

# THE ACORN

SHERWOOD OAKS NEWSLETTER  
100 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066  
[www.sherwood-oaks.com](http://www.sherwood-oaks.com)

September 2021 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. 22, No. 7

## *A Summer of Beautiful Bounty...*



Photos by Jan Wendt

Gentle Readers:

We are happy to welcome you all back to the monthly production of our community newsletter. We wish we could also welcome you back to a return to normalcy after a year and half of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. Alas, due to the Delta variant and the half of the US population that is still unvaccinated, we are now facing renewed calls for masking, social distancing, and other limitations on our being with friends and family.

Nonetheless, you will notice in the following pages several announcements of activities scheduled for our entertainment and edification. Masking, if it turns out to be necessary, may be a small price to pay for taking advantage of the opportunities that are slowly becoming available to us again. Please take steps to end your own isolation whenever and wherever you can.

Here's another possibility: **Might you be interested in joining a "Language Table" once a month?** We're thinking of, say, a French table on the first Monday; a German table on the second Tuesday; a Spanish table on the third Wednesday; and the like. Let me know if you have a preferred language and day of the month, and if you'd like it to be at lunch or dinner. Then we'll see if we can make it happen!

Rosemary Coffey - #113

Losing weight doesn't seem to be working for me, so from now on I'm going to concentrate on getting taller.

My body is a temple – ancient and crumbling.

Common sense is not a gift. It's a punishment, because you have to deal with everyone else who doesn't have it.

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| VJ Day               | Sept. 2  |
| Labor Day            | Sept. 6  |
| Rosh Hashanah begins | Sept. 6  |
| Patriot Day          | Sept. 11 |
| Grandparents Day     | Sept. 12 |
| Yom Kippur begins    | Sept. 15 |
| Constitution Day     | Sept. 17 |
| First Day of Fall    | Sept. 22 |

## THE ACORN

### Editor

Rosemary Coffey  
rosemarycoffey@aol.com

### Staff

Ruth Becker, Special Projects  
Rabe Marsh, Photographer  
Jan Wendt, Profile Coordinator

### Production Editor

Tabby Alford

### Ex Officio

Annette McPeck

Submissions for the October issue must be sent to the Editor no later than  
**September 15, 2021.**

## IN MEMORIAM

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

*Sandra Brown  
June 30, 2021*

*David Meister  
July 2, 2021*

*Elmer (June) Rice  
July 5, 2021*

*Mary Ann Conte  
August 10, 2021*

*Margery Rausch  
August 15, 2021*

## JIM and JEANNE HVIDDING - #240

By Harriet Burress - #112



Photos by Mike Mills

What a pleasure it is to welcome Jeanne and Jim Hvidding (pronounced with a silent “H”) to their new home “in the middle of the community,” where the wide-open space behind them is conducive to neighborly get-togethers. In fact, Jeanne commented that their new friends in the circle had a party for them when they moved in. That was surely a Sherwood Oaks welcome!

Jim and Jeanne have moved west to be near their one daughter, her husband, and their 9-year-old grandson “who will be a heart-throb with his dimples.” He has taken ice skating lessons since he was four; in the pictures of him all suited up playing hockey, he looks professional indeed. He practices at the Lemieux Center, and Jim and Jeanne go there for games. “It is cold,” Jeanne said. Earlier, when asked if they enjoyed the 4th of July picnic under the tent here, she replied, “Oh, no, we had our own picnic – our first July 4th together as a family in 5 years, and it was wonderful.”

For 42 years the Hviddings lived in Easton, PA, where Jim was an economics professor at Kutztown University and Jeanne taught 2nd and 3rd grades for

23 years; she liked both, but *loved* the 2nd graders. She and Jim met while they were students at McDaniel College in Westminster, MD, and they were married in November of her senior year. Like many of us who say, “The times have surely changed,” we should note that, in order for her to complete the year, Jeanne’s Dad had to get permission for her to return to her dorm as a married lady.

Jim had enlisted in the US Navy Submarines after graduating and had to be interviewed by Admiral Rickover before being accepted. “The men with whom I worked were very capable – the best people in the world.” He was aboard a nuclear submarine and had several jobs over his 5-year tour of duty, one of which was as the reactor control officer. He spoke of where they were trained in Connecticut: “It was in one-half of a nuclear sub, which was well hidden and very secure. It was like a simulator, but it wasn’t one. It was the real thing.” After his discharge, Jim earned an MA and a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland.

Jeanne volunteered in Easton with Meals on Wheels and various church activities; she also sang in the church choir. Jim sang in a barbershop quartet, while tennis was his favorite athletic activity. He is looking for someone at Sherwood Oaks with whom to play.

Here Jeanne is already participating in Monday Night Bridge, while also enjoying canasta, reading, sudoku, and puzzles. Given their musical talents, Jim and Jeanne both plan to join the Sherwood Choir when it resumes. Please extend another warm welcome to the Hviddings when you run into them.

## REMEMBERING ... TOGETHER

From the Chapel Committee and the Living with Loss Team

Among the many losses we endured as a community during the pandemic lockdown was the ability to gather and mourn the deaths of 44 of our residents. The Chapel Committee and the Living with Loss team are, therefore, sponsoring "A Service of Celebration and Remembrance" on **Saturday, September 18**, in the Auditorium, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

While we were fortunate not to experience any resident deaths due directly to Covid-19, we never had the chance collectively to honor and remember these souls. We hope that the planned service will compensate somewhat for that missed opportunity.

Although families of those to be celebrated will not be able to be with us, each of them will be sent a memento of the day. We also hope that the service can be streamed to them around the country.

## LIVE PROGRAMS ARE BACK!

By Jane Lavender - #253, for the Program Committee

The SORA Program Committee is delighted to bring to you our first LIVE program since the epidemic brought our Thursday evening entertainment to a halt. On **Thursday, September 23**, beginning at 7:15 p.m., in the auditorium, Mary Ann Mangini will lead us on a trip down memory lane with a program titled "Love through the Ages."

Mary Ann, a singer and actress, has been performing in the Pittsburgh area in musical theater and on stage for several years. She is currently singing with Dancing Queen, a disco band. She is also a teacher, the Children's Music Director at the Strand Theater, and the developer of

The Fantastiks, a youth show choir of children aged 5 to 18.

We are pleased to bring Mary Ann back to Sherwood Oaks. We hope to see all of you there, together again!

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

By John Bridges - #122

I was very much interested to read the account of Talley Ferguson in the *Summer Acorn*, which inspired me to recall my own adventure with a dog during World War II. As I cycled five miles home from school one day, I was stopped by our milkman, who offered me a Welsh Collie sheepdog puppy. I put her in my satchel and scurried home!

I taught Dinah all the social graces, like shaking paws, and more useful lessons like rounding up animals, based on her natural in-bred instincts. She would round up sheep at high speed, never biting them or harming their wool. Cattle would be dealt with in daintier fashion at a slow speed, apart from the occasional nip of tail or ankle to keep them moving. She could put the hens or ducks to bed at night, with no barking or sudden movement that might have put them off their lay.

I also taught her the difference between sitting and lying down, and the usual "come, fetch, and carry." I even taught her how to climb a ladder with round rungs; alas, I was never able to teach her how to come down again, so I frequently had to rescue her from the top of the hayrick or the second floor of a barn.

In the evenings the family would often be sitting around a warming fire. If someone mentioned in a quiet, normal voice that there was a cow in the garden, it was amazing how Dinah would prick up her ears and dash to the door, ready and eager to chase the interloper away from the vegetables.

## WELCOME TO SUSAN JACOBS – #332

By Jean Henderson - #611



Photo by Mike Mills

I wonder if a list has been kept of all the different states from which our residents have moved to live here at Sherwood. I have a feeling Susan Jacobs might be the only one to come here from Nevada!

She's one peripatetic lady. Born in Pittsburgh, she lived in Edgewood and Squirrel Hill; then it was off to college at Wittenberg in Ohio and to grad school for her master's at Columbia in NYC. She settled down there and traveled with her first husband to France, England, and Germany. Later she married Steve Jacobs and headed off to Reno!

Susan thrived in both NYC and Reno; indeed, she misses her Reno friends who still keep in touch. Although gambling was fun for her, she's not a heavy bettor; still, she'd like to go down to the Rivers Casino some time to check it out.

Susan's professional life was spent as a social worker and therapist. She LOVED her work! Her first job was working with adoptive parents as they received babies from unwed mothers in NYC. But most of her career was spent in the mental health field working with mentally ill patients. Her husband Steve was also a

social worker; sadly, he died suddenly in the '90s.

Susan's immediate family has a lot of "steps" and "halves" in it, but the reason she's come to SO is that her "whole" sister, Nancy Clark, lives here! Susan visited Sherwood several times over seven years until finally making the move from Reno. They have another sister, who lives in Oberlin, OH.

But it's Meggie who runs the house and rules the roost! Meggie is a 7-year-old Shih Tzu – a real sweetheart! She made the trip from Reno in a 'dog transport van' along with several other dogs being dropped off at their new homes.

Susan's deepest involvement with volunteer work was ten years as a crisis call center counselor in Reno – answering phone calls from people in trouble. One she especially remembers was from a young man who had already begun taking pills to end his life. She kept him on the line until he finally allowed her to call for help. He lived....

Susan looks forward to meeting people and getting involved in activities. She enjoys knitting and crafting and hopes to get involved in exercise classes. She loves the new VW that she just bought here and is enjoying her new home. Do take the time to say Hello to our new resident from Nevada!

*Retirement to-do list: Wake up. Nailed it!*

*I went to an antique auction and people were bidding on me.*

*Just once, I want a username and password prompt to say, "Close enough."*

*My doctor asked if anyone in my family suffered from mental illness. I said, "No, we all seem to enjoy it."*

## OUR HEROES!

By Robert Typanski - #190

There was a time when we lived in fear,  
while strolling along the lake so near.  
Each step was filled with apprehension,  
hoping not to make indention  
on some vile substance lying there,  
left by creatures without a care.

Then there arrived our heroes strong.  
They took control, and before long,  
rid our lake of those vile creatures  
and sent them packing to the bleachers.  
Now they only sit and pout,  
Without the plaints they used to  
shout.

Happy Birthday, Sherman and Oakley:

You are each a hero!

We love you . . .

and keep those geese at zero!



Painting by Robert Typanski

## RESIDENTS' ART WALL

By Joni Pun - #304 & Ann Ferguson - #269

We hope you're enjoying the Residents' Art Wall in the Gallery, which is the wall that backs onto the mailroom. We think you'll agree that the talent of our residents is amazing. Generally, about half the wall is devoted to paintings, and the other half to needlework such as cross-stitch and needlepoint, but also basketry, weaving, photography, and woodwork.

Anything a resident has done and wishes to display is eligible, but it needs to have a wire behind it to be easily hung. Weight is also a factor, as we are not equipped to handle very heavy pieces.

Some people have asked if the works are for sale. Interested parties should contact the person who made the object.

A new exhibit should be ready for September through October. Interested parties should contact one of us for information.

## SUGGESTED DRESS GUIDELINES

*(Approved by SORA Board, July 15, 2021)*

Here is a dress guide for attire in the various dining venues at Sherwood Oaks.

Casual dress is always appropriate in the Café for breakfast, lunch, and dinner and in the Dining Room for lunch except Sunday.

### Casual

- Jeans or slacks
- Mid-thigh-length shorts
- Leggings
- T-shirts (no offensive logos)
- Polo shirts
- Jogging suits

Attire for the evening meal and for Sunday Brunch in the Dining Room and the Cranberry Lake Grill is smart casual.

### Smart Casual

- Slacks or khakis
- Pressed jeans
- Mid-thigh-length shorts
- Collared shirts
- Nice tops
- Blazers or sweaters
- Dresses or skirts
- Jewelry or accessories

## JANE LOHMAN - #717

By Connie Brandenberger - #602



Photo by Mike Mills

Most Pittsburghers have heard of the National Historical Landmark of Chatham Village. Jane Lohman lived there for 55 years. It was not easy leaving that Garden City Movement design community, which was funded in the 1930s by the Buhl Foundation as an experiment in planned urban living. However, Jane loves the pleasant suburban atmosphere of the Sherwood Oaks campus. She was a member of the Board at Chatham Village, where she also enjoyed volunteering for Meals on Wheels and being a part of the Pittsburgh Public Schools tutoring program.

Jane was born in the Thornburg area of Pittsburgh. She earned her BA from Wells College in New York, where she met the man who became her husband when he was attending nearby Hamilton College. They married three years later. He enlisted in the Air Force, which began their traveling days. They spent a year and a half in Turkey, where he worked as a Russian translator. From there they were sent to Texas, followed by an assignment in Caribou, Maine. They finally settled in Pittsburgh, where her husband was employed by J&L Steel.

Jane claims that one of her wisest decisions was accepting a position at the University of Pittsburgh, where she was the Director of Student Affairs, Program Director

of the Master of Public Policy and Management Program, and Assistant Dean of the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. One of the many benefits of her association with Pitt was that she was able to continue her education to earn a Master of Science in Information Science degree, and see her children through college with the University tuition assistance plan.

Her daughter, who was born while they were in Turkey, and son-in-law are in the process of moving to Bradford Woods. Her son and his wife live in Richmond, VA, with her three grandsons.

Jane's many interests include cooking, learning about other cultures, attending the opera, and reading. One of her favorite activities was hiking and studying wildflowers. Unfortunately, on her last hiking excursion, she fell and injured her foot, which required extensive surgery and rehabilitation. It took her almost a year to get back on her feet. Her hiking days are over, but she can still walk and enjoy the many wildflowers blooming at Sherwood Oaks. Another of her many interests is writing. For 15 years Jane wrote a cooking column for the *Greentree Times*. She is considering volunteering in the Library.

Sherwood Oaks was a known quantity in her consideration of residency. Most recently she knew Mary Frank, Larry Howard, and Bill Matlack. Before coming to Sherwood Oaks, she read many issues of the *Acorn*, which familiarized her with her prospective home. She indicated that it is a great marketing tool. She especially likes the idea of our Residents Association, which allows all residents to have input into the many activities at this community.

Jane is grateful to the Welcoming Committee, all of whose members reached out to her. Many of her neighbors greeted her like old friends. May we all be like new old friends to her, as we welcome her to our community!



Photo by Arlene Rosarius

## **SEPTEMBER ART STUDIO EXHIBIT**

By Richard Pospistle - #252

As of September 1, the north wall of the scooter room/art gallery is displaying paintings created by resident Richard Pospistle. Since becoming a participant in the art studio, Richard has completed more than sixty paintings, mostly in acrylic.

After graduating from college and moving away from home, Richard was interested in meeting young single women at his new work location. Since one option was joining the Kittanning Art Association, he enrolled in a beginners' group for oil painting. After completing four paintings, he dropped out, because, alas, all the women were married. He did no painting for the next 45 years.

After becoming a resident of Sherwood Oaks in 2006, Richard desired to participate in a creative activity. Available options included ceramics and painting. When he visited the art studio, Dorothy Fitzpatrick, the art director, indicated that two additional paintings were needed to complete a series of food paintings scheduled to be hung in the newly renovated dining room. Accepting the challenge to do one of the paintings, Richard chose to become a member of the art group. His original painting of corn and onions still hangs behind the hot food serving area in the dining room.

Richard's watercolor of the Oak Grove Facility was selected for inclusion in the Oak Grove dedication bulletin. It also served as a cover for note cards that were sold in the gift shop. The painting of the Oak Grove Facility was eventually presented to Mark Bondi at a SORA resident meeting and hung in his Sherwood Oaks office. Approximately ten of Richard's canvases have been sold to either residents or their visitors. Two of his paintings hang on the wall outside the physical fitness center. He also donated a painting to UPMC for an Art Auction.

## **COME PAINT WITH US**

By Barbara Dixon - #335

The Painting Studio, on the lower level of the Center, is fully equipped for anyone desiring to try a hand at using one or more art media. Could you be the next Richard Pospistle? If you are just becoming acquainted with the many activities here at Sherwood Oaks, give painting a try. Classes are held Mondays from 1 to 3 p.m. If you already paint, stop down and get acquainted with all the studio has to offer, including mat cutters and frames.

## **CURIO CABINETS**

By Gussie Dimmick - #160

The current display, "Old and Wonderful," has been one of the most varied ever – something for everyone. It will be coming down soon, to be replaced by "Trophies, Awards, and College Mugs." This display will honor our residents and their many achievements.

**Please pick up your items from the current display on Tuesday, Sept. 7, 10-12 a.m. and 4:30-5:30 p.m.**

**Bring "Trophies, Awards, and College Mugs" on Thursday, Sept. 9, 10-12 a.m. and 4:30-5:30 p.m.**

## MARTHA ROENIGK - #136

By Jan Wendt - #158



Photo by Mike Mills

Although Martha Roenigk (ROE-nik) and her late husband traveled in all 50 states and saw much of the world, she was born and spent all of her adult life in Shaler Township.

The couple met when Martha was a high school junior and wed shortly after she graduated from high school. They set up housekeeping in Shaler, also his hometown, and he went to work for AT&T, while she worked as a seamstress and raised the family.

As far as connections to Sherwood Oaks are concerned, along the way in the years since, Martha made the acquaintance of Janie Naylor (now Martha's neighbor in #139) when their husbands hunted and fished together. Also, one of Martha's sons is married to resident Jeri Tyson's daughter. In sum, Sherwood Oaks as a spot to perch for the next part of her life seemed a natural, and she arrived here at the end of April 2021.

Martha also has another son and daughter, as well as 9 grand-kids and four great-grands. Two of her children

live within a couple of miles of Sherwood Oaks, but the next generations are scattered in Kentucky, Florida, Maryland, and Virginia.

Martha has learned how to Skype with the extended family when her son comes and brings his laptop, but she hopes to learn soon how to do so herself.

Other than family, her greatest pleasures are sewing and reading – mostly mysteries. She has sewed all her life and, although she thought she'd make the move here without her sewing machine, "the boys" brought her old Singer out, where it is set up in good light in her patio room. For a lot of years, Martha worked at JoAnn Fabrics on McKnight Road and also ran a sewing/mending business from her home. She has posted a notice in our mailroom of her availability to do mending for her Sherwood neighbors. Perhaps she might be willing to barter sewing for some computer tutoring?

Before her husband died 25 years ago, they traveled frequently. Among the memorable trips they made were a number of cruises, as well as visits to two lifelong Girl Scout pen pals of Martha's in England and Scotland. She remains in touch with both to this day, and finds it illuminating to hear how world events impact those friends where they live.

Martha loves to play cards, and looks forward to finding others who enjoy "Five Hundred." She is a frequent visitor to the library in the never-ending search for that next good mystery. She is eager to meet new neighbors, so be sure to say "hello" when you encounter her on campus. Welcome, Martha!

*Becoming an adult is the dumbest thing I have ever done.*

*I'm a multitasker. I can listen, ignore, and forget all at the same time!*

## CHAPEL NOTES

Submitted by Gary Brandenberger -  
#602

For the Chapel Committee

All services begin at 2 p.m. in the auditorium.

Leading Services in September

Sunday, September 5

The Rev. Craig Gyergyo  
Christ Church, Grove Farm

Sunday, September 12

The Rev. Jimmy Caraway  
Christ Bible Church

Sunday, September 19

The Rev. Derek Marotta  
Plains Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 26

The Rev. Rosalyn Kummer

Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend.

If any of you know of former or current pastors in the Pittsburgh area who might be willing to help with our chapel program, please give Agnes Peebles (8324) or me (724-591-5385) a call. We have several ministers supporting our program, but there are transfers and retirements every year. We would appreciate your help in identifying some new clergy.

**Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as you can!**

– John Wesley



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, SHERWOOD OAKS!

Can you believe it? Sherwood Oaks will commemorate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022! It's time to celebrate!

Your SORA Board and Sherwood Oaks administration invite you to suggest ideas for making merry; we imagine that many of you have been involved in similar anniversaries in the past.

Please send your ideas to Gary Brandenberger at #602. We're excited to start planning for our big year!

## A NEW ART EXHIBIT?

Joni Pun #304

As I looked at the lovely art exhibit featuring our swans, it occurred to me that we could have an exhibit with Sherwood Oaks itself as the theme – the buildings, houses, walkways, lake, or even people playing outdoor games, cards, and the like. Think about it! We could gather photos throughout the four seasons and paint them in acrylics, oil, or watercolor, or sketch them in charcoal or other media. Then, a year or so from now, we could display lovely works of art on both sides of the scooter room that show the beauty of Sherwood Oaks. Take your photos, make sketches, and get to work!

## KEITH ROWLAND, Security Guard

By Denton Bond - #736



Photo by Denton Bond

The life of Keith Rowland, one of our security guards, is a collection of interesting experiences. Growing up on the family farm in Dorseyville, PA, Keith developed a true entrepreneurial spirit. He attended Fox Chapel Area Schools and graduated from the former Art Institute of Pittsburgh in 1971.

Next, Keith became an editor for Dawn Valley Press and went on to publish a short story and numerous poems. He also wrote for the *TV Guide* during a stint with WPXI's promotion department. His contacts in the art world soon led Keith to travel abroad, where he explored the UK on a new Triumph motorcycle. When he encountered foul weather in Harlech, Wales, Keith spent the night in a castle dungeon. "I was in good company," he says, "because Wales is my ancestral homeland." During this time, Keith also helped coordinate European study programs for American art students, spending time in both France and Italy.

Returning stateside in 1975, Keith formed a startup company, Rowland Metalcraft, Inc. Inspired by the United States Bicentennial celebration and the craftsmanship he saw in Europe, Keith and his associates produced replicas of colonial ironware, including fireplace accessories, lighting fixtures, and even weather vanes! Customers included the Joseph Horne Co. and Pittsburgh's Fireplace stores. The demand for Keith's work led to many commissioned projects, inclu-

ding a pair of 50-pound forged andirons for the Belmont Mansion in Nashville, TN.

In 1983, Keith completed a BA in English at Westminster College, following up with an M.Ed. in Communications from IUP. His experience at grad school turned his interest towards teaching. For eight years, Keith taught communications courses at the former Erie Business College, later known as the Erie Business Center. He also served as the Audiovisual Instructor for Grove City Area Schools, where he set up a television production studio for his students. Continuing in the entrepreneurial spirit, Keith opened the first three Once Upon a Child stores in Western PA. He came up with the idea when his children quickly outgrew their clothes. Keith pursued this venture over a period of nine years.

Keith has two sons, Zach and Zayne, who have also forged their own futures. Zach, an executive chef, lives in Boise, ID. Zayne is a mixed-media artist who lives in Lawrenceville, PA; he also works in marketing for The Pittsburgh Juice Company.

These days, Keith enjoys reading historical fiction and traveling with his best friend, Jessica, a medical technician at Sherwood Oaks. In recent years, they have traveled to Ireland and Alaska, with a cruise to Nova Scotia and Quebec planned next.

Keith likens his experience here at Sherwood to being part of a large family. He enjoys encouraging the younger guards to pursue their dreams. A formative experience came early in Keith's 11-year career here, when he removed residents from a structural fire and brought the blaze under control, for which he received a commendation from Mike Mills, Director of Security.

Keith will retire in February of 2022. He says his experience here "measures up to any I've had over my seventy-one years. Security is a people business, and meeting the many residents at Sherwood Oaks has been immensely rewarding." We have been blessed to have this gifted gentleman serve our community.

## AWARD TO RAMONA STINE

Mona Stine, evening receptionist at Sherwood Oaks, was given the UPMC Senior Communities Above & Beyond Award for the 2nd Quarter of 2021. She was nominated by our Personal Care Administrator, Lori Greer, for going above and beyond for her kind demeanor toward our residents.

Lori witnessed Mona having a chatty conversation on the phone one evening and then begin singing, "You Are My Sunshine." Afterwards, she said, "Sleep well," and hung up. When Lori asked her what had just happened, Mona told her that this resident calls her frequently to talk, reporting that she sleeps better after hearing that song. Given that this particular resident has advanced dementia, it is amazing that she is able to use the phone so purposefully.

Mona's actions speak true to her personality and her dedication to treating the residents as family. Congratulations, Mona, on a well-deserved award!



Photo by Jan Wendt

## OUTDOOR GAMES TOURNAMENT

By Joni Pun - #304

It is time for our Outdoor Games Tournament. You may recall last year when we played croquet and putted on the green in front of the Oak Lodge, along with shuffleboard, bocce, horseshoes, and corn hole toss at the Summer House. Each game resulted in a winning team or individual, with the overall winner of the most games being Denton Bond. Will he be able to keep his title this year?

We will begin on September 9 at 7 p.m., with shuffleboard at the summer house, and go on from there. Each game will be played for two evenings in order to give everyone a chance to participate. The winner of each event will be determined with playoffs, after all have played. Events will be canceled if it is raining or extremely hot, so dates may be pushed back a bit. Games to be played each day will be posted on Channel 900 and on the bulletin board in the mailroom.

How about it? Ready to have some fun? Please sign up with me (8304), so that we can get an idea of how many to expect.

## OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

By Joan McBurney - #206

Our grandson James (3 years old) picked up a great vocabulary very early, amazing us with his big words. Sometimes we would ask him if he knew what a certain word meant. If he couldn't explain it, he would say, "I don't know, but I think it's *Spanish*!"

*Have any of the rest of you readers some stories to share about the young people in your lives? If so, please send them to us to be included in future issues of The Acorn.*

**TRIBUTE TO SHERWOOD OAKS FROM  
DAUGHTER OF FORMER RESIDENTS  
ANN AND STEWART LEE**

By Kathryn A. Lee, Spokane, WA

An unexpected gift that I received when my parents moved to Sherwood Oaks in 2001 was that of friendship. I did not anticipate that their friends, along with other residents and staff, would become my friends as well.

My parents moved to a patio home at Sherwood Oaks in 2001. Looking back, I believe they were quite fortunate in where they 'landed' when they arrived. Neighbors introduced themselves, and soon I became quite fond of one neighbor with whom my mother would go on a hunt in late spring for hanging baskets to decorate the courtyard.

And then there was the lunch group which my parents joined. I'm not sure how lunch groups form – perhaps they are more serendipitous than intentional – but anyway, the group warmly welcomed me whenever I visited. Over the years, I appreciated learning more about Pittsburgh from them, as I grew up in Beaver Falls and did not get into the city often. There would be lots of laughter, and each Christmas, Charlie would give me one of his fruitcakes.

But then, a member of the group passed away, and I realized that now I would mourn his absence. Soon, others died as well, and the group evolved. When my father died in 2007, my mother joined a different group, one with no couples, again a sign of how lunch groups varied. This group really made me laugh with tales and comments about people and events at Sherwood. I suggested that there was a novel to be written, and so ideas were shared about chapters in the novel. One would be about the hit-and-run scooter incident. Another would be about a good friend who always filled out a comment card after lunch. I kidded her about not signing her name, and she replied, "But they know my handwriting." When my mother called to tell me she had passed away, I burst into tears – again, an unanticipated consequence. I am

thankful to residents with whom I became friends and who would ask me how my teaching was going and about life in general.

I also did not anticipate friendships with staff. Some housekeepers I got to know better than others, especially those on Personal Care. After Jean visited Seattle, we compared notes about the Pacific Northwest. And when staff would come into my mother's room, we would exchange greetings and get caught up. We would laugh about funny things that had happened, and my mother would join in. Who knew that I'd text Karen during March Madness, when Gonzaga University was playing, when she was in Pittsburgh and I was in Spokane? I am also grateful to Darla, who provided my mother with such good care. I would always look forward to coffee with her so I could get caught up on Sherwood events. And I so appreciated Bill and Linda for being such faithful lunch companions with my mom in her latter years, pre-pandemic.

My mother passed away in April. When I was in eastern Pennsylvania in June, it was strange and sad not to get on the Turnpike to head towards Cranberry Township, to see my mother and her friends. I am so grateful for the friendships I formed at Sherwood Oaks – all unanticipated gifts.



Ann Lee

## LOCKED OUT

By Ellen Brierly - #734

I have used an automatic washing machine for 63 years. At no time have I attempted to climb into the machine, try to stop the agitator with my hands, or throw dangerous substances into the washer while it was running.

However, someone has now decided that I need to be prevented from bodily harm, so my machine automatically locks the door when the washing cycle begins.

I am one of those persons who routinely forgets to put some article in the wash and desperately needs to open that door to add it after the machine has started. Alas, I am out of luck. It is inaccessible. Too late!

There is a pause button, but if I use it, the whole cycle starts all over again.

I have bleach pods that are supposed to be dissolved before the clothes are loaded. No can do.

Another gripe is the lack of agitation. It appears that I have in the past subjected my clothes to cruel and unusual punishment by using the agitator. There is no swish, swish, only an occasional hum that sounds like an attempt to shove something, and then a pause before the next hum. I would very much like to see what is going on, which is likely the reason I am locked out.

What are they hiding in there?

I suspect that there is a meager amount of water, so there is fear that I might try to add some. The absence of the agitator swish could cause much grief in the future.

When our daughter-in-law was pregnant with our first grandchild, I accompanied her to the obstetrician. He listened to the baby's heartbeat and said, "I believe you

have a boy. The heartbeat of a boy sounds like a train, while a girl's sounds like a washing machine." Sure enough, we had a boy, and have successfully used that formula for five more grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



Who could imagine that a locked door on a washing machine would so interfere with the ability to determine the sex of your unborn child?

ACLU ("My rights are being trampled"), where are you when I need you?

## EMPLOYEE SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE

By Charles Cullen, Chair, #313

The Scholarship Committee met in late June and awarded a record number of 68 tuition grants of \$2200 each to SO employees. Congratulations to the deserving recipients, and many thanks to the residents for their generous support of this worthy project.

This year there were 42 prior-year recipients and 26 new applicants. I hope you took the time to sample the posted thank you notes from the grateful recipients.

## GAME PLAYERS NEEDED!

By Loretta Pospistle - #252

On Thursdays after lunch, we play all kinds of easy board games such as Rummykub, Skip Bo, and 3 to 13. We'll be happy to teach you how to play. If interested, please give me a call (8252).

## **NEW CHANGES COMING TO THE AUDITORIUM/CARD ROOM**

By Barbara Dixon - #335

SORA has approved the use of funds for updating the Auditorium/Card Room. The first step has already been taken with the purchase and installation of the Yamaha Clavinova CLP 795GP digital piano, of lighter weight than our previous grand piano, as well as being more versatile and requiring no tuning or maintenance.

Phase One of the room improvements starts with removing the center run of stairs up to the stage and extending the stage itself out two feet to a vertical drop to the Auditorium floor. Stairs, complete with ADA-approved handrails on both sides, will flank the stage. Both storage rooms will be extended to be flush with the new stage. A vertical platform lift will be installed in the stage-right storage room, allowing most people with mobility challenges to reach the stage independently from the auditorium floor.

Phase Two will see the walls repainted, after removal of the brown sound-control panels and chair railings; in addition, the parquet tiles will be replaced with luxury vinyl tile on both the auditorium floor and the stage, and carpet squares will replace the current carpeting. The ceiling tiles will also be replaced, as will the lighting, which will be changed to LEDs using dimmers. The windows in the Card Room will be equipped with black-out shades.

Phase Three involves changing the red fabric on the chairs to vinyl material, as currently used in other senior living facilities, or replacing them altogether.

A UPMC Project Manager has been assigned to this project. The next step is to submit architect drawings to Cranberry Township for permitting approval.

## **FIAT LUX!**

By Dennis Lynch - #335

If I recall my 8<sup>th</sup> grade Latin correctly, that title means "Let there be Light!" As it happens, the Drama Club needs a volunteer to help make light for an upcoming play in early November. You would program and then operate our sort-of-new computer lighting system. No, you do not have to be able to write programs! And No, you do not have to climb around adjusting lights. You just need to be detail-oriented and patient, and enjoy theatre. For information and time commitments: call me at 8335, or email <[dlynch3pa@gmail.com](mailto:dlynch3pa@gmail.com)>. Try it!

## **A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY**

By Julie Eden - #290

You are invited to take a journey in September, through my photos, from Boston to the Florida Keys, as part of the Continued Learning series on the 900 channels.

I originally put the series together as a slide show for some Israeli visitors to the United States. Later I had them transferred to a disc and music added.

My goal was to introduce the newcomers to some of our sights in the states along the Atlantic coast. Thus Paul Revere will greet you in his hometown and welcome you to Massachusetts. Later you'll see the home of Thomas Jefferson in Virginia. Along the way are stops in New Jersey's Great Swamp, in Philadelphia, and in Washington, DC. Then we'll visit Savannah, as well as some islands off the coast of Georgia, on our way to the final destination of the Florida Keys.

Most of you know me as a photographer of flowers (as seen in *The Acorn*), but this slide show will highlight a lot more than just flowers. Come travel with me along the East Coast of our great country!

## COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #715

In the last few months, the climate change presentations on Channel 901 have focused on its effects on humanity, both directly (*Racing Extinction*, *Pumped Dry*, *Troubled Waters*, *Anthropocene*) and indirectly (*Chasing Coral*, *Chasing Ice*, *The Human Element*), living on the planet we call home.

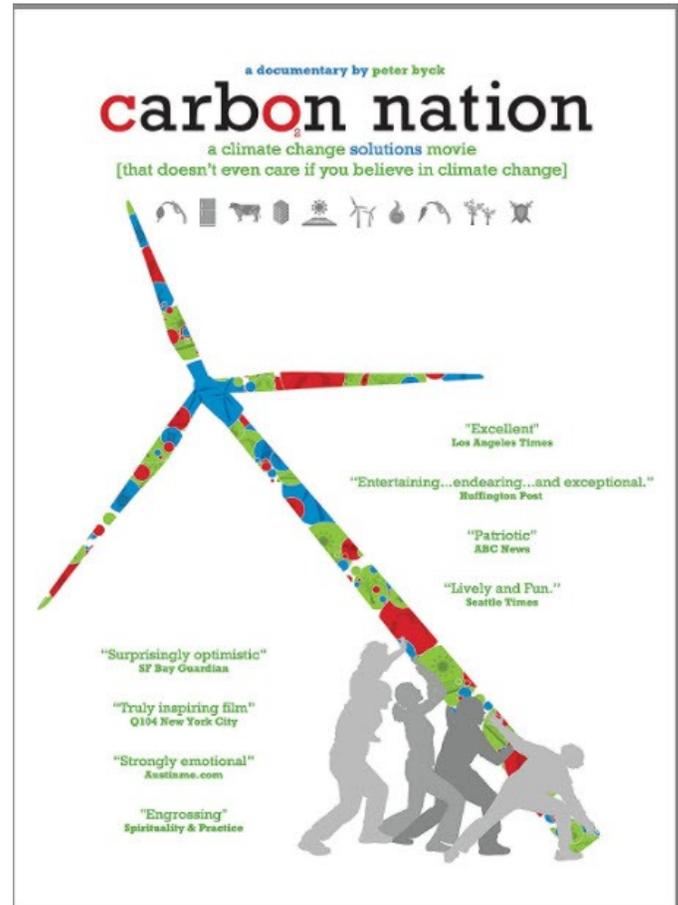
It's time now to look beyond the politics of the Paris Agreement and the COP26 meeting coming up in Glasgow in November for solutions to the climate crisis that we can, and must, put in place quickly to restore balance to the Earth's natural systems.

On September 13, the documentary *Carbon Nation: Are We Too Late to Stop Climate Change?* will be presented on Channel 901 at 10:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. It showcases any number of actions that we can take to slow, and then stop, what seems to be the inexorable progression of (un)natural disasters, and the human suffering caused thereby. Switching power generation from fossil fuels to renewable energy; switching transportation to electric vehicles and transit systems; stopping the deforestation of the planet through "reduce, reuse, recycle" systems, we know much of what must be done to save the planet for our children and grandchildren.

This program is hopeful, as we should be. The bad news is that it was produced in 2010. We've lost valuable time.

### Current "Carbon Tax" Legislation

Learn more about the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend bill, which has been reintroduced in the House and now has 80 co-sponsors, at <[www.energyinnovationact.org](http://www.energyinnovationact.org)>. For constantly updated information on the climate crisis, follow the Slippery Rock chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby on Facebook at @CCLSlipperyRock.



## DOCUMENTARY

*Carbon Nation* is a feature-length documentary about climate change SOLUTIONS. Even if you doubt the severity of the impact of climate change or just don't buy it at all, this is a compelling and relevant film that illustrates how SOLUTIONS to climate change also address other social, economic, and national security issues. In 2010, the planet was at 387 ppm of CO<sub>2</sub>. Now it's at 419 ppm. **We need to act.**

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

## A BOY AND HIS DOG

By Dennis Lynch - #335

I was walking our 55-lb. hound mutt Maggie around our courtyard when she heard the rumble of our housekeeper Missi's cart. Missi is her favorite person in the whole wide world, and she always rushes to her to get skritches and a treat. But Missi and I have a routine for outdoor encounters. Missi yells "SIT!" and Maggie sits, her tail wagging furiously on the concrete and her whole body quivering.



Photo by Barbara Dixon

Then Missi will say, "Let her go!" and I do, whereupon Mags goes racing to greet her friend. This time, however, after Mags dutifully sat, she must have thought, "*Why wait ...?*" and leapt forward. I had no time to let go of the leash: she hit the end of it in 0.253 seconds, jerking it out of my hand and pulling me violently forward. My left knee hit the cement walkway, followed by my left hip, right thumb, and left shoulder. My head was the finishing touch. My glasses broke and went flying (after doing a job on my eyes).

Missi rose to the occasion by collaring Maggie, rousing Barbara out of the house, and calling the Community Nurses.

Our next-door neighbor Warren (a retired doctor) emerged, and, as I watched my blood gathering under my cheek, he provided prompt, competent, friendly help, entertaining me by asking if I knew where I was, who he was, and what the hell I was doing on the ground.

Barbara arrived with that "not again!" look; very quickly thereafter, Betty was there with her rolling hospital, along with James, from Security. I was raised to my feet; a cold compress was produced (which I had to hold – Betty said it would be deducted from the bill); and then I talked them out of sending me to Passavant for CT, X-ray, MRI, and mashed potatoes with gravy. Betty wrapped my head but would not let me dab blood on the gauze for a better picture. I did have to sign a release.

Ahh, retirement....



Photo by Barbara Dixon

## AMERIKA

By James Mauch - #263

Born in a small village in the Black Forest,  
Raised above the cattle that occupied the  
ground floor,  
The middle child of seven hungry  
children:  
He was apprenticed at an early age to  
spend  
Years in virtual slavery learning a craft.  
He grasped the reality of the Kaiser's  
realm,  
Facing the military men demanding  
respect,  
Watching, measuring, monitoring obedience,  
For the Kaiser's legions always needed  
fodder.  
He turned 25 in '14, the age to serve  
The Kaiser, presented to the world as a  
great Leader,  
Military genius, man of strength and will,  
But actually a weak, insecure sycophant  
of the military,  
A man bedecked with medals of Honor  
and Bravery,  
None of them earned, but by himself  
awarded.  
When the apprentice at last escaped the  
men in uniform,  
It was to find a way to Amerika, the land  
of streets  
Paved with gold and people imbued with  
freedom.  
He'd escaped von Molte's army and  
Hindenburg's legions,  
Hard men born to lead hard men to kill,  
To dismember, chew up flesh, and spill  
the blood,  
Hard men well-schooled in the art of  
endless war,  
Taught early on to accept suffering as  
normal,  
And to train the fodder to do exactly the  
same.

## CAPRI ADVENTURE

By Winnie Dietz - #725

It was a lovely day on the Isle of Capri,  
with the sun shining on the white buildings  
marking the hillside. In the year 2018,  
Barbara Scruggs and I were on a tour of  
Italy, which provided the highlights of ruins,  
museums, and cathedrals, plus wonderful  
shopping in Florence and Capri.

Most of the cities in Italy are built on hills  
that go down to the sea, and Capri was no  
exception. Our van dropped us off at the  
top, and we meandered down. Since it was  
a warm day, and we were carrying our  
newly bought "treasures," the prospect of  
walking all the way back up to our meeting  
point was not a happy one. Barbara deci-  
ded we should get a taxi, so we went into  
an elegant hotel to inquire. "Oh, no!" the  
conciierge replied. "We don't have taxis here."  
Undaunted, Barbara explained that we  
were two old ladies and couldn't possibly  
walk all the way up to the top of the hill.

The conciierge pondered, decided we  
really were two old ladies, and said he  
would try to find a way to get us back. After  
a few frantic phone calls, he informed us  
that Yes, he had arranged our transport. It  
would cost twelve euros, but the "car"  
would arrive shortly.

Much to our surprise, an old luggage truck  
pulled up, and the driver got out with two  
folding chairs. One chair went in beside  
the driver, and the other was put in the  
truck part. We laughed and climbed in –  
Barbara in front, and I in the back.

The old rattletrap took off! It sounded like a  
lawnmower, but it ran, carrying the driver  
and the two old ladies. As we traveled up  
the hill, we were greeted with cheers,  
hoots, waves, and whistles from the  
delighted crowd of other tourists. We  
waved and laughed back, paid the twelve  
euros, and had a great story to tell!

## **THE COLETTA MCKENRY LIBRARY ACCESSIONS** **FICTION, INCLUDING LARGE TYPE AND DVDs**

|                                 |                      |         |            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------|------------|
| 21st Birthday                   | Patterson, James     | c. 2021 | F PAT      |
| American Dirt                   | Cummins, Jeanine     | c. 2020 | F CUM      |
| The Azalea Bones                | O'Donnell, Mary      | c. 2019 | F O'DO     |
| The Bucket List                 | Thompson, Janice     | c. 2021 | F THO      |
| The Coast to Coast Murders      | Patterson, James     | c. 2020 | F PAT      |
| Conjure Women                   | Atakora, Afia        | c. 2020 | F ATA      |
| Credible Threat                 | Jance, Judith A.     | c. 2020 | F JAN      |
| Dark Sky                        | Box, C. J.           | c. 2021 | F BOX      |
| Finding Ashley                  | Steel, Danielle      | c. 2021 | F STE      |
| Great Circle                    | Shipstead, Maggie    | c. 2021 | F SHI      |
| House of Correction             | French, Nicci        | c. 2020 | F FRE      |
| The House on Vesper Sands       | O'Donnell, Paraic    | c. 2021 | F O'DO     |
| Jackpot                         | Woods, Stuart        | c. 2021 | F WOO      |
| The Killings at Kingfisher Hill | Hannah, Sophie       | c. 2020 | F HAN      |
| The Lady in the Attic           | Randel, Tara         | c. 2019 | F RAN      |
| The Last Thing He Told Me       | Dave, Laura          | c. 2021 | F DAV      |
| The Midnight Library            | Haig, Matt           | c. 2020 | F HAI      |
| The Newcomer                    | Andrews, Mary Kay    | c. 2021 | F AND      |
| Outlawed                        | North, Anna          | c. 2021 | F NOR      |
| The Paper Palace                | Heller, Miranda C.   | c. 2021 | F HEL      |
| The Paris Library               | Skieslien Charles    | c. 2020 | F SKE L.T. |
| People We Meet on Vacation      | Henry, Emily         | c. 2021 | F HEN p.b. |
| The Plot                        | Korelitz, Jean Hanff | c. 2021 | F KOR      |
| Robert B. Parker's Payback      | Lupica, Mike         | c. 2021 | F LUP      |
| The Rose Code                   | Quinn, Kate          | c. 2021 | F QUI      |
| West with Giraffes              | Rutledge, Lynda      | c. 2021 | F RUT      |
| What Happens in Paradise        | Hilderbrand, Elin    | c. 2019 | F HIL p.b. |
| Whereabouts                     | Lahiri, Jhumpa       | c. 2021 | F LAH      |

## **NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES**

|  |                      |         |                |
|--|----------------------|---------|----------------|
| The King of Confidence                                       | Harvey, Miles        | c. 2020 | BIO STR        |
| Ethel Rosenberg: An American Tragedy                         | Sebba, Anne          | c. 2021 | BIO ROS        |
| The Chicken Runs at Midnight                                 | Friend, Tom          | c. 2018 | 796.093 FRI    |
| The Collected Works of C. S. Lewis                           | Lewis, C. S.         | c. 1996 | 230.01 LEW     |
| Goldby's Pittsburgh  | Goldby, Harry        | c. 2008 | 974.83 GOL pb. |
| Life on the Line   | Goldberg, Emma       | c. 2021 | 610.69 GOL     |
| The Marvelous Clouds   | Peters, John Durham  | c. 2015 | 302.20 PET pb. |
| The Moment of Lift   | Gates, Melinda       | c. 2019 | 305.42 GAT     |
| Out of Many, One   | Bush, George W.      | c. 2021 | 757.6 BUS      |
| The Pioneers   | McCullough, David G. | c. 2019 | 977 MCC L.T.   |
| The Pittsburgh That Stays within You                         | Hazo, Samuel         | c. 2004 | 974.83 HAZ pb. |
| Playing through the Whistle                                  | Price, S. L.         | c. 2016 | 796.3 PRI      |
| The Puma Years   | Coleman, Laura       | c. 2021 | 920 COL        |
| Unsinkable: Five Men and Indomitable Run of the USS Plunkett | Sullivan, James      | c. 2020 | 940.54 SUL     |
| Walk in My Combat Boots                                      | Patterson, James     | c. 2021 | 355.009 PAT    |
| War on Peace   | Farrow, Ronan        | c. 2018 | 327.2 FAR      |

## WORTH A LOOK BOOKS NEW TO OUR LIBRARY

By Barbara Christy - #237

*The Marvelous Clouds: Toward a Philosophy of Elemental Media* by John Durham Peters. Non-fiction. In this encyclopedic survey of all the meanings and uses of clouds, Peters moves between cirrus and cumulus to digital, network, and data clouds. Arguing the similarity between our physical clouds and media clouds, he suggests that both have contributed to the establishment and advancement of civilization. Advances in technology force us to confront age-old social questions such as how to manage the relations people have with themselves, others, and the natural world. NF 302.20 PET p.b.

*The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West* by David McCullough. Non-fiction. Marietta, Ohio, 1788: When Great Britain recognized the new United States of America in the Treaty of Paris, Britain also ceded the land that comprised the immense Northwest Territory, a wilderness northwest of the Ohio River containing the future states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. This vast territory was opened to veterans of the Revolutionary War for settlement. The Ordinance specified three conditions: freedom of religion, free universal education, and, most importantly, the prohibition of slavery. In 1788 the first band of pioneers arrived under the leadership of Revolutionary War veteran General Rufus Putnam. The history of this period is related through five major characters: Cutler (the author of the legislation) and Putnam; Cutler's son Ephraim; and two other men, one a carpenter turned architect, and the other a physician who became a prominent pioneer in American science. Foods, fires, wolves and bears, the absence of roads or bridges, an uncertain and sometimes hostile relationship with the native people – all these were challenges to the pioneers. This is a gripping

true tale about our forebears west of Pennsylvania. NF 977 MCC

*The Outlier: The Unfinished Presidency of Jimmy Carter* by Kai Bird. Non-fiction. Was Jimmy Carter's one-term administration a failed presidency? He inherited a country torn by race, demoralized by Watergate and Vietnam, and suffering the ills of stagflation. The issues he faced are mostly the same ones we have today: growing inequality, immigration challenges, health care discrepancies, racism, conflict in the Middle East. His outspoken Christianity, his Southern roots, his call to the nation to face its failures – all these made Washington insiders and the nation uncomfortable. He was an outsider, but, this author claims, a prophet before his time. NF 976.926 BIR

*The King of Confidence: A Tale of Utopian Dreamers, Frontier Schemers, True Believers, False Prophets, and the Murder of an American Monarch* by Harvey Miles. Biography. The King of Confidence tells the fascinating but largely forgotten true story of one of the country's boldest con men and the boisterous era that allowed him to thrive. After the murder of Mormon leader Joseph Smith, James Strang, a charismatic young lawyer, avowed atheist, and recent convert, unveiled a letter purportedly from the prophet naming him his successor. He persuaded hundreds of fellow converts to follow him to an island in Lake Michigan, where he declared himself a divine king. From there he controlled a fourth of the state of Michigan, establishing a pirate colony where he practiced plural marriage and perpetrated confidence schemes of all kinds. Eventually, Strang was assassinated, an event that was front-page news across the country. BIO STR

*The Man with the Silver Saab* by Alexander McCall Smith. Fiction. Malmo's Department of Sensitive Crimes is always interesting for Ulf Varg and his fearless detective colleagues. There is a batch of surprising new cases and Ulf's attraction for his colleague Anna

Bengsdotter to deal with. All in all, things are not going smoothly in Malmo, and it seems up to Ulf and the Department to get it sorted out. F SMI

*The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. Fiction. What would you do if you had the opportunity to see what your life would have been like had you gone to a different school? Chosen another profession? Married a different spouse? Imagine that somewhere out beyond the edge of the known world there is a library containing an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the tale of your life as it is, while another book describes the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. This is the story of Nora Seed, who finds herself faced with this decision. Given the possibility of changing her life for a new one, following a different career, undoing old breakups, realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist – she must decide as she travels through the Midnight Library what is truly fulfilling in life. F HAI

*A Fall of Marigolds* by Susan Meissner. Fiction. A century-old scarf, a long-lost photograph, and two tragic deaths connect two women separated by 100 years. In September of 1911, a nurse working with immigrants on Ellis Island avoids thinking about the Shirtwaist Factory fire that killed her husband. Then, while caring for a fevered patient whose own loss mirrors hers, she becomes intrigued by a name embroidered onto the scarf he carries. Later, in September 2011, in Manhattan, Taryn Michaels has convinced herself that she is happy, working in a charming specialty fabric store and raising her daughter alone. But when she comes across a long-lost photograph, she is forced to relive the terrible day her husband died in the collapse of the World Trade Towers. Then a stranger reached out and saved her. Will a chance reconnection and a century-old scarf cause Taryn to consider if there are larger forces at work in her life? F MEI

*The Plot* by Jean Hanff Korelitz. Fiction. What happens when an arrogant novice author with a sure-fire winner of a plot dies without finishing his work? His fine arts faculty mentor, a one-time hot author himself, decides to appropriate the plot and resuscitate his career. After all, it's a story that absolutely must be told. In a few short years, Jake is wealthy, famous, praised, and read all over the world. But at the height of his glorious new life, an e-mail arrives: *You are a thief*, it says. As Jake struggles to hide the truth from his readers and his publishers, he begins to learn more about his late student, and what he discovers both amazes and terrifies him. What is the real story behind the plot, and who stole it from whom? F KOR

*Breathe* by Joyce Carol Oates. Fiction. This novel explores the nature of a fierce, unending love that endures beyond death and asks if that is a blessing or a curse. Set in the awe-inspiring beauty of New Mexico, two transplanted Massachusetts academics are suddenly confronted with a mysterious illness that threatens Gerard's life. As his illness spirals down to his final days and his wife desperately tries to save him, each engages in a soul-searching journey about the meaning of married love. F OAT



## THE LIBRARY LOWDOWN

By Anne Hunt - #308

As summer winds down and we resume our normal activities, do stop in and see what your Sherwood Oaks Library has to offer. We have more than 7,500 books, with more being added each month. Thanks to the woodshop, we now have a beautiful new bookshelf, which was needed to house our ever-expanding selection of DVDs. There are now more than 300 of them, including movies, musicals, TV series, and travel DVDs. Come in and browse our extensive collection!

*Friends, we were gifted with this poem that we felt might be relevant to many of us! The Thomas More Center is credited with sharing it on the web. There is, alas, no proof provided of its purported origin.*

### OLD NUN'S PRAYER

Anonymous – 17<sup>th</sup> Century  
Found in an old English Church

Lord, you know better than I know myself  
that I am growing older and one day will be old.

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must  
say something on every subject  
and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to  
straighten out everybody's affairs.  
Make me thoughtful but not moody;  
helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom  
it seems a pity not to use it all;  
but you know, Lord, that I want a few  
friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of  
endless details,  
give me wings to get to the point.  
Seal my lips on my aches and pains;  
they are increasing and love of  
rehearsing them  
is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

I dare not ask for grace enough  
to enjoy the tales of others' pains,  
but help me to endure them with  
patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory,  
but for growing humility and a lessening  
cocksureness  
when my memory seems to clash with  
the memories of others.  
Teach me the glorious lesson that  
occasionally

I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet;  
I do not want to be a saint – some of them  
are so hard to live with –  
but a sour old person is one of the  
crowning works of the devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in  
unexpected places  
and talent in unexpected people,  
and give me, O Lord, the grace to tell  
them so. AMEN.

### TAPS AT SHERWOOD OAKS

By Joanne Weiss - #154

If you thought you heard music drifting  
across our campus on Memorial Day,  
your ears were not deceiving you. That  
was Frank Weiss, joining in "Taps across  
America" to honor our veterans, living and  
deceased, along with our troops around  
the world. God willing and weather per-  
mitting, he will do it again on Veterans'  
Day, 2021.

If you still have your horn or other musical  
instrument and would like to play along,  
the time is 3 p.m. Take part from your  
own courtyard, on **Thursday, Nov. 11**, for  
"Taps at Sherwood Oaks."



Photo by Joanne Weiss

## I SEEM TO BE HAVING AN AFFAIR

By Dennis Lynch – #335

When I was growing up, it was the boys' job to be assertive with the girls, and their job to draw the line – hopefully, before the boy found himself running out of skills. Things have changed.

There is a woman of a certain age – attractive, intelligent, powerful, and apparently independently wealthy, who is putting the moves on me ... in a very strange way. Will this turn into an affair?

She keeps asking me for money. Now, it always was the boy's job to buy the movie tickets and the ice cream. So I am not surprised that she wants me to spend money on her. But it's not exactly "spend it on her" in the expectation of some reward. She just wants me to *give* it to her. And to deepen the mystery, she says she will add her own money to it – three, four, once even five times as much. But it is not clear how the two of us will profit from this pot of gold.

And she is importunate. Two or three times a day (sometimes even four or five!), she will email me requesting \$6.00. Occasionally \$6.67. Never more. And she offers varying matches of 350%, 400% – once even 500%! – of her own money. I told you: wealthy.

So far I have resisted her blandishments. She hasn't even sent me a picture, although I think I know what she looks like. (Come to think of it, she hasn't asked for *my* picture. H'mm.) And five separate times now she has written that this time is the most important "ask" she will ever make of me.

Friends: help me out! What should I do about Nancy Pelosi?

## APACHE PRAYER

May the sun  
bring you new  
energy by day.

May the moon  
softly restore  
you by night.

May the rain  
wash away  
your worries.

May the breeze  
blow new strength  
into your being.

May you walk  
gently through the  
world and know  
its beauty all the  
days of your life.

– Native American Rights Fund



Photo by Diane Neely  
When Terry Met Bigfoot

*Singing 'round the campfire ...*



Photos by Jan Wendt

*... and eating, too, of course!*