



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

March 2020 "For the residents, by the residents" Vol. 21, No. 3

"If winter comes ..."



Photo by Julie Eden

Gentle Readers:

March is Women's History Month, a designation that seems especially relevant in light of the current controversy about ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution.

The text of the proposed amendment reads: "Equality of rights under law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." Although the amendment process was launched by Congress in 1972, in which year it was ratified by 22 states, it has taken 48 years for the additional 16 states needed to ratify it. Moreover, five of those states – Kentucky, Nebraska, Tennessee, Idaho, and South Dakota – have revoked their ratifications of the ERA, even though that has never been done before and it is still not known if the revocations are valid.

Some members of the House of Representatives have suggested that, even though the deadline for ratification has expired, if Congress was free to include a time limit it is also free to lift it. It is worth noting, in the midst of this controversy, that more than 90 percent of both women and men in the US have made known their support of the ERA in response to polling.

What is the likely future of this amendment? We suspect that, in this time of significant political polarization, it is not going to be added to the Constitution any time soon. Perhaps the process will have to start all over again, beginning in Congress and then working its way through state legislatures and referenda.

Stay tuned! One never knows for sure.

Rosemary Coffey & Ruth Becker

MARCH CALENDAR

Daylight Saving Time begins	Mar. 8
Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth Day	Mar. 10
National Pi Day	Mar. 14
St. Patrick's Day	Mar. 17
First Day of Spring	Mar. 19
International Earth Day	Mar. 20



THE ACORN

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Submissions for the April 2020
Acorn must be sent to the Editors
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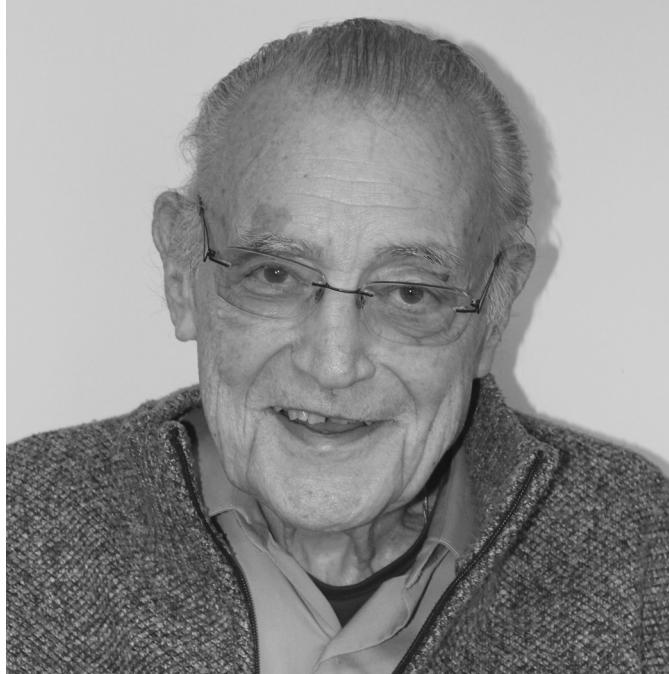


Photo by Mike Mills

ROBERT R. CONTE #275

By Harriet Burress

If you see a gentleman walking around our lobby one day with a Clemson sweatshirt on; another day wearing a Michigan hat or one from Elon; and on and on, he is Robert Conte, the grandfather of 17 who are attending, or have graduated from, about that many different universities. He proudly wears his grandchildren's colors.

Bob's own education began at Pittsburgh's Central Catholic High School, where he was challenged to look into Washington and Jefferson's pre-med program. At that time, students who pursued that major and completed it in four years were guaranteed acceptance into medical school. Bob began in a class of 130 and finished one of thirty. Academics were so demanding that he gave up basketball and baseball. He was accepted at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, and, after his sophomore year, married the love of his life, Jean. Because he had been in ROTC at W and J, he served three years in the Army – one year as an intern at Madigan

Army Hospital in Tacoma, WA, and two years as a Medical Officer at Fort Lewis, WA.

Returning to Pittsburgh, Bob began a three-year residency at McGee Women's Hospital in Ob-Gyn, where he was trained as a surgeon "by one of the best." "Our schedule was 36 hours on and 12 hours off, with a two-week vacation. We had six children by this time, and it was very hard on Jean. Quite often I moonlighted in the emergency room during my 12 hours off, because I was making only \$75 a month.

"Having been a surgeon, I liked to fix things. When we couldn't find property we liked in Greensburg where my practice was located, I decided to add a 1000-square-foot kitchen onto our home instead of building a new one. Jean asked if I shouldn't hire a designer, and I told her, 'It is all designed up here.' It was a wonderful place for our children and grandchildren and their friends to have parties."

Bob also designed and constructed two gardens in their yard – one a perennial garden with a wishing well and a bench ("My Socrates bench"). His other annual garden had an archway and, sitting on a pedestal, a very large ceramic frog. Indeed, Bob's nickname is Froggy. He also built two grandfather clocks for close friends, and each of his children has a mantle clock.

When Bob asked Jean to marry him, she told the CEO at PPG for whom she worked as Executive Secretary. His response was, "I want to meet this young man." He treated her as his own daughter. Bob met Jean at an eighth-grade dance, and "something about her character just drew me to her." They have been married 60 years. "In her active days, she was very involved in the Hospital Aide Society and was a member of the Greensburg Senior Tap Dancers." They both served on committees in their home church. Jean is now a resident in Oak Grove. Please welcome both Bob and Jean to Sherwood Oaks.

WHAT'S NEW WITH SORA?

(SO Residents Association)

Jean Henderson, Secretary - #611

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

Summary of reports and actions for the February 4, 2020, monthly meeting:

Visitors: Fourteen were in attendance.

Treasurers: The balances of the Memorial/Special Projects Fund and the Employee Appreciation Fund will be reported in March. Peter Broeren reinvested a CD in the amount of \$51,175.00 at 1.25% for a one-year term. The SORA bank balance is \$28,951.42.

Living with Loss: A new grief group will begin April 16 for six Thursdays.

Welcome: The next new residents welcome dinner is March 10.

Dining: Our new registered dietician is Adrienne Mauri, x8511.

Sherwood Gifts: \$4000.00 was donated to the Memorial/Special Projects Fund and \$50.00 was donated to the Computer Room. Total sales for July-December 2019 were \$12,439.

Quilters: A third quilt was completed and donated to Mars Home for Youth.

Health Affairs: About 250 rehab treatments are performed per month.

Administration Report: Replacement doors have been installed at the skilled nursing entrance to the lobby. New auditorium doors have been installed. New dining room ceiling tile is installed.

Residents were informed about hiring outside vendors for heavy cleaning. A new painter has been hired. The outbound gate arm awaits new parts.

ArtScape: On January 30, 23 residents displayed their art and crafts.

Security and Transportation: Four drivers are now qualified to drive the new big bus. Safety training for new scooter owners is being proposed.

Civic Affairs: Candidates Night will be Friday, April 17.

New Business: The Board approved a new ongoing Jigsaw Puzzle Activity, to be set up in the Center lobby.

The next SORA Board meeting is Tuesday, March 3, at 1:30 p.m.

The next quarterly residents' meeting is Tuesday, March 10, at 7:15 p.m. in the Auditorium.



FOCUS ON THE WORLD

By Ellie Castle - #307

THANK YOU to the residents who have been contributing food and cash to the Gleaners Food Bank. The groceries fill bags of food, and the checks buy fresh produce, meat, dairy, etc. The food collection is the third week of January, April, July, and October. Our contribution is a way we can show our gratitude for the good, healthy food we enjoy at Sherwood Oaks. And "thank you," too, to Bill and Nancy Paul, who tote the goodies to the food bank at St. Ferdinand Church.

CONTINUED LEARNING CONTINUED

By Kelley Noble - #189

This is a supplement to the calendar previously distributed to all Residents!

Monday, March 16, 1:30-2:30 p.m.:

Marcus Rediker, Distinguished Professor of Atlantic History at the University of Pittsburgh and Senior Research Fellow at the College d'Études Mondiales/Fondation Maison des Sciences de L'homme in Paris, will discuss his book *Benjamin Lay and the Struggle against Slavery*.

This lecture focuses on Benjamin Lay (1682-1757), a Quaker and a dwarf, who was one of America's first abolitionists. His unrelenting confrontational and life-long crusade against slavery caused him to be banned from the Quaker fellowship and shunned by the Quaker elite. He was so despised during his lifetime that he was not included in the history of the abolitionist movement for two generations.

Thursday, March 19, 11:30 a.m.-12:30

p.m.: Please note change of time in order to allow Mimi to take an exam!

Micheline (Mimi) Ouedraogo is a native of Burkina Faso, Africa. She is currently a senior at LaRoche University, majoring in accounting. Mimi works two jobs and also mentors a young girl.

Mimi co-founded a nonprofit here in Pittsburgh, which she will explain in her talk: Faso Life – A Mission to Bring Education to the Underdeveloped Village of Tamsin. She will discuss the ways in which she and her twin sister support this project.

Thursday, March 26, 10:30-11:30 a.m.:

Matthew Mehalik, a native of Forest Hills, PA, is the first Executive Director of the Breathe Collaborative and its communication platform, The Breathe Project.

Dr. Mehalik earned his PhD in Systems Engineering from the University of Virginia. He has been teaching sustainability and environmental policy at Heinz College, Carnegie Mellon University, since 2008. He will address *Protecting Our Communities from Fossil Fuel Extraction in SWPA*.

Monday, March 30, 1:30-2:30 p.m.:

Moni McIntyre will continue her discussion begun on March 2.

Tuesday, March 31, 10:30-11:30 a.m.:

Diane and Terry Neely will present highlights of their 12-day Road Scholar trip to Peru. This Lifelong-Learning adventure lived up to its title, "Majesty and Mystery: Ancient Civilizations of Peru," with museum visits and field trips to the excavated ancient cities of the Wari, Moche, Sican, Chimu, and Tahuantinsuyo (Inca) cultures. The European conquest and subjugation of the native peoples were explored via field trips to Colonial cathedrals, walks through modern cities, and visits to rural households. The Neelys hope to convey some of the majesty and mystery of this intriguing part of the world.

Thursday, Apr. 2, and Thurs., Apr. 9,

10:30-11:30 a.m.: William Markus, PhD, professor emeritus of political science at Duquesne University, will address the interconnectedness of the nations of the world.

Bill, a native of Pittsburgh, has spent his entire professional career studying the political systems of the various world governments and the ways in which they co-exist with each other. He will address *World Events in 2020*. (He has been, by the way, the most requested speaker for Continued Learning programs.)



THE NAMING OF THE TREES

By Dennis Lynch - #335

When *THE ACORN* editors asked us all for "favorite trees," I was surprised to find I didn't have any, except the one in which I was currently watching birds cavorting. That tree is planted in the wee garden outside our patio; we call it "Our Tree." Then I realized we had names for many trees because of conversations like this:

Me: Barbara! Look at that bird!

Barbara: Where?

Me: There!

Barb: Where!

Me: There in that tree!

Barb: What tree?

So we started to name the trees around our home. There is Our Tree, for starters. Then

- Tree One, just outside the patio
- Where Tree Two Used To Be, before Landscaping cut it down
- Tree Three, on down the slope (which leads to The Great South Lawn, which is bisected by The Withywindle*, a large drainage sluice), and
- Tree Four (creative, aren't we?), between us and The Forest, which is above the Oak Grove parking lot.

Then in front of our house, in The Forest Courtyard, there is a large tree named

- The Tree Out Front, and also
- The Other Tree (halfway down).

To the West, there's a walkway, where:

- The Great Western Road leads to The Fork In The Road, which splits

to the Lodge and to the North, and along the walkway are

- Trees A, B, and C – where the robins cluster in the spring, and along the walkway; before you get to Tree A, you will find
- Bushes W, X, Y, and Z; there, in the mulch, the chipmunks tunnel avidly, and our dog Maggie sniffs every evening for recent activity.

Outside our front door, a walkway goes straight East: it passes in front of Lila Cornell's house, so it has become Lila Lane.

And heading North from our front door is The North Way, and branching from it, passing in front of the Beckers' house, is (you guessed it) Becker Boulevard, which parallels Lila Lane and, in spite of its name, is really no grander.

There is still cartographic work to be done. A walk goes off Lila Lane to Parking Area I (Sherwood Oaks not being more creative than we are), which deserves its own name. And Lila Lane continues past The Forest Courtyard to form the Southern border of Forest Courtyard Extn. – which surely is in need of its own appellation.

I suppose we have hesitated to extend our naming because we feel like outsiders to these other countries. Perhaps SORA will authorize a Committee on the Present Campus Cartography, involving residents from distant Courtyards, in the creation of a new, novel, and definitive Map.

*If you are wondering about the name, Withywindle: I was rereading *The Fellowship of the Ring* when this project started. The river Withywindle plays a prominent role in the first part of that story.

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW BOOKS

THE BOOK SELECTION GROUP

By Tom Fararo - #214

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.

The Long Call (The Two Rivers Series) by Ann Cleeves. Fiction. The main character is a police officer in Devon, England. "An excellent mystery in this series kickoff" (*Kirkus Review*).

Criss Cross by James Patterson. Fiction. "Possibly the most intricate plot of any of Patterson's novels thus far, with a stratospheric level of suspense from practically its first page to its last" (*Book Reporter*).

The Stranger Inside by Lisa Unger. Fiction. "A well-crafted psychological thriller ... with a solid plot, and characters with enough feints and flourishes to keep the pages turning themselves" (*New York Times Book Review*).

The Better Sister by Alafair Burke. Fiction. "A gimmick-free murder mystery with a two-stage surprise ending and uncommonly few credibility-straining plot elements" (*Kirkus Review*).

Bryant and May: The Lonely Hour by

Christopher Fowler. Two detectives in London's Peculiar Crimes Unit tackle a strange case. "Exceptional ... an intelligent page-turner" (*Publishers Weekly Starred Review*).

In the Full Light of the Sun by Clare Clark. Fiction. Rediscovered works by Vincent van Gogh propel a story of the art world during the Weimar era. "A suspenseful, atmospheric portrait of Berlin during Hitler's rise" (*Kirkus Review*).

Thomas Paine and the Clarion Call for Independence by Harlow Giles Unger. Nonfiction. "A fine biography of one of America's greatest polemicists" (*Kirkus Review*).

The Years That Matter Most: How College Makes or Breaks Us by Paul Tough. Nonfiction. With data and individual cases, the author argues that high-achieving but low-income students face special difficulties in entering and making it through elite higher education institutions. "Well-written and persuasive book" (*Publishers Weekly Starred Review*).

The Yellow House by Sarah Broom. Memoir. This winner of the 2019 National Book Award for nonfiction deals with a large family and its home in contemporary New Orleans. "This is a major book that I suspect will come to be considered among the essential memoirs of this vexing decade" (*New York Times Book Review*).

THE COLETTA MCKENRY LIBRARY ACCESSIONS

FICTION, INCLUDING LARGE TYPE AND DVDs

<i>The Beekeeper of Aleppo</i>	Lefteri, Christy	c. 2019	F LEF
<i>The Second Sleep</i>	Harris, Robert	c. 2019	F HAR
<i>Takes One to Know One</i>	Isaacs, Susan	c. 2019	F ISA

NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES

<i>Fryderyk Chopin: A Life and Times</i>	Walker, Alan	c. 2019	BIO CHO
<i>All the Powers of Earth: The Political Life of Abraham Lincoln 1856-1860</i>	Blumenthal, Sidney	c. 2019	973 LIN

THE TRAVELING WINE AND CHOCOLATE BOOK CLUB

By Jane Lavender - #253

With a name like "The Traveling Wine and Chocolate Book Club," who wouldn't want to belong? This group has been together for 14 years, and we 8 women take the name seriously. Yes, the wine and chocolate are always a part of the enjoyment, but the traveling bit is too, and we all read the books.

Many members have been in the teaching profession and relish enrichment. So there is always something extra besides the book itself. For instance, when the book *A Man Called Ove* was read, we met at IKEA, while *Marley and Me* called for a trip to a Labrador breeding kennel and hot dogs for lunch. *Anna Karenina* found us touring the Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration in Ellwood City, and *A Light Between the Oceans* led to a trip to the lighthouse in Erie.

Sometimes we meet in a home and have an appropriate meal – French, African, High Tea. The thing is that, when choosing a book, one must also think creatively about the special add-on. Our discussion time really *is* about the book, not our children or grandchildren. Given our age group, we meet only 4 or 5 times a year because of busy travel schedules. I'm the old lady in the group and love it. Seniority has its perks – the fun and mental stimulation from this fine group of women are a blessing.



THE BEAVER BOOK AND PLAY CLUB

By Lee Wierman - #110

Having previously attended the club as a guest, then as a guest reviewer upon retirement in 2000, I later became a member. This club was founded in 1927, when a group of women in Beaver gathered to form The Book and Play Club. These women had lived through World War I and had received the right to vote only seven years earlier. Their mission was to provide a forum for the study of literature and drama. A new constitution and by-laws provided a detailed structure for membership, officers and their responsibilities, committees and their purposes, and meetings fortnightly from September to March. In the 93 years of the club's existence, little has changed in the structure except that the group now meets every two weeks from October to May, with only one meeting in September.

Socially, the changes have followed common norms, as in the group no longer addressing one another as Mrs. ... or Miss ...; the attire worn being more casual, with no evening events requiring formal dress; the serving of lunch less elaborate; and the meetings not always held in homes but sometimes in the town library or the gathering rooms of churches. Twice a year the group meets in a good restaurant or at the bed and breakfast named Felicity Farms. An appointed program committee selects the books for the year, and a social committee plans where we meet. The programs may focus on poetry and drama, as well as fiction and non-fiction. Music is a vital part of the programs; the club produces plays and attends drama locally as well as in Pittsburgh theaters.

Winnie Dietz, who joined this club in 1984, is a designated lifetime member.

LIBRARY LOWDOWN

By Anne Williams - #329

To all our wonderful residents who volunteered to help get all of our books in order: a great big THANK YOU!

No matter how we express our gratitude – danke u (Danish), arrigato (Japanese), or obrigado (Portuguese) – we can never say thank you enough for the time you spent reading shelf labels, replacing labels, and quietly muttering the alphabet.

Thanks to all of you and our terrific library coordinators, we are back in business with some exciting new books as well as some old favorites.

SHERWOOD OAKS BOOK CLUB

By Julie Eden - #290

Becoming by Michelle Obama will be discussed at our next Book Club meeting, **Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at 4 p.m.**, in the Chapel. The book was published in November 2018 and has received a 4.9 rating on Amazon, based on over 21,200 reviews! Many used copies can be found online, and it is also available in the e-book format. If anyone needs a copy, please contact me.

In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, readers are invited into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her. She describes her triumphs and disappointments, both public and private, with unerring honesty and lively wit. (Amazon)

New members are always welcome to the Book Club. If you have any questions, please give me a ring.



MY FAVORITE TREE ON CAMPUS

By Sonja DeGray - #265

When I look out my patio room, across the meadow, I see a very tall and beautiful tree. My beloved dog Jake and I would walk past this tree twice a day for almost ten years. One day I stopped to read the identification tag and learned that my tree was a Dawn Redwood. Then I remembered listening to WQED-FM when the announcer was talking about the composer John Williams, who had written music for many movies, among them that for Jurassic Park. He also wrote a concerto inspired by “the five sacred trees,” one of them thought to be a Dawn Redwood.

Recently, when I googled *Dawn Redwood*, I learned that this tree was believed to be extinct; then in 1941 about one thousand of them were discovered in Southeastern China, where they were considered to be endangered. Seeds and seedlings were sent to universities and botanical gardens across the world, where they now survive and thrive.

This tree is deciduous, with bright green needles that change to reddish copper foliage in the Fall before shedding. The foliage reminds me of a fern. Perhaps the Dawn Redwood has survived from the Jurassic period?

My Dawn Redwood can be found by Parking Area F2, closest to Unit 193. It is a magnificent tree worthy of being sought out and admired.

COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #715

This column will highlight information from U.S. government agencies that authored the 4th National Climate Assessment in 2018.

This Month's Agency – Dept. of State

Website: <https://www.state.gov/policy-issues/climate-and-environment/>

Since 1973, OES (the Bureau of Oceans & Environmental and Scientific Affairs) has been the face of American leadership in the international environmental policy arena. OES issues, which are front and center on the international agenda, are recognized worldwide as critical foreign policy and security issues. Science remains incredibly important to our foreign policy. Our science is a powerbroker; it will break a policy logjam, or catalyze a policy decision, precisely because it is trusted, and we continue to rely on it constantly.

The Office of Global Change leads on U.S. international climate change policy and represents the United States in climate negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and in other international fora, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, International Civil Aviation Organization, and the International Maritime Organization.

Current “Carbon Tax” Legislation

Of the climate bills presently introduced in the federal House of Representatives, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act has the most support, with 77 co-sponsors. Learn more about the bill at www.energyinnovationact.org and, if you are so moved, share your opinions with Conor Lamb, Bob Casey, and Pat Toomey.

For constantly updated information on the climate crisis, follow [@CCLSlipperyRock](#) on Facebook.

IT'S ALL IN HOW YOU LOOK AT IT

By Mike Rose - #503

Middle age never bothered me before. I greeted each day eagerly, truthfully counted birthdays, and honestly told all who asked how old I was.

But since I got bifocals,
I look at things differently,
and I am not certain
that I will be able to face
the realities of life
with fuzzy feet.

Out of the Mouths of ...

A little surprised to learn the truth about lobsters at Wegmans:

Zach: Can people just reach in the tank and take a lobster?

Mom: No, you need to ask someone who works here to get it for you.

Zach: Oh. And then you can take it home to have for a pet?

Mom: No. You take it home to cook and eat it.

His reaction:



MAKING DOCTORS' APPOINTMENTS

By Ellen Brierly - #734

I recently tried to make a few doctors' appointments for some bothersome symptoms, only to find a brick wall in front of me.

The first was to see my GI doctor. I was told that I could see him in three months. When GI symptoms occur in my body, I really don't want to put off medical help for that length of time. I did accept the appointment offered, since there seemed to be no alternative.

The second effort was to make an appointment with a rheumatologist. First, I was told that, while the doctor no longer takes new patients, I could see the physician's assistant. I was glad to do so. "Oops," said the secretary then; "she isn't seeing new patients either, but here is another P.A. who will see you."

The appointment was made. Then the telephone rang, with the apologetic secretary saying that she was wrong. The second P.A. wasn't seeing new patients either. But not to worry: I could see a doctor on Babcock Blvd. in July.

After foot surgery in September, I was assured that a specialist would fit me with proper adjustments to prevent the foot from re-experiencing the same problem that had caused the necessity of surgery in the first place. I was told that a specialist would fit me with whatever was necessary to prevent that. The appointment was made for four months away. I protested that the foot would have a head start on disaster in that time. Too bad: that was the only time available.

In case you have had a similar experience, I am going to help you. Whether you are in need of a doctor or not, I suggest you make a list of those physicians that we, at our age, are most likely to need. These might include GI, orthopedist, rheumatologist, etc. Now make an appointment. By the time you are due to see the doctor, you may very well need the treatment. If not, just cancel and reschedule.

There you are, just like a good battery – ever ready....

* * * * *

ACTION ALERT!

By Agnes Peebles - #324
Volunteer Coordinator

Candidates Night will be held on **Friday, April 17, at 7:15 in the auditorium**. None of us needs to be told that this is an important election, when we vote on candidates for national, state, and regional offices. Mark the date on your calendar, and watch for more details in the April ACORN. They will also show up in your cubbyholes and on the bulletin boards.

An opportunity for those who want an application for an absentee ballot will be offered either late in March or early in April. Watch for the announcement! A new election law allows any PA voter to vote by mail, starting in this year's election.

* * * * *

THANK YOU

from Bernadette Briskar - #406

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks for the cards and kindnesses that have been shown to me at this time of Andy's passing.

MAP OF THE MONTH

By Joanne Weiss - #154

The reopening of the Library also brought the return of the "Map of the Month." When my husband Frank and I left our home of 46 years in Ross Township, we had a collection of *National Geographic* magazines dating back to the 1960s. These had to go, but the maps included in some of the magazines were salvaged. As a former teacher, I just couldn't discard a visual that might have some educational value.

After arriving at Sherwood Oaks in June 2017 and becoming aware of how widely traveled the residents were, I approached the Library managers with the idea of a "Map of the Month." As a result, each month a map is displayed in the Library, usually with a connection to some other activity happening at the same time – for example, with curio cabinets full of island items, the "Map of the Month" was Hawaii. At the end of the month, the maps are placed on the "Free" cart in the hall. They usually find a new home that same day. If anyone else has *National Geographic* maps (sorry – no road maps!) ready to contribute to this project, please contact me @ 8154.

GAMES ON THURSDAYS

By Loretta Pospistle - #252

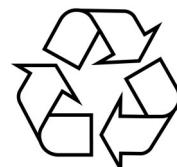
Come join us! We play easy games after lunch on Thursdays in the Community Center lobby, on the table closest to the auditorium. We'd be happy to teach you how to play, so do join us for an afternoon of fun. If you plan to come, please let me know (8252).

UPDATES ON PC RENOVATIONS

By Lori Greer

Things are moving along, with some bumps in the road. The new resident laundry room is up and running. The visitor restroom is nearing completion but awaiting a new sink. The new hydration center has been completed, with fresh water and snacks available. Most of the current work is in the dayroom and dining and staff areas. The hope is that all will be completed by the middle of March. At that point, there will be a dish room (with dishwasher and storage areas) on the unit, so that staff will no longer have to transport dishes back and forth. There will also be opportunities for cooking some meals on the unit.

Editor's note: The swimmers' view of the work is the blue dumpster on which we focus while doing the sidestroke in the pool. Does that mean that some time in March we'll be able to see the trees?! We can hardly wait! - rbb



RECYCLING TIPS

By Ruth Inkpen - #225

Here's a recycling tip for all of us:

Cardboard boxes are an excellent item to recycle. However, according to our Grounds Supervisor, Jeff McGaughey, corrugated cardboard boxes must be **empty** and **flattened** to be recyclable, or they will not fit into the recycling containers.

Thanks to all of you for doing your part! The environment is surely grateful as well.

MY RÉSUMÉ...

My first job was working in an orange juice factory, but I got canned ... couldn't concentrate.

Then I worked in the woods as a lumberjack, but I just couldn't hack it, so they gave me the ax.

After that I tried to be a tailor, but I just wasn't suited for it, mainly because it was a so-so job.

Next I tried working in a muffler factory but that was too exhausting.

Then I tried to be a chef, figuring it would add a little spice to my life, but I just didn't have the thyme.

I attempted to be a deli worker, but any way I sliced it, I couldn't cut the mustard.

My best job was being a musician, but eventually I found I wasn't noteworthy.

I studied a long time to become a doctor, but I didn't have enough patience.

Next was a job in a shoe factory; I tried, but I just didn't fit in.

I became a professional fisherman, but discovered that I couldn't live on my net income.

I managed to get a good job working for a pool maintenance company, but the work was just too draining.

So then I got a job in a workout center, but they said I wasn't fit for the position.

After many years of trying to find steady work, I finally got a job as a historian, until I realized there was no future in it.

My last job was working at Starbucks, but I had to quit because it was always the same old grind.

SO I RETIRED AND FOUND I AM PERFECT FOR THE JOB!

[adapted from http://www.anvari.org/shortjoke/Jokes_from_Emails/]



LAMENT OF A LADY OF A CERTAIN AGE

By Rosemary Coffey - #113

My mind was always well-honed,
The rest of me rather less so;
But now that my body is toned,
There's no one around to know.

The men in my life are a muddle:
They're witty and handsome and
bright;
But they want no more than a
cuddle,
And then it's "Goodbye!" or "Good
night!"

I can't be attractive forever –
I know that my time's running out;
To ignore this wouldn't be clever,
So that's why I'm now speaking out.

As a "girl who just wants to have
fun,"
I'm sitting here, singing the blues:
For I've yet to encounter the one
Who knows what to do with the
news.

So where is the man of my dreams:
Younger and braver and free?
The answer is just what it seems:
He's clearly not looking for me!

1 March 2009

SACRED TREES

By Ellie Castle - #307

Trees have been my metaphor for many years – deep roots, strong trunk, graceful branches, giving much and taking little.

My first attachment to a tree came when I was a child. There was an old willow tree on the shore of Lake Chautauqua by the Bell Tower. Its twisted branches formed a “seat,” where I loved to sit and ponder lake life. In my adult years, the first thing I did when I returned to Chautauqua was to hurry to the Point to greet my old friend. This sacred tree inspired quiet meditation, and on several occasions prayers were answered there. Imagine my consternation when, six years, ago I discovered that my willow friend had been *cut down*. How dare they?! I went through real-time grieving. A new willow has been planted in its place, but it is just not the same.

Through the years, I have bonded to many special trees. Sure enough, I have one here at Sherwood Oaks. It is a huge oak tree outside my patio door and behind Unit #302. This tree is perfectly proportioned and breathtaking in all seasons. Each morning, when I open my curtains, this young oak greets me, and I talk to her, saying, “Thank you for being here to greet me on this new day I have never seen before.” She seems to reply, “This is the day the Lord has made, rejoice and be glad in it.” I did not choose to live at #307 because of this tree, but I like to think it chose me.



MY FAVORITE TREE

By Winnie Dietz - #725

My favorite tree in Sherwood Oaks does not happen to be the oak, which is hard to find now that so many have been harvested to make room for more homes. No, my favorite trees live right in front of our apartment building, shielding the sight of a huge generator or some such thing from prominence on the road.

These several trees are weeping arbor vitae, spreading their graceful limbs so artistically as to banish completely further exploration beyond.

Granted, they make some folks think of Hallowe'en – spooky tendrils sneakily reaching out to grasp unsuspecting prey – but to an artist's eye the opposite reaction occurs. I smile immediately as I follow the gentle curves of their branches, grateful for the beauty before me. We are so blessed to be able to enjoy our surroundings here!

* * * * *

TREES

By Agnes Peebles - #324

Among my favorite trees on the Sherwood Oaks campus is the trio that stands at the upper entrance of Parking Area B. In the spring, they are covered with blossoms that eventually drop to make a white blanket on the ground. All summer long, they provide a cool, shady, quiet place of retreat. I've never seen anyone do it, but each year I visualize someone (even myself!) sitting under those branches, reading a book and sipping a glass of cool lemonade.



CHAPEL NOTES

All Sunday services begin at 2 p.m. in the Auditorium. Leading Chapel Services in March:

Sunday, March 1

The Rev. Tracy Cox
First United Methodist Church

Sunday, March 8

The Rev. William Pugliese, Ret.

Sunday, March 15

The Rev. James Gascoine
Dutilh United Methodist Church

Sunday, March 22

The Rev. Elisabeth Hartwell
Hiland Presbyterian Church

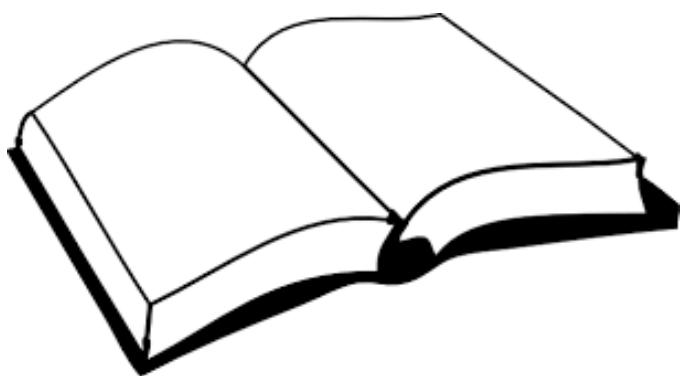
Sunday, March 29

The Rev. Tom Parkinson
Dutilh United Methodist Church

Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend.

It is only with gratitude that life becomes richer. – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Gary Brandenberger - #602
Chapel Committee



IN MEMORIAM

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

Bernard Buller
February 6, 2020



CHAPEL ACTIVITIES

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

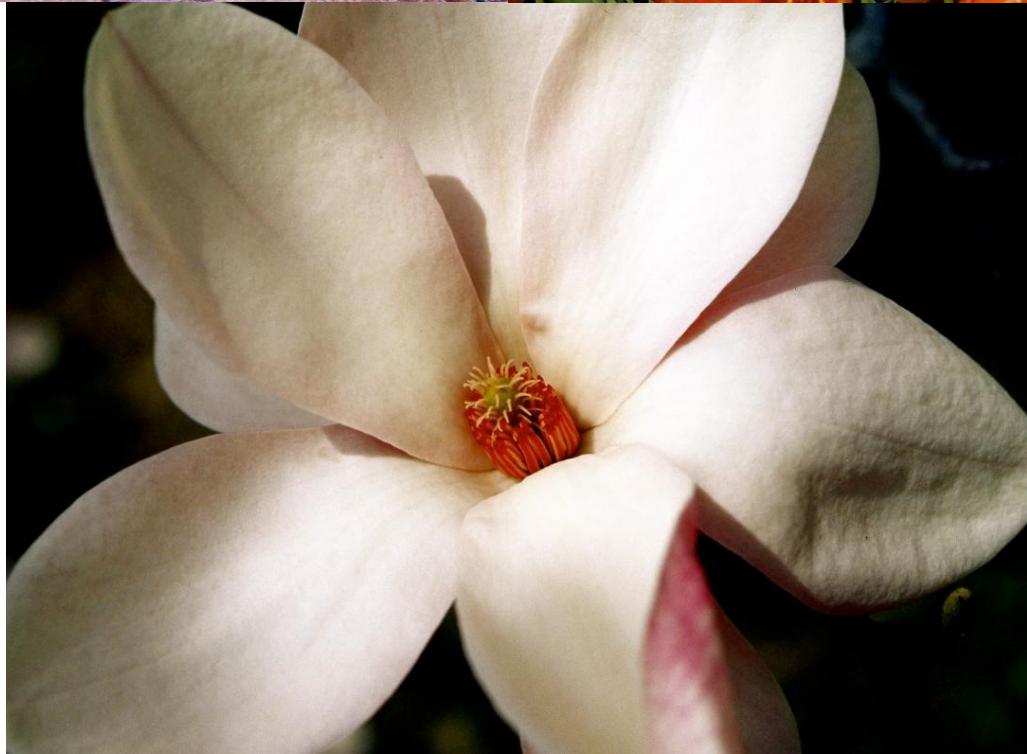
Men's Bible Study
Weekly, Wednesdays
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

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.

... can spring be far behind?"



Photos by Julie Eden