Acorn* biographer writes up a brief profile that is submitted to the resident for his/her approval, and then on to the editors for a final polishing.

If you are interested, please speak with Jan Wendt, at 8158. You may choose to write every month or every couple of months.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW
TO CELEBRATE THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN US AND ARE
PRESERVING OUR FREEDOM**

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

"A PATRIOTIC SALUTE TO SHERWOOD OAKS VETERANS"

Monday, November 11, 1:15 p.m., in the Auditorium

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: Chaplain (Col.) Stewart B. Lawrence, USA
(Ret)

INVOCATION

PRESENTATION OF COLORS: Veterans of Foreign Wars
Jr. ROTC Seneca Valley High School

MUSIC: Instrumentalists: Mars Area High School Band Members
Seneca Valley High School Trumpeters
Vocalists: Seneca Valley High School Chorus Members

SPEAKER: Colonel Daniel R. Ouellette (Ret.) USAMC

RECOGNITION OF VETERANS: Service songs and wreaths in memory
of and in honor of all who have served and are serving

REMEMBRANCE

All who have served in the Armed Forces are encouraged to share memorabilia on the tables in the lobby. They will be open for viewing by 11 a.m.; security will be provided and a "Missing Man" table will be featured.

A fellowship time in the lobby with cookies and punch will follow the program.

Questions? See Harriet Burress (8112) for any needed details.

THE ELEVENTH HOUR: A SERMON

By Dennis Lynch

In a few days we will commemorate the eleventh day of the eleventh month (though not the eleventh hour: 11 a.m. in Paris is a bit early for us in the US). During our ceremony here, and during this time, we will pause to think of the blood and treasure wasted during all our wars, and wonder whether any of them were worth their cost. One war we might agree was indeed worth the effort was the Second World War

And we might agree that a key event of that war, perhaps of the whole last century, was D-Day. Out of many d-days, when we say those words, we mean *the* D-Day, June 6, 1944. I recently refreshed my picture of that time by again watching Steven Spielberg's great film, *Saving Private Ryan*.

I have watched a lot of Hollywood war movies and more hours of documentary films than I would care to count, but *Private Ryan* stands out. Spielberg attempted to create documentary reality by using fiction. I think he succeeded.

Of course, nothing can duplicate the experience of war itself, of "being there." Most fiction films do not even attempt to be realistic. Their successes are generally emotional. The tension generated in Wolfgang Petersen's *Das Boot* (1981 – the greatest submarine picture ever, in my opinion) leaves me stiff with fear every time I watch it.

Though documentaries are meant to be realistic, by definition, your emotional involvement tends to be low (with the notable exception of Alain Resnais's 1956 unique, short, stomach-wrenching depiction of the Holocaust camps, *Night and Fog*.)

Spielberg started by putting his actors through a week-long "boot camp" to give them a taste of Army life. Then he shot most of the movie in sequence, so the core cast could develop the sense of brotherhood and suffer the increasing fatigue that bring so much truth to his story of June 6 and the days beyond.

Even if you haven't seen the picture, you will have heard of the "D-Day Landing Sequence." Star Tom Hanks said that the actors "were all terrified – and *we knew* it was fake." When they hit the beach and the ramp on the Higgins boat

drops, John Wayne does not stride out holding his M-1 high. The ramp drops, you get a quick glimpse of the men in front, and within a second they are all killed. Bang, bang, bang. Next?

After D-Day, the story follows a platoon trying to locate and extract Ryan, one of four brothers – the other three having been recently killed in action.

Why, on November 11th, watch a film about June 6 and beyond? Using the skeleton of an action picture, Spielberg asks you to question, in your heart and in your gut, why we choose wars. Why was the "war to end all wars" so spectacularly unsuccessful? Spielberg's soldiers make the question tangible.

This is a fiction film, so does it matter if the facts are "correct" or if the feelings are true? What does matter is that, by looking backward, he forces us to look forward and wonder if there isn't something our grandchildren could do more worthwhile than piloting drones.

So on the 11th, when the flags are marched down the aisle, I will stand as straight as I can. I will pledge with my hand on my heart. And I will look around at my fellow residents, saluting, and wonder at the things they have seen that I, not a Vet, will never know. They were conditioned and trained to kill the "Other," and they did; and I am glad that "We" won because I would not have wanted to be writing this in German.

And on the 11th, I will wonder at the young students marching. Unlike so many people we see on the horror show of the nightly TV news, they are clean-cut, bright, confident, and prepared. But, still, they are being taught to hate and fear the "Other." Left to themselves, they might grow up to see half a trillion dollars a year spent on medical research, poverty, infrastructure, renewable energy ... instead of killing.

On the 11th, we justifiably remember the sacrifices of the dead. But must the 11th always be a day of ritual? Have we learned nothing from all those Armistice Days? Look around. Watch *Private Ryan*.

Think....

If you wish to follow up: both our library and Butler County have *Saving Private Ryan* (F HAN DVD for us); Butler has *Night and Fog* (Don't watch it alone!) and *Das Boot*.

WHAT'S NEW WITH S.O.R.A.? (SO Residents Association)

By Jean Henderson, Secretary

NOTE: Complete minutes are always available for review on the SORA bulletin board in the mailroom and in the SORA binder in the library.

Summary of reports and actions for the October 8, 2019, monthly board meeting:

The president accepted the resignation of Bob Typaniski and appointed Al Brahm to the Board.

Treasurers: Memorial/Special Projects Fund balance is \$105,813. The Employee Appreciation Fund balance is \$19,253.46. The SORA bank balance is \$38,191.40.

Program: On Tuesday, November 26, Broadway singer Allan Snyder will be featured at 7:15 p.m. in the auditorium.

Pool: Suggestions have been made to improve the appearance of the pool.

Sherwood Gifts: August was a record high for sales: \$2,043.

Bake Sale: The sale is Friday, November 22; set up is November 21.

Library: A machine is now available that pictures a page and then reads it aloud: it is known as the "Clear Reader Plus."

Health Affairs: Residents are strongly encouraged to get their flu shots.

Winterfest: Plans are being made for Winterfest event on January 30, 2020.

Finance: On motion from the committee, the Board authorized the Treasurer to pay the FY 2019 Form 990 preparation and filing fee of \$500.00, using funds transferred from Sherwood Gifts to the SORA treasury.

Executive Director: Planning for emergency preparation continues for independent living. Cleaning of windbreaks/walkways is in process. New banners

will be hung on campus. The new Handbook will be available November 1. New doors for the SNU entrance are on order.

New Business: The new SO app will be launched on November 1.

Next Board meeting: November 5 at 1:30 p.m. All residents are welcome.

Current Board members for 2019-2020 are: Officers – Betty Eichler, Frank Finley, Jean Henderson, Peter Broeren, Ray Friedel; Directors – Jane Paul, Jane Lavender, Lee Wierman, Mary Lou Fox, Al Brahm, Bob Hines, Frank Weiss, Anne Williams, Stan Foster, Elaine Hartswick, Past President Bill Paul, and Assistant Treasurer Beth Brown.

SHERWOOD OAKS BOOK CLUB

By Julie Eden

For our next discussion, the Book Club chose *The Wright Brothers*, by two-time Pulitzer Prize winner David McCullough. Members are responsible for getting their own copy, whether from a library, via an e-reader, by buying it (there are used paperback copies available online), or by sharing with others.

In this "enjoyable, fast-paced tale" (*The Economist*), David McCullough "shows as never before how two Ohio boys from a remarkable family taught the world to fly" (*The Washington Post*) and "captures the marvel of what the Wrights accomplished" (*The Wall Street Journal*). The author draws extensively on family papers to profile not only the brothers but their sister, Katherine, without whom things might well have gone differently for them.

The next Book Club meeting will be Tuesday, November 12, at 4 p.m. in the Chapel. New members are always welcome. If you have any questions, please contact me at 8290.

SORA PROGRAM COMMITTEE
PRESENTS
“BROADWAY + BEYOND” with
ALLAN SNYDER

By Jean Henderson

On Tuesday, November 26, at 7:15 p.m. in the Auditorium, we will welcome actor and singer Allan Snyder. Allan's career, which has spanned two decades, has taken him all over the globe, from Broadway to concert stages in the USA, Europe, and Asia. He has performed in *Les Miz* and *The Fantasticks*, and played the iconic title role in the *Phantom of the Opera* on its national tour. Pittsburghers have enjoyed his singing at the CLO and his acting at the Pittsburgh Public Theater. He, his wife Kate, and their daughter Luisa now live in the Pittsburgh area.

This concert will occur just two days before Thanksgiving! If you have relatives coming in for the holiday, do bring them to the show ... it promises to be a real treat!



ANNUAL POINSETTIA SALE BY
LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

The time for the poinsettia sale sponsored by the Landscape Committee is here. Those of you who have ordered poinsettias before know that they are of the first quality and are long-lasting. We have always had wonderful participation in this project and appreciate your continued support.

Order forms were placed in residents' mailboxes. Orders and payments must be received by November 13. Delivery of the flowers will be Thursday, December 5, and you can pick up your order in the Auditorium after lunch,

between 1:00 and 2:30 p.m. Please make checks payable to SORA and place the check and order form in Janet Gorman's mailbox, #215. Contact persons are Janet Gorman, #215, and Mary Lee Jordan, #124.

Thank you for your participation.

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FOCUS ON THE WORLD
PRESENTS
“ROBIN'S HOME”

Thursday, November 21,
7:15 p.m., Auditorium

By Julie Eden

Sometimes it takes a village. Mary Chitwood had the idea, and Butler, PA, was the village.

Robin's Home, named for a friend who served in Operation Desert Storm, provides housing for eight women veterans and their children. Females are the fastest-growing segment of homeless veterans; many have suffered the effects of military sexual trauma and PTSD.

After the house was purchased by a local car dealer, a contractor donated a new HVAC system. Local organizations, businesses, and residents gave money, furniture, and other equipment. Slippery Rock University students helped clean up the house, prepared a marketing campaign, and developed a website.

Ms. Chitwood, a former Army supply specialist with a diverse background in social work and a master's degree in criminal justice administration, will tell us more about this innovative approach to help homeless and “unstably housed” veterans and the support services offered to them.

NOTES ABOUT NEW RESIDENTS

From John Sterling, Marketing
Department

By Rosemary Coffey

Between January 2015 and June 2019 (a period of 4.5 years), 158 residents moved into Independent Living at Sherwood Oaks. The demographics are 63 males and 95 females; 80 are married, and 78 are not.

Two of the new residents were born in 1921, and four were born in 1954. The other 152 were born in between those years. They moved here from Lima, Peru, and 19 different states, namely: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

As for professions, 28 were teachers or professors; 15 were homemakers or housewives, and 13 were nurses, physicians, or dentists. Others were managers, secretaries, clergy, bankers, librarians, and CEOs or Executive Vice Presidents.

And how did they hear about Sherwood Oaks, you might wonder? Well, some of them had friends living here, and some were specifically referred by current residents. Some were enticed by a marketing event, while others already lived in the area or had family members nearby. And some actually found us via the Sherwood Oaks website!

(With thanks to Carol Paul for suggesting this article)

TURKEY SURPRISE

By Ellen Brierly

Our daughter was unable to join us for Thanksgiving last year, but her husband was able to come, and I assured her that I would send home leftovers that included turkey and carcass.

Sherwood Oaks Chef Fred roasted the turkey, and it was superb. We had our fill, sent home enough for the guests to have leftovers, and saved some for ourselves.

Then we put the remainder into a large kitchen bag and sent it home with our son-in-law. He drooled at the thought of the great turkey they would have when our daughter got back from her trip. She could scarcely wait to get her hands on that turkey and make turkey soup. She plopped it into the kettle, while taking a bite for herself. There was something wrong. It had an odd taste. It seemed sweet, almost flowery.

ALAS, I HADN'T KNOWN THAT GARBAGE BAGS ARE SCENTED.

The entire contents had to be thrown away....



Spider nest in tree root (Dennis Lynch)



SPOTLIGHT ON NEW BOOKS THE BOOK SELECTION GROUP

By Tom Fararo

These recently purchased books will be on the new bookshelf in our library. If a book you seek is not there, you can fill out a reserve slip or reserve the book online from your home computer.

In the Country of Women by Susan Straight. Nonfiction. In this memoir, an accomplished novelist deals not only with her own life but with those of her ancestors, including six generations of women. "Straight's skillful ability to take us from the intimacy of family history to the wider considerations of America's legacy is a wonder" (*Washington Post*).

Kochland: The Secret History of Koch Industries and Corporate Power in America by Christopher Leonard. Nonfiction. "Leonard is especially skilled at explicating the politics as well as at delineating how Koch Industries dominated industrial sectors. ... A landmark book" (*Kirkus starred review*).

The Library Book by Susan Orlean. Nonfiction. In 1986, a fire at the Los Angeles Central Library destroyed or damaged over a million books. This is a whodunit, but far more than that: "In its essence the book is a treatise on the value of our public libraries, the most democratic spaces in our country. It is a call to protect these sacred places of collective memory" (*Los Angeles Review of Books*).

The Secrets We Kept by Lara Prescott. Historical Fiction. This page-turner relates to recently revealed CIA activity in the 1960s to get Boris Pasternak's *Dr. Zhivago* into the USSR despite its being banned there. "A crackling, female-

centered spy thriller rooted in real life" (*Entertainment*).

The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead. Fiction. In the 1960s, an African-American juvenile is sent to Nickel Academy, a brutal reform school. Based on actual events at a fictionalized real reform school. "A painful remembrance of an 'infinite brotherhood of broken boys' proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that Whitehead is one of the most gifted novelists in America today" (*NPR*).

A Door in the Earth by Amy Waldman. Fiction. The author is a former *NY Times* Afghanistan correspondent. In this novel, a young woman of Afghan descent, trained as a medical anthropologist, volunteers to work at a clinic in an Afghan village in 2009. Her idealism encounters some discomfiting realities. "Politically provocative and challenging" (*BookPage starred review*)

A Dangerous Man by Robert Crais. Fiction. A suspense story located in present-day Los Angeles, featuring Joe Pike and his partner Elvis Cole. "This is one of the very best entries in a long-running and still first-rate series" (*Booklist starred review*).

Nothing Ventured: William Warwick Novels (Book 1) by Jeffrey Archer. Fiction. The popular author's new series features Warwick as a young Scotland Yard detective. "Gripping tale. Archer reinforces his position as a master storyteller" (*Publishers Weekly*).

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF ...

A man in his mid-80s said to his daughter: "You know what, dear? I'm just as good as I ever was ... for about two hours a day!"

COLETTA MCKENRY LIBRARY ACCESSIONS
FICTION, INCLUDING LARGE TYPE AND DVDs

<i>Before and Again</i>	Delinsky, Barbara	© 2018	F DEL
<i>A Better Man</i>	Penny, Louise	© 2019	F PEN
<i>Between You & Me</i>	Wiggs, Susan	© 2018	F WIG
<i>The Bitterroots</i>	Box, C. J.	© 2019	F BOX
<i>Chances Are</i>	Russo, Richard	© 2019	F RUS
<i>The Corpse of St. James's</i>	Dams, Jeanne M.	© 2012	F DAM L.T.
<i>Dreams of Falling</i>	White, Karen	© 2018	F WHI
<i>Lady in the Lake</i>	Lippman, Laura	© 2019	F LIP
<i>The Last Widow</i>	Slaughter, Karin	© 2019	F SLA
<i>The New Girl</i>	Silva, Daniel	© 2019	F SIL
<i>Noel Way Out</i>	Lee, Katy	© 2019	F LEE
<i>On the Bright Side: The New Secret Diary of Hendrik Groen, 85 Years Old</i>	Groen, Hendrik	© 2019	F GRO
<i>One Good Deed</i>	Baldacci, David	© 2019	F BAL
<i>Picture This</i>	Y'Barbo, Kathleen	© 2019	F Y'BA
<i>Shifting Sands</i>	Ludwig, Elizabeth	© 2018	F LUD
<i>The Turn of the Key</i>	Ware, Ruth	© 2019	F WAR

NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES

<i>Audience of One: Donald Trump, Television, and the Fracturing of America</i>	Poniewozik, James	© 2019	324.7 PON
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THE INTRUDER
By Mike Rose

You freeze and stare as I invade your space.

Doe eyes open wide ... ears at attention,
alert for any hostile move
that might hurt your fawn.

I freeze and stare, admiring your majestic stance.
An intruder in your home,
I have come to share
the beauty of your world.

I wish that I lived in your woods full-time
instead of only five days each year.

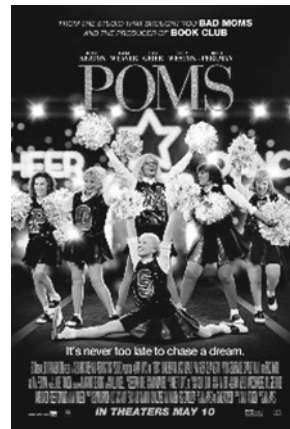
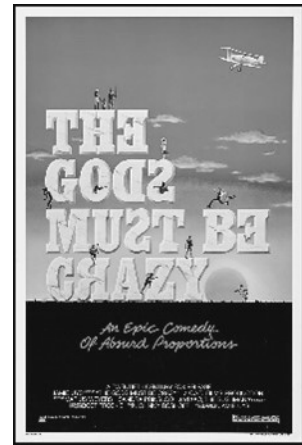
Your woods are beautiful.
You are beautiful.

Your woods are calm.
You are calm.

Your woods are peaceful,
And I am at peace.

Thank you for sharing.

ALL MOVIES AND SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO SUBSTITUTIONS AND CANCELLATIONS. CONSULT THE MAILROOM BULLETIN BOARD FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION.



November 2 - LOST IN TRANSLATION (2003) (PG) 1 hr 42 min - DRAMA - A faded movie star and a neglected young woman form an unlikely bond after crossing paths in Tokyo. (IMDb) RATED R for brief nudity.

November 8 - THE LION KING (2019) (PG) 1 hr 58 min - DRAMA ADVENTURE ANIMATION - After the murder of his father, a young lion prince flees his kingdom only to learn the true meaning of responsibility and bravery. (IMDb) RATED PG for sequences of violence and peril, and thematic elements.

November 16 - THE GODS MUST BE CRAZY (1980) (PG) 1 hr 49 min - COMEDY - A Bushman in the Kalahari Desert encounters technology for the first time in the shape of a Coke bottle. When

he takes it back to his people, they begin to fight over it. He decides to return it to the god from where he thinks it came. (IMDb) RATED PG for non-sexual nudity and mild language.

November 23 - TOY STORY 4 - (2019) (G) 1 hr 40 min - COMEDY ADVENTURE ANIMATION - When a new toy named "Forky" joins Woody and the gang, a road trip amidst old and new friends reveals how big the world can be for a toy. (IMDb) RATED G No sex. No nudity. No profanity.

November 30 - POMS (2019) (PG-13) 1 hr 30 min - COMEDY DRAMA - A group of women forms a cheerleading squad at their retirement community, proving you're never too old to "bring it." (IMDb) RATED PG-13 for profanity and sexual references.



THE DISAPPEARING FERRET

By Jane Rittelmann

With a family of four children, and in a period of twenty-some years, I thought we had experienced every dilemma a house pet could present ... until a young ferret named Felix arrived. He had been with us for only a few days when he did a real "Houdini" disappearing act. A naturally curious animal, he was investigating everything, scurrying here and there, while my daughter played with him, as I was preparing dinner. Soon we realized Felix was gone, and we began a search of the whole house, with no success. Having had a lot of experience with hamsters, we put food out, listened, and hoped for the best.

The evening went by, and Felix did not reappear. Our daughter went to bed very unhappy and anxiously went off to school the next morning. She called several times during the day, hoping I had found him. All day, I kept listening and watching, thinking he would get hungry and come out of hiding.

Late in the afternoon, I began really to worry, when there were still no scratching noises or sounds of any kind. As I began to get supper, I started to prepare for the disappointment to come. Retracing my steps from the day before, I remembered how Felix had sniffed here and there, even at the oven door

when I opened it. Fearfully, I checked the oven – but no ferret; then the refrigerator – but, again, nothing; and finally the freezer side of the refrigerator. When I opened the door, out rolled a disheveled ball of fur. Slowly, there was movement, a shake of the head, a little grogginess, and then, in ten minutes, a fully alert, refreshed, and mischievous ferret.

Epilogue:

Felix spent four years in our daughter's college dorm room. You might even say that he graduated from Penn State!

HAIL TO PITT

By Frank & Joanne Weiss, and
Mary Lou Fox

On Thursday evening, October 10, 2019, twenty-four residents with a connection to Pitt gathered to enjoy dinner together. Included were undergraduate and graduate alumni, several retired Pitt professors, graduates of the Nursing and Dental schools, and the mother of three Pitt football players. Stories were swapped, new friendships were made, and old ones were renewed. There was plenty of Blue and Gold all around, along with 24 smiling faces.



WHAT'S IN A NAME? SAMPLE SCHOOL

By Jane Lavender

You have passed it many times, but did you know that the one-room schoolhouse, located in front of the Municipal Building, is the last one of six that were situated in Cranberry Township? By the way, it was named for the family that donated the land, not as a sample of a schoolhouse, as one might otherwise guess.

Sample School was built in 1874 to replace a log structure that predated the Civil War. At that time, there were four men and two women teachers, with an enrollment of 230 students in the township. Although the Compulsory Education Act of 1911 required students to attend until age 13, students were exempt from school if they had to walk more than two miles to get there, or, with parental permission, had to go to work. The windows are large in order to let in as much light as possible. Electrical service did not come to Sample School until the mid-1930s.

When Rowan Elementary School was built in 1952, the nearby one-room schoolhouses were consolidated. The Sample School building stood empty until 1972, when it housed the first offices of the township government, including those for the township secretary and the one-man police force. It was moved from its original location on Rowan Rd. to its present position in 1999.

The building's restoration was the result of advice from former students and historians, along with much skilled

and volunteer labor. If you visit the school, you will see the old desks nailed to the floor on wooden rails, along with McGuffey readers, inkwells, slate blackboards, and even a hickory stick that belonged to my Great Aunt Elizabeth!

Maybe a few of us actually did go to one-room schools once upon a time. And maybe a trip across Rochester Road would bring back all sorts of memories – even the smell of chalk.

Behind the schoolhouse, one can find an area tended by volunteer master gardeners. Every year they plant and care for annuals and perennials and new varieties of plants and vegetables. It is a beautiful place to stroll or sit and just enjoy a peaceful spot. Tucked away, it is one of the many little-known treasures of Cranberry.

There is a docent at the school on Wednesdays and Saturdays from May through September to conduct free tours. In fact, S.O. resident Sarah Tokash's daughter has volunteered there for several seasons. Group tours can be scheduled all year at a minimal cost.



SORA BAKE SALE REMINDER! FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2019

8:00 a.m. - Noon

Come, drink coffee, socialize, and buy goodies!

Kelley Noble, Chair
SORA Bake Sale

SHERWOOD GIFTS

By Jane Paul, Co-Manager

It may be hard to believe, but the holidays are rapidly approaching. When you are doing your gift shopping, remember to look at all that the Gift Shop has to offer, including jewelry, scarves, handbags, beautiful glassware pieces, decorative items, and Christmas cards.

Even those of you who are newer residents have surely noticed that the shop is in the lobby of the Community Center. It is open from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. every day. Sun. hours are 1-2:30 p.m., while evening hours are 6:00-7:30 p.m., Mon., Wed., and Fri.

Many items have been donated to the shop by residents or their families. The small items are sold in the gift shop, while furniture donations are sold in the Annex (Unit 156). The Annex is open 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. every Wednesday, as well as the first Saturday of the month. All furniture items must be preapproved by one of the co-managers, Jane Paul (341) or Kelley Noble (189). Some items, such as clothing, electronics, and personal grooming items like razors or electric toothbrushes, cannot be accepted as donations.

The profit from Sherwood Gifts is donated quarterly to the SORA Memorial/Special Projects Fund. The shop is staffed entirely by volunteers, so if that sounds like something you might like to do, please contact Jane or Kelley.

We have an excellent financial team, but it could use some back-up. One person should have an accounting background; the other, even without accounting experience, should be comfortable using a

computer. It wouldn't take much of your time! Please let one of the co-managers know if you are ready to help out.



THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL

Here are some statistics about the 58,287 names on the wall: 8,282 were 19 years old; 33,103 were 18; 12 were 17; and 5 were 16. There are three sets of fathers and sons on the wall. 31 sets of parents lost two of their sons. 997 men were killed on their first day, and 1,448 were killed on what was supposed to be their last day. Eight women (nurses) are on the wall. 244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the war. (Submitted by Julie Eden)

THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL

By Jean Kabbert

Cold, black, marble,
a wall,
Just a wall listing names,
endless names.

A monument to the men and women
who had no tomorrow,
an answer to the song of Baez,
a mute reminder
that this earth no longer smiles
upon these men.

A cold black wall
surrounded by teddy bears,
flags, flowers, a poem,
all left behind by people who cry,
"NEVER AGAIN!"

Ah, where have all the young men
gone?

Here.

Here have all the young men come.

A GRANDFATHER'S STORY OF HIS BOATING EXPERIENCE AS A CHILD

By Bob Hines



In August 1989, as part of the Beaver Arts Festival, grandfathers were asked to tell stories of their childhood that would be of interest to their grandchildren. I was one of the grandfathers who participated, and this is my story.

Fifty years ago, when I was a boy about 12 years old, I lived on an island in the middle of the Ohio River. Because the river often flooded, we always had at least one boat, sometimes more, so we would not be stranded when the water appeared around our house. We also used the boats during the summer for fun and recreation on the river.

One Sunday afternoon, my father took my brothers and me out on the river for a boat ride in the skiff he had built. One brother, two years younger than I, shared the back seat with me; my five-year-old brother sat in the front of the boat on the small seat, while my father rowed from one of the two middle seats.

In those days, the boats that towed barges on the river were not the diesel-powered, propeller-driven boats that we see on the river today; rather, they were large, steam-powered sternwheelers. This particular day, a towboat named the "Monongahela" was pushing a large number of loaded coal barges upriver against a strong current. She had to work hard to make progress, and, as a result, left huge waves behind her. We had never seen waves so high!

We decided to take our boat into those waves for the excitement, as we had done before. Now, to have the most fun, it was necessary to row into the waves as close behind the paddlewheel as possible, because that was where the biggest waves were.

As we approached the "Big Mon," there was a spooky quietness. We could hear occasional noises from the engine room, the steam hissing amid the clang of metal rods. As we moved in alongside the towboat, we began to hear the sound of falling water. It became louder and louder, and then, as the boat moved past us, my father pulled hard on the oars so we could get right behind the paddlewheel where the waves were the highest. The closer we got, the more fearful we became, just as you do when you ride a roller coaster or enter a haunted house for the first time. Soon we found ourselves in the trough between two huge white-capped waves, then on top of the next wave, with more to come. It was so far from the top of one wave to the top of the next one, with a deep trough between them, that we feared our boat might capsize and dump us in the river.

By this time, my little brother in the front seat was beginning to whimper and fret with fear. That paddlewheel, which was

three times the height of a man, had water cascading off it like a giant waterfall! As my father turned to reassure his youngest son, a white-capped wave such as you see at the ocean shore broke over the side and into the boat ... and can you guess what happened next?

We capsized? No, but we took a hard jolt, and a lot of water came over the side into the boat. Thank goodness my father had made such a substantial boat! The waves then became smaller and smaller and farther apart. We began to loosen our grips on the boat, and our scared looks changed into smiles and sighs of relief.

EGGNOG PARTY

Friday, December 6, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

By Madelin Clements

December 6 is almost here. That's when the Eggnog Party initiates our holiday season. This is a party **for** the residents (no guests) given **by** the residents. Members of the resident sponsors' committee, who have been busy with preparations and decorations, are looking forward to greeting you at 4:30 p.m. Please note: this is a time to "don your gay apparel," if you so choose, to look as festive as the holiday decorations!

It's not too late to become a sponsor, which carries a monetary commitment depending on the number of sponsors. Please notify Norm Stephen (#605) by Thursday, November 7, if you wish to serve as a new sponsor. The next planning meeting for all sponsors is Tuesday, November 12, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the Card Room.

See you all on December 6 at this very special event!

MY WRITING CAREER GETS OFF TO A ROUGH START

By Julie Eden

My mom commented several times in my "baby book" that I had a good imagination and at an early age often told "stories," reaching a high point when I was about five and a half.

By the time I was nine and in the fourth grade, I had left my fiction writing behind and turned to straight, accurate reporting. I started a neighborhood newspaper for which I was the investigative reporter, editor, and publisher. As I was limited in drawing skills, there were no graphics. It was, no doubt, a low-budget, but evidently a very effective, publication.

Now this was in 1955. There was still a heavy post-war atmosphere in America. Eisenhower was President. Europe was being rebuilt, largely under the Marshall Plan. We were living in a new subdivision in suburban Washington, DC, where virtually all the fathers and breadwinners were involved in government activities of some kind.

One neighbor worked at Walter Reed Hospital; another was the Director of the Bureau of Land Management; my best friend's father was a higher-up in the Teamsters Union; and my father was a civilian who did scientific research for the Navy. He was also one of several men in our neighborhood who travelled regularly to Europe to assist in the rebuilding in some way.

My dad flew on MATS (Military Air Transport Service) planes and attended meetings when he went to Europe. France was a common destination for him. He sent us postcards of the sights

of Paris, telling us how lonely he was, and always came home with souvenirs. My sister Lynn and I often received dolls dressed in ethnic costumes from various countries he had visited.

Another neighbor, Mr. Lucas, who often went to Germany on business, came home with great fireworks, which he shared in neighborhood “shows.” Folks would gather on the street, with folding lawn chairs set up where Conway Road and Phoenix Drive came together. When it was almost dark, Mr. Lucas would blast away, lighting up the sky with wonderful colors. The Germans might have lost the recent war, but they did know how to make fireworks! We would all be transfixed for at least a half an hour at each show and, as we walked home, no doubt wondered when his next foray overseas would be and what he would bring back with him.

Being only nine years old, I did not understand a lot of this travel to Europe or the significance of the work the fathers did in whatever branch of the government they were in. I did know my mom’s mink coat went to the White House one evening for a reception of some kind. That was a big deal, because we were Democrats, and my mom let a Republican wear the coat! Going to the White House trumped all our differences (excuse the pun).

We youngsters living on Conway Road and Phoenix Drive got together in droves to ride bikes, watch *The Mickey Mouse Club*, play “train” in the Crosses’ dining room, dress up in varied costumes, and put on backyard carnivals. We went through the sprinklers in the hot summer and had

treats from the ice cream truck as often as we could get some change from our moms. In the fall, we went out to trick or treat for Halloween in even more costumes.

If we kids got tired of the neighborhood, we could journey a bit farther to play tennis or make stuff out of gimp at Arylawn Park Recreation Center a few blocks away. If our parents ventured out in the evening, there was even a “babysitting pool,” made up of moms and dads. It was a fun and secure time in the neighborhood.

All this and more I dully reported in my newspaper on a regular basis. At some point, after giving too many details too often on Mr. Lucas’s regular travel escapes overseas and the fantastic fireworks he brought back, I was politely told to halt operations immediately. My parents probably withheld the paper supply from me, which would have effectively shut me down. The fireworks, in all of their glory, had done me in.

I don’t think I ever learned exactly where the “cease and desist” command came from. I have often wondered if, in some dark, dank vault in some old, musty stone building in our nation’s capital, there isn’t a “file” of some sort with a complete run-down of my first journalistic endeavors. After my newspaper’s demise, I reverted to writing stories for school assignments. It was some time before I ventured into journalism again. You don’t mess with orders from Washington, DC – even I knew that.



Chapel Notes

Leading Chapel Services in November:

Sunday, November 3

The Rev. Derek Marotta
Plains Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 10

The Rev. Ron Brown
Hope Lutheran Church

Sunday, November 17

The Rev. Amy Michelson
Hope Lutheran Church

Sunday, November 24

The Rev. Rosalyn Kummer, Retired

All services begin at 2 p.m.

Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend!

Without wood, a fire goes out. Without gossip, a quarrel dies down. Psalm 21:22

Gary Brandenberger
Chapel Committee

Chapel Flowers

The Chapel Committee is considering the possibility of starting a Chapel Service Flower Program. The flowers would enhance the chapel service and allow residents to recognize someone they wish to remember or honor.

The names of the sponsor and the honoree could be announced at the beginning of the service. Residents may take the flowers at the end of the service. The cost is \$50, including delivery.

If you believe you might be interested in this program, please put a note in my mailbox (#602) or call 724-591-5385. If we have enough interest, we will take the next step and work out the details.

Gary Brandenberger

IN MEMORIAM

Memories are precious possessions that time can never destroy. For it is in happy remembrance that the heart finds its greatest joy.

Barbara Perfater

October 8, 2019

Angela Zovko

October 18, 2019

Robert Barbour

October 19, 2019

Edward Tyler

October 20, 2019

Ronald Carlson

October 24, 2019

ACTIVITIES IN THE CHAPEL

Women's Bible Study
First and third Monday of the month
Promptly at 10:45 – noon

Men's Bible Study
Weekly, Wednesdays
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Holy Communion, Episcopal Rite
Second Monday of the month
11:00 a.m.

Rosary – Led by Chester Ludwicki
First, Second, and Third Fridays
9:30 a.m.

Quaker Meeting for Worship
Fourth Sunday
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

***“Day is dying in the west,
Heaven is touching earth with rest....”***

- Mary A. Lathbury, 1877

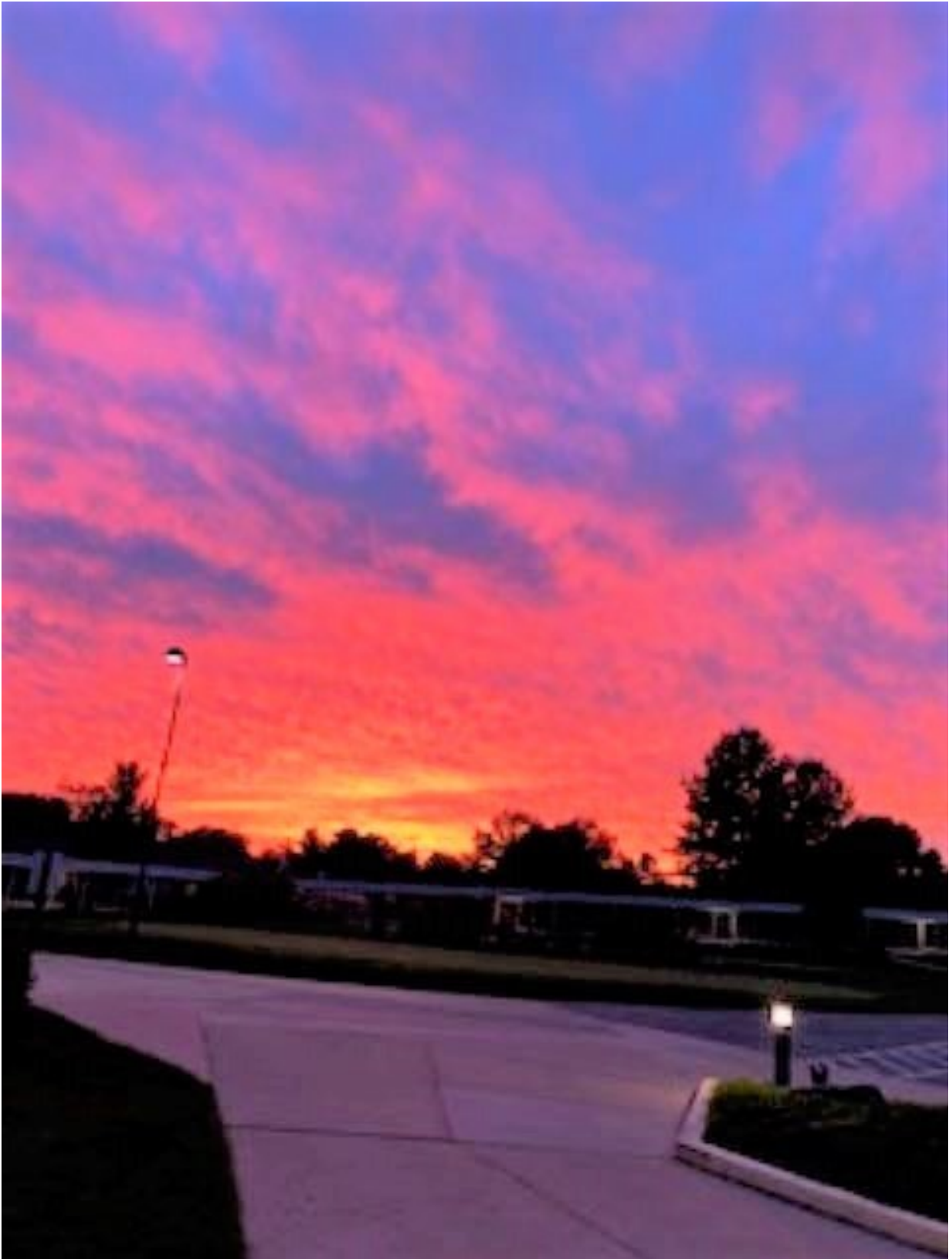


Photo by Barbara Scruggs