

THE ACORN

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

February 2021 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. 22, No. 2

In 2021, Cupid's arrow ...



Design by Rabe Marsh

... is a lifesaver!

Gentle Readers, it's February already! Time flies whether you're having fun or not.

A while back, one of our residents wondered aloud, "How does the Dining Staff do it?" Just imagine all that planning, ordering, peeling, chopping, measuring, baking, plating, delivering, and then cleaning up.

Well, lots of people are involved, that's for sure. So we asked Bev Puglia, Director of Dining Services; Fred Buchanan, Executive Chef; and Jesse Komara, Service & Catering Manager: "During the pandemic, how much more complex is your work preparing SO residents' daily bread?" In general, the answer was, along with an unbelieving look, "Lots."

Jesse termed the process "hectic" (and he hasn't even helped us celebrate Valentine's Day or Mardi Gras yet, though he is making plans).

So, having informed our esteemed Dining Services staff of our appreciation and support, we will not ask them somehow to find the time to ponder and discuss the ins and outs, the changes of plans and systems, the shortcuts, and the end runs many of the staff must make to sustain us.

Instead, we'll let the question simmer until the time is right.

Ruth Becker & Rosemary Coffey

Does anyone else feel troubled by the fact that the name of next year is literally 2020 won?



THE ACORN

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Submissions for the March issue must be sent to the Editors no later than

February 15, 2021.

REMINDER!

Please take a look at residents at the time of their first jobs on p. 7, and see how many you recognize before you confirm your guesses with the identification box on p. 12. Do share your photos **from your young adult years with family and friends** for the next issue!

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Groundhog Day	Feb. 2
Boy Scout Day	Feb. 8
Valentine's Day	Feb. 14
Presidents' Day	Feb. 15
Mardi Gras	Feb. 16
Ash Wednesday	Feb. 17
Purim	Feb. 27

DANIEL CINDRIC & DEBORAH DARNBROUGH - #107

By Jan Wendt - #158



Photos by Mike Mills

Alert to Pitt alumni at Sherwood Oaks: you now have two more ardent members of your clan, Dan Cindric and Deborah Darnbrough, who moved in right before Thanksgiving. Dan got his B.S. in Engineering from Pitt, while Deborah earned her MBA there. She also worked at Pitt in departmental administration.

The two of them, longtime residents of Crafton, met when Dan was an engineer at Pullman Swindell in downtown Pittsburgh, at the same time as Deborah was a buyer in the Purchasing Dept. That was after both had traveled fairly extensively. Dan lived and worked for three years in Australia after visiting there after college. Meanwhile, Deborah, along with two work colleagues, explored much of Southeast Asia and India, in an age before cellphones and GPS. Let's just say their travel adventures may entertain you at a future meal in the dining room!

Deborah grew up in southeastern Ohio, earning her B.A. at Ohio Wesleyan. Her family includes two brothers and two sisters, still living in Ohio. Dan is a native of Greensburg, PA ("Red Onion," to be specific). He has a brother in Texas. The

couple have a daughter in Fox Chapel and three busy grandsons.

Their lives in Crafton could be characterized as "civic-minded." Dan was elected several times to Borough Council, serving as president and vice president. In later years, he was a mentor for middle school kids in the Pittsburgh Public Schools, in an effort to keep them eligible for the Pittsburgh Promise program. His mentoring skills extended to Hopi Indian boys in Arizona, which led to visits with that Hopi community and an invitation to attend a special Hopi ceremony.

Dan and Deborah have traveled extensively in the Southwest. They recount, with chuckles, the times they spotted a Steeler logo on a jeep on the Hopi reservation or a Terrible Towel at the Zuni village in New Mexico.

Deborah found enjoyment working with the Crafton Historical Society and serving as its president, as well as volunteering on the Crafton Library board. She also contributed her energy to the local food bank. Both enjoy gardening and reading in their free time.

Their introduction to continuing care communities like Sherwood Oaks came when Dan had rehab at Providence Point after back surgery. They were intrigued with the concept and explored a number of options, settling finally on Sherwood Oaks because of its natural beauty and program options. Even though Covid restrictions and the pending sale of their large Crafton home have kept them from sampling all there is to do here, they are eager to jump in once things open up and the house is sold.

Please welcome this delightful couple when you see them out and about.

TERRY & CAROLE TIMBLIN - #111

By Harriet Burress - #112



Photos by Mike Mills

Remember the song that begins, “Make new friends, but keep the old; One is silver and the other gold”?

Having a friendship for over twenty years is priceless, and that was how John and I felt when we first saw Terry and Carole’s pictures on the bulletin board as newcomers to Sherwood Oaks. We had met at Christ Church at Grove Farm, where we were all members.

Terry and Carole moved here from Liberty Hills, where they lived for 11 years. “It was really hard to leave, because it was such a caring community, but so is Sherwood Oaks. Prior to Liberty Hills we lived in Bradford Woods. We were married in 1989 and were almost the Brady Bunch,” Carole commented. Terry has three daughters, and Carole has two sons.

Terry graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in Economics. His profession was in sales of medical equipment; on one occasion, while selling operating room lights to a hospital, he observed a heart transplant taking place. After he and Carole married, they opened the Mole Hole in Ross Park Mall. Several years later, they relocated it to the Strip District. Terry explained, “It was a unique

business, and we were our best customers. Every two years there was a ‘Gathering of the Moles’ – similar to a trade show or exhibition. We had a license with other Moles; because each was a smaller business and could not purchase the volume of larger ones, that association helped us buy.” Carole added, “Our inventory was NOT A THING YOU NEEDED. We sold two music boxes at \$10,000 each. There were not many complaints from our customers, because most were buying a very special gift for someone.” The sunburst on one side of the fireplace in the lobby and the birds on the other side came from their Mole Hole.

Carole earned two Master’s degrees from Pitt – one in English, and the other in Communications. She is also certified in Marketing, formerly called Distributive Education. She taught at Moon Area High School for 26½ years, noting, “I retired while I still loved it.”

Terry and Carole have traveled to many European countries, Ireland being their favorite, but they still have a “bucket list” of places in the U.S. they would like to visit. Both love snow skiing and have done it all over the country and Canada. They are also both certified scuba divers. Their favorite places for the latter are the ABC Islands, where early and strict boat laws have kept the coral pristine.

Monty and Bella greeted me at the door. They are beautiful large cats and must have quite a routine. Carole and Terry have an impressive collection of clocks of all sizes (most being over 100 years old with individual stories), and, when they began to chime at 11:00, both kitties came to Carole’s feet. It was time for their special treat of the day. This couple of many interests and talents will certainly be an asset to Sherwood Oaks. Please join us in welcoming them to their new home.

SHERWOOD OAKS EMPLOYEE THANK YOU NOTES – 2020

Compiled by Jean Henderson - #611

Donations collected from the residents in the amount of \$153,286 were distributed to employees at their annual Holiday Party in December 2020. Thank-you notes were received from 158 employees. Below are some of their comments:

- Feliz Navidad! We are so very blessed to be able to work with all of the amazing residents here – it should be me donating to you! What I get back in my most enjoyable job here is priceless. Thanks for letting me into your world in some small way.
- This is such a wonderful place to work I almost feel guilty accepting the gift. Nevertheless, I appreciate your thoughtfulness.
- You truly are an extension of my family. I have learned to age gracefully because of some of you.
- It means so much to me and my son. I love working here and getting to know all the residents through screening at the gatehouse. Thank you!
- This has been such a challenging year ... it's been a real honor to be a part of the team. Thank you for making my family's holiday a little brighter.
- The residents are very polite and nice. The stories they can tell about their growing up are amazing.
- Thank you all for the gift – much needed due to my husband's accident this year.
- As in years past, my family will be able to find something extra-special due to your generosity. Thank you!
- As always, it comes in handy for all those end-of-the-year holiday expenses.
- I've been here at Sherwood Oaks for 20 years now. Such a wonderful place with wonderful people.
- We appreciate it big time!
- Thank you again for the generous gift I have received now for 12 years. The kindness of our residents is amazing.
- The residents and staff are the reason I am eager to come to work. Not many people honestly say, "I love my job!" I certainly do.
- I look forward to seeing your faces SANS MASK!!
- It's all of you that keep me so focused on finishing nursing school as I truly enjoy caring for each and every one of you! It's an honor!
- Your generosity year after year is amazing!
- I returned to SO after leaving for 2 years to work in a hospital. In those 2 years I realized how special SO is. I returned because of you. That is a testament to all of the wonderful things you do for the community, each other, and staff.
- Your thoughtfulness is appreciated; you continue to inspire me!
- Your kindness has made this difficult time more tolerable.
- I have made so many lasting memories and friendships and am thankful for this place!
- Thank you! Can't wait to see everyone in the dining hall.
- It's been my first year and what a year it's been! I had a wonderful time getting to know the wonderful residents we protect and serve. It's lovely seeing how much you all care.
- You are all special people. What a great group to be around!

- Since I retired, the one thing I miss at the “Oaks” is all of you.
- Before I moved to NC, receiving the very generous check was such a thoughtful gift from a group of people that I hold dear to my heart. Thank you!
- I feel blessed that I work at such a wonderful community.
- In a year of so much uncertainty, there remains an undeniable, unchangeable constant, and that is the incredible thoughtfulness and generosity of SO residents.
- I have only been here one week, but I am so appreciative of your gifts to employees. I look forward to being part of such a lovely community.
- This is truly a special place to work!
- Thank you for your patience with how things are going. We care about your safety so much. Cheers to 2021!!
- You have made each of my 8 years here wonderful in so many ways. Seeing the encouraging notes on your doors and around the campus has really touched my heart. I can't wait to get back out there with my big loud cart and see all of you again.
- SO is truly a great place to work! I can honestly say I love coming to work when it never feels like ‘work’!
- I feel so fortunate to work for residents who support their employees like you do!
- Your kindness makes this job easy.
- Your giving attitude is infectious. We will be donating to the food bank with a portion of your gift. Thank you and God bless!
- I have been at SO almost 9 years, and there are many times I wouldn't

have been able to do Christmas without this. This is especially helpful this year during this pandemic.



ANOTHER MIRACLE AT SHERWOOD OAKS!

By Ann Ferguson - #269

A baby boy, weighing about five pounds, born on October 11, 2020, recently moved into my unit. Talley Ferguson will be prancing about as soon as he learns to walk with a leash. He is a Merle Sheltie, who will grow to about 15” tall and weigh twenty pounds by the time he is one year old.

There is, of course, no real replacement possible for my beloved Lexi, a seven-year-old Golden Retriever, who died on December 18, 2020. But Talley and I are looking forward to new adventures as time goes on.

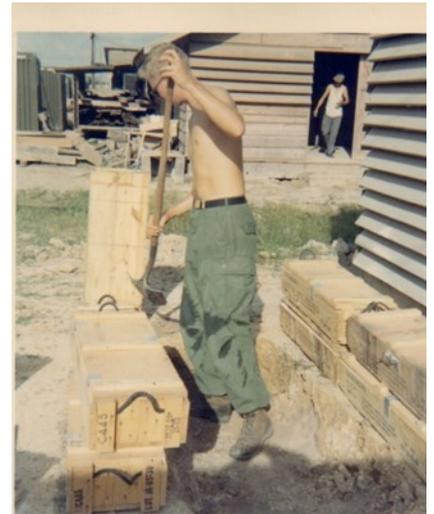




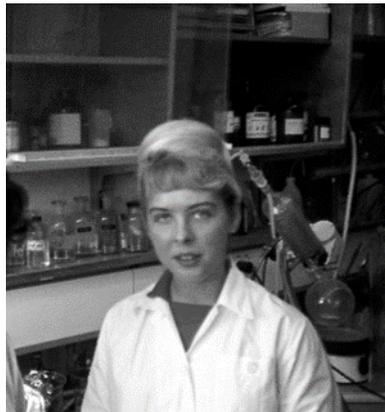
1– Pastor

Here we are at the time of our first jobs ... how many of us do you recognize?

See p. 12 for the answers when you're ready!



7 – Bunker Builder (Vietnam)



4 - Biologist



2 – Director, Church Music



5 – Plant Engineer



8 – Nurse



3 – Nurse



6 – Army nurse in Vietnam



9 – Navy officer candidate

BOOKS WORTH A LOOK

By Barbara Christy - #237

A Promised Land by Barack Obama. Biography, in **large print** and regular type. This 700+ page book, the first part of his presidential memoirs, covers Obama's early adult years, from his start in politics through his first year as President. Strikingly personal and compelling, his narrative addresses both the immense influence and real limitations of presidential power. In an insightful and poignant narrative, Obama shares his innermost thoughts and reflections both about his unimaginable journey and about life in the White House. BIO OBA

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson. Non-fiction. Using stories about real people and thoroughgoing research, Wilkerson takes the reader through the hidden caste system in America, India, and Nazi Germany. Identifying eight bases for caste systems, the author explores the obvious and hidden costs but ends with hopeful pointers about how we can move beyond the destructive separations of human divisions. Beautifully written and powerful. 305.512 WIL

His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope by Jon Meacham. Non-Fiction. John Lewis was both a visionary and a man of faith, who put his life on the line in the service of "the better angels of our nature." From his early years, Lewis was committed to the power of hope and the importance of non-violent protest. Arguably a saint in our time, he is compared by the author to Jefferson, Adams, and Monroe in his impact on our democracy. 328.73 MEA

The Smallest Lights in the Universe by Sara Seager. Non-fiction. So many lights in the sky, so much possibility. As a pioneering planetary scientist, Sara is searching for exoplanets—especially that distant, elusive world that might sustain life. When her husband dies unexpectedly and she becomes a widow with small children, the purpose of her own life becomes hard for her to see. This memoir about the navigation of her life after loss includes passages about the beauty of the universe and the importance of more earthly connections with strangers and loved ones. 523.409 SEA

Saving Freedom: Truman, the Cold War and the Fight for Western Civilization by Joe Scarborough. Non-fiction. By 1947, the Soviet Union had moved from being America's uneasy ally in the Second World War to its most feared enemy. With western European countries devastated, broke, and focused on recovery, only America could afford to defend freedom in the West. It fell to a President who hadn't even been elected to that office to lead the effort. In *Saving Freedom*, Joe Scarborough recounts the historic forces that moved Truman toward his country's long twilight struggle against Soviet communism, and how this untested President acted decisively to build a lasting coalition that would influence America's foreign policy for generations to come. 973.918 SCA

Magic Lessons and Rules of Magic by Alice Hoffman. Fiction. In the 1600s, baby Maria Owen is stranded in a snowy village in New England. She is taken in and raised by an old woman who teaches her the "Nameless Art." Later, as an adult, when Maria invokes a curse

against a faithless lover, she learns the rules of magic. In a sequel set in the 1960s, her descendant Susanna Owens discovers that her three children have inherited the gift. She sets firm rules to protect them. Becoming young adults, they set out to uncover family secrets and understand who they are. F HOF

Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi. Fiction. Two half-sisters are born into neighboring villages in eighteenth-century Ghana. One is married off to an aristocratic Englishman and lives in palatial comfort on the coast of the Cape. Her sister is sold into the slave trade and ends up in America. Two threads in this book follow the resulting families through three centuries of civil war in Ghana and the Civil War in the US to the present day. F GYA

Standardization of Demoralization Procedures by Jennifer Hofmann. Fiction. Set in the final, turbulent days of the Cold War, this book combines the suspense of a spy novel with brilliant absurdist humor about the demoralizing effects of living in a totalitarian state. F HOF

A Lover's Discourse by Xiaolu Guo. Fiction. Moving to London in 2015 to pursue a PhD, a Chinese woman, never named, tells the story of her relationship with a new lover in fragments set in a small apartment and a houseboat on the Thames amid the turmoil of post-Brexit England. F GUO

The Silence by Don Dilillo. Fiction. On Superbowl Sunday, 2022, three people await the arrival of two guests flying in from Paris. The guests survive a dramatic crash landing and arrive intact, but suddenly the world as they know it disappears. The digital connections have been broken. This small novel

explores the meaning of life via the conversation among the dinner-party guests. F DEL

Here We Are by Graham Swift. Fiction. Magicianship, both fictional and literary, is the focus of this small novel. Ronnie and Evie, his assistant, top the bill at the theatre at the end of the pier in Brighton, England. Jack Robinson, the master of ceremonies, is at the top of his game. As the summer progresses, however, the off-stage drama among the three begins to overshadow the program that holds them together. F SWI

All Adults Here by Emma Straub. Fiction. Adult siblings, aging parents, middle-school mean girls, high-school boy-friends, and the impact of birth order all feature in this story of a mother reflecting on her parental choices as she prepares to share a long-held secret. Is it too late to set things right? F STR

The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman. Fiction. Four friends in a retirement community meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes. A former socialist firebrand, a gentle, lonely, lovelorn widow, a retired therapist, and a formidable woman of unknown past, they call themselves The Thursday Murder Club. When a real murder happens in their area, this unorthodox group tackles catching the killer. A fun read. F OSM

The Abstainer by Ian McGuire. Fiction. An Irish-American veteran of the American Civil War arrives in Britain to join the secret society, the Fenians. The underground war for Irish independence is the background for this story of a reformed Irish drunk, now a constable in Manchester, his long-lost nephew, and the Irish Fenians, who become entangled over the scheduled hanging of captured rebels. F MCG

Just Like You by Nick Hornby. Fiction. This warm, tender novel follows unhappily married Lucy, teacher and mother of two teen-age sons, in her discovery that the perfect script may yet be out there. Looking for a babysitter, she meets twenty-something Joseph, who is as different from her as can be – and falls in love with him. Funny, heartwarming, and unexpected. F HOR

Daylight by David Baldacci. Fiction. For many long years, Atlee Pine was tormented by uncertainty after her twin sister, Mercy, was abducted at the age of six and never seen again. Now, just as Atlee is pressured to end her investigation into Mercy's disappearance, she finally gets her most promising breakthrough yet: the identity of her sister's kidnapper, Ito Vincenzo. Atlee and her assistant, Carol Blum, race to Vincenzo's last known location and unknowingly stumble straight into a drug ring investigation involving a military installation. F BAL

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LIBRARY LOWDOWN

By Barbara Christy - #237

Please, please, please!

Follow-up from our inventory in May convinces us that many books are being borrowed without being checked out. We track the popularity of authors and genres based on reports from the library computer system. Thus, books that are borrowed but not officially checked out aren't reflected in the reports, which means we can't cater to your interests and order other books you would like to read. *Please* be sure to check out your book (either by scanning the barcode or

signing the card) before you leave the library. If using the computer scan method, finish up by hitting the "Enter" key and getting the tinkling glass sound. Thank you!



LIVING WITH LOSS

By Jean Henderson - #611

MEMORIAL REGISTRY – In the Library, on top of the shelf behind the new books, is an open book in which are recorded all the deaths at SO since its founding in 1982, listed by name and date of death. It is an archive of our friends and neighbors who have contributed to the place we now call home.

LITERATURE ABOUT LOSS – Remember to take advantage of the books and pamphlets dealing with loss in the Paperback Room in our Library. No need to check them out – just borrow and return.

A THOUGHT ABOUT ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE – "Friendship has a special meaning when you have someone with whom to share tears as well as laughter, fears as well as dreams, and silence when time for words has past." This was on a card I received from my sister's best friend when my sister was dying of early onset Alzheimer's. That friend was always there for her – to the end.

COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #715

Starting on February 8, a climate change documentary will be shown on the second Monday of each month on Channel 900 (or perhaps a new Channel 901), at 10:00 am, 4:00 pm, and 7:30 pm.

First up is *Chasing Ice*, which uses time-lapse photography and other visual effects to show the devastating amount – 28 trillion (with a ‘t’) tons – of ice that have been lost on the planet in the last 30 years.

You’ve probably read that the Arctic is heating up more quickly than any other place. Less sea ice in the Arctic Ocean turns the reflective surface of the ice into seawater that absorbs heat, which then melts more ice in a self-enforcing spiral. Air pollution has darkened the ice in Greenland, speeding up the melting there.

As well, glaciers in Antarctica are on the move. Scientists have predicted that for many years in West Antarctica; but now there is fear that ice in *East* Antarctica is beginning to move, an effect that wasn’t supposed to happen for hundreds of years.

All of that freshwater flooding into the oceans is both accelerating sea-level rise and weakening the flow of the worldwide ocean current network that mediates temperature and moisture across the planet. If the Gulf Stream/mid-Atlantic ‘conveyor belt’ slows or stops, a chill will begin hitting both the UK and Europe.

Current “Carbon Tax” Legislation

Learn more about the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend bill, with 86 co-sponsors, at www.energyinnovationact.org. For constantly updated information on the climate crisis, follow @CCLSlipperyRock on Facebook.

Meanwhile, here’s a copy of the poster about *Chasing Ice*, which will be on the Focus on the World bulletin board in early February:

FOCUS ON THE WORLD



STARRING:

- JAMES BALOG
- LOUIE PSIHOYOS
- KITTY BOONE
- SYLVIA EARLE
- JASON BOX
- TAD PFEFFER

DIRECTOR: JEFF ORLOWSKI

MONDAY/ FEB. 8
10:00 AM, 4:00 PM
7:30 PM
CHANNEL 901

CHASING ICE

2012 PG-13 RATING

75 min.

DOCUMENTARY

In the spring of 2005, acclaimed environmental photographer James Balog headed to the Arctic on a tricky assignment for National Geographic: to capture images to help tell the story of the Earth’s changing climate. Even with a scientific upbringing, Balog had been a skeptic about climate change. But that first trip north opened his eyes to the biggest story in human history and sparked a challenge within him that would put his career and his very well-being at risk.

WATCH ON
CHANNEL 901
FROM THE COMFORT OF
YOUR OWN HOME!

How are you doing with your New Year’s resolutions? If any of you are ready to tell us, do let us know what (not necessarily why!) you planned to do or NOT to do in 2021, and how successful you’ve been so far in keeping your promises to yourselves. We can’t wait to hear from you!

RETURNS – BAH!

By Ellen Brierly - #734

One would think that age would provide wisdom and therefore keep me from ordering from a catalog. Not so. I ventured forth with a gift for my husband, Bob.

It didn't fit. It needed to be returned. No problem. I was impressed with the kindness and speed with which the store responded. They would e-mail a return label to me, and I would drop the package at a participating FedEx store.

I need to explain, before going further in this saga, that we don't own anything that is *smart* at our house. I did recently buy a new phone, which is labeled as being smart, but, since I don't know how to use it, I consider it borderline. Therefore, I was shocked when the mailing label arrived on my computer and it made no sense. I expected to receive a form to fill out with name, address, reason for return, order number, cost of item, etc. Instead, I received an odd square figure of black and white markings that I could not decipher.

Evidently, it was a smart label. I needed to take it to FedEx to be printed. I am aware that there are FedEx stores in Cranberry, but this one said I must take it to the one in Mars. Off we went, with the GPS to guide us. We had a choice on Rte. 19 to turn right or left and, as you might expect, we chose the wrong one. This caused the GPS some consternation, as we were not following its directions to go to Smith Ave. We have lived here for seven years, and I never knew we had a Smith Ave. My driver, who shall remain nameless but is a close relative, was getting most agitated. Eventually, after a number of wrong turns, we turned onto Rte. 19 to get our

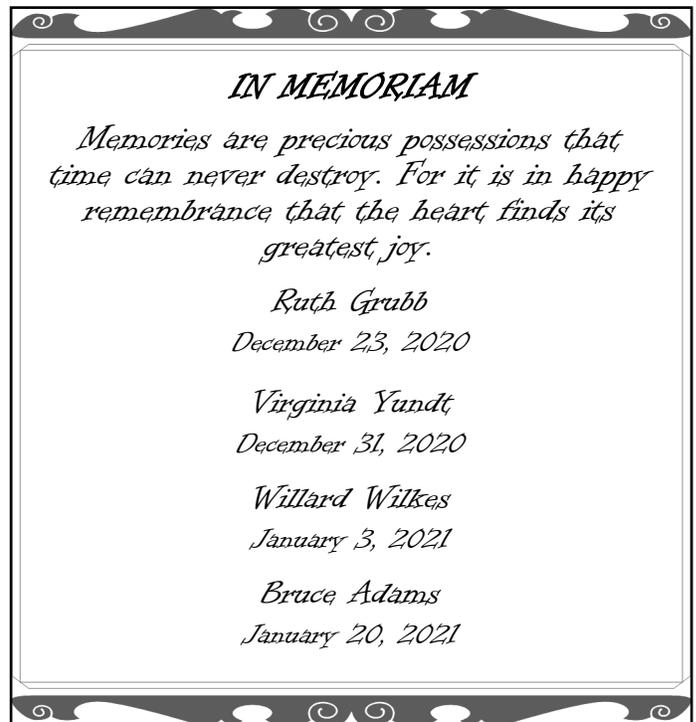
bearings. Shelby, my GPS voice, was delighted. (I call her Shelby because "she'll be really mad if we don't follow her directions.")

"Drive .9 miles to your destination," she said. My first thought was, "This is Cranberry. What happened to Mars?"

It turns out that there is a patch of highway that includes three postal addresses. McDonald's is in Cranberry; next to it is FedEx, which is in Mars; and three doors down is Warrendale.

A nice gentleman took care of us; he printed the required label, slapped it on the package, and sent us off with sighs of relief, ours and his.

Returns – Bah!



KEY TO RESIDENTS' FIRST JOB PHOTOS ON PAGE 7

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Jean Henderson | 5. Richard Pospistle |
| 2. John Becker | 4. Julie Eden |
| 3. Jan Wendt | 9. Rabe Marsh |
| 7. Wally Christy | 8. Lee Wierman |
| 6. Barbara Christy | |

ACES AWARD WINNER 2019

From the S. O. Administration

The Award for Commitment and Excellence in Service (ACES) honors staff whose everyday actions and, in some instances, personal acts of courage and compassion exceed the high level of service that the community has come to expect from Sherwood Oaks. Each year, fewer than one percent of UPMC staff from across the health system receive this honor. [We note that our Chef Rick Kulish received a 2010 ACES award for his devotion to duty in a snowstorm.]

Please join us in congratulating Fen Hou as a recipient of the 2019 ACES award (the ceremony customarily being held the following March). Fen, originally from China, is a professional staff nurse in the Oak Grove Center who has worked at Sherwood Oaks for ten years. The epitome of thoroughness and organization, she does not accept anything less than the absolute best for the residents. Families have complimented her caring nature and professionalism as she facilitates teamwork in the Oak Grove Center as well as across the Sherwood Oaks campus. She has also assisted with UPMC's International Division. We are lucky to have such an outstanding employee! Congratulations, Fen!



Fen Hou & Betty Eichler (past SORA President), Dec. 2020; because of Covid-19, the March 2020 ceremony never happened!

SHERWOOD OAKS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION – SORA

QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES – December 15, 2020

By Jean Henderson, Secretary, #611

NOTE: Due to the campus being closed and all activities canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the quarterly residents' meeting was held virtually.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Peter Broeren submitted a written report. The Employees Appreciation Fund balance is \$163,120.97. The Memorial/Special Projects Fund balance is \$61,382.79, which excludes the \$51,175 CD dated 1/25/2020.

OPERATING TREASURER'S REPORT:
No report.

SHERWOOD OAKS FUND REPORT:
Report submitted by Annette McPeek for Frank Finley. Current balances are as follows: unrestricted - \$ 50,662; trillium - \$1,487; scholarship - \$767,902; special projects - \$880,013; and garden bequest - \$5,500.

The Board approved funding of \$13,595 for repair of the walking path along Norman Drive.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT: Annette McPeek, Executive Director, submitted a written report. An update on the COVID vaccine was given. Activities here will reflect the Governor's mandates. A second in-house 900 channel has been ordered.

PLCC REPORT: Report submitted by Annette McPeek for Ron Gigler. Agenda items for the Dec. 17 meeting included succession planning, the 2021 business plan, and the 2021 Operating and Capital budgets. PLCC stands for Pittsburgh Life-time Care Community – doing business as Sherwood Oaks.



MONIKA DALRYMPLE AND THE HOLIDAY SEASON 2020

By Catherine Wagner - #731

The holiday season this past year was certainly not what we had gotten used to, with parties, special meals, and decorations! But Monika Dalrymple still made a difference. She brought the Christmas spirit to all of us who were interested, with her numerous nutcracker displays, a running train, music, lights and even German Christmas cookies, all offered on the first floor of the Lakeside Apartments. Everything was in place from Thanksgiving on, truly a “gift” to all of us who passed the many displays each day.

Photos of Monika’s nutcrackers were featured in a previous issue, but this year was a special occasion. On December 8, 2020, Monika’s longtime partner, Rolf Rolles, died at the age of 91 after a yearlong decline. Even in her grief, she was thinking of others. As residents, we are truly blessed to have her talent, generosity, and sincerity shared with us all.



JIGSAW PUZZLE ALERT

By Joan McBurney - #206

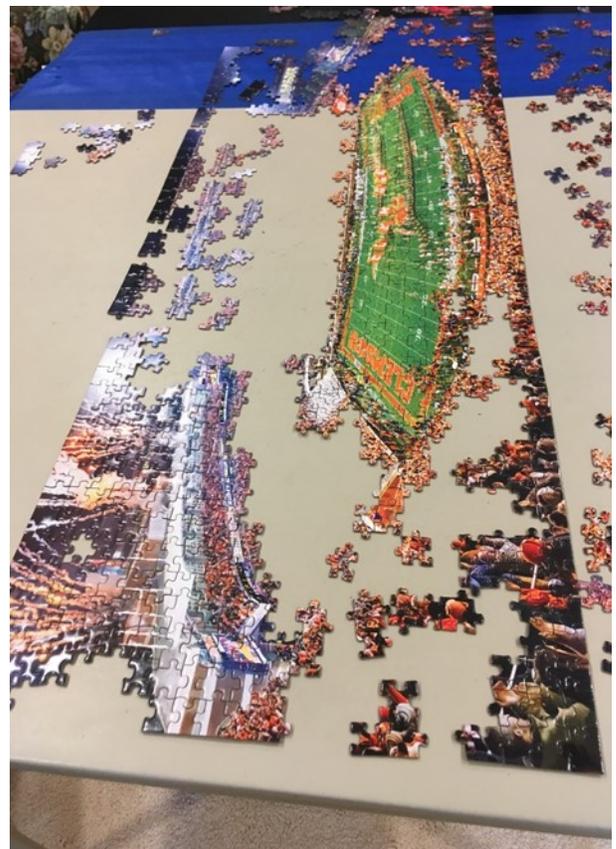
We are in need of some new puzzles for our exchange. The 300- and 500-piece puzzles seem to be the favorites, as they fit best on a card table, but 1000-piece puzzles are also welcome.

If you have some puzzles to give or lend to our exchange, please leave them on the table in the lobby. You are certainly free to retrieve your puzzle at any time, if you wish.

Please take only one puzzle at a time and return it promptly when you have finished with it.

Thank you, and Happy Puzzling!

Meanwhile, here’s the 1000-piece puzzle of Clemson Stadium on which Harriet Burress is working in her spare time!



AM I READING TOO MUCH?

By Dennis Lynch - #335

The other evening, while brushing my teeth to give my body something to do while I read the CREST PRO-HEALTH Toothpaste tube, I was struck motionless by a strange sentence in a tiny font:

“PROTECTS AGAINST AREAS DENTISTS CHECK MOST.”

Huh? What on earth does *that* mean?

First, it appears I have “areas” in my mouth. I guess that would be teeth, tongue, palate, tonsils ... OK.

So why must I now “protect against” them? We have been living together for 83 years: what are they suddenly up to?

“Dentists check most”? What about the other areas? Are they being slighted? UPMC and I pay my dentist good money; isn't she appropriately thorough?

Perhaps Crest is protecting the “areas” *against* the dentist's pick. But how? Perhaps the green slime—sorry, “clean mint”—toothpaste shoots out tendrils and warns the dentist away by plastering the areas with signs like “RADIATION HAZARD.” Well done, Crest! Or maybe it spreads out and hardens into an armor-plate like it does when you accidentally leave a blob on the sink overnight.

Or maybe it is protecting the dentist *from* the areas, somehow blocking a “clean mint” attack on an unsuspecting tech.

Most likely, Crest-the-company (Proctor and Gamble) simply needs to say what (I think) it means:

“CREST PROTECTS YOUR TEETH.”

And they can make it in a bigger font, so it will be easier for me to read, too:

“CREST PROTECTS YOUR TEETH”!

FUR STOLE DISTRACTION

By Winnie Dietz - #725

It was a chilly day for Florida, so freeze warnings were posted to the groves, whose owners put out their smudge pots to keep their citrus trees from freezing. Our townspeople gleefully unearthed their heavy sweaters and jackets, so seldom worn but still useful.

It was Sunday morning, and the ladies who had been transplanted from northern climes were delighted to bring out their fur wraps, whether they really needed them or not.

Sitting in my pew at church, well behind a lady in her fur stole, I noticed a woman walking in with a young boy about five years old, whom I surmised to be her grandson. They sat down in a pew directly behind the fur-bedecked lady.

Obviously, the little boy had never ever seen a dead animal draped over a person's shoulders, head, tail, and feet besides! He was truly captivated. Those bright little eyes, the tiny paws, and the soft-looking furry tail were more than he could resist. Each time he reached up to touch the creature, Grandma grabbed him back. This lasted for quite some time, amusing the other parishioners to the extent that the pastor's sermon was never fully absorbed by many of us.

The moral of the story is ... Don't wear a dead animal around your neck, whether it is in style or not!

* * * * *

A dog reflects the family life. Whoever saw a frisky dog in a gloomy family, or a sad dog in a happy one? (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle)

It's finally February! That means ...



Photo by Janice Wendt

... more minutes of sunshine, every day.