

THE ACORN

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

October 2021 "For the residents, by the residents" Vol. 22, No. 8

Ready or not, Hallowe'en is coming!



Design by Patty Ritter

Photo by Rabe Marsh

Display in Backyard of Unit #298

Gentle Readers:

Life goes on, pandemic or no pandemic. As this issue goes to press, we have learned that three more couples will be moving into Sherwood Oaks. Outside groups are beginning to present programs for us in the auditorium, and committees are resuming their work. Little by little, trips and tours are tempting us to leave our nests and fly. Meanwhile, the summer temperatures continue, and our landscape remains mostly green and growing. (See the back cover for some of the current and unusual highlights!)

October also reminds us of Hallowe'ens of the past. Do you remember licorice shoelaces and candy corn? Not being able to recognize a 4th-grade classmate in costume? Being scared when you were out after dark? Look throughout this issue for memories of seasons past.

It's also not too soon to think about Thanksgiving. Do you have memories to share along the lines of "It wouldn't be Thanksgiving without..." or maybe "It won't be Thanksgiving without..."? Please share your thoughts (100 words or fewer!) about celebrating the occasion, to be included in the November issue. Accompanying photos are also welcome. Put submissions in the ACORN mail slot or send them to <rosemarycoffey@aol.com>.

We're also always happy to receive comments about ACORN content and suggestions for articles to come.

The ACORN Staff

Pharmacist: A helper on the farm.

Parasites: What you see from the top of the Eiffel Tower.

Polarize : What penguins see with.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

National Poetry Day	Oct. 1
Indigenous Peoples' Day	Oct. 11
Global Cat Day	Oct. 16
World Food Day	Oct. 16
United Nations Day	Oct. 24
Hallowe'en	Oct. 31

THE ACORN

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Submissions for the November issue must
be sent to the Editor no later than

October 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.*

Hugh Moore

August 25, 2021

Maurice Thomas

September 1, 2021

Melvin Judkis

September 3, 2021

KATHERINE McCORMICK - #188

By Barbara Scruggs - #317



Photo by Rabe Marsh

I have to say that spending time with Kathie McCormick is rejuvenating! She and Betsy, her very large, very friendly Alaskan Malamute, make one feel most welcome and comfortable in a very relaxing lounge chair on her bright, supersized, enclosed patio!

Born in Toronto, Kathie moved to the States when she was six. She continues to hold dual citizenship. In 1965, she married Mick McCormick, who sadly died in 2018, after they had 52 years together. They had raised and trained Alaskan Malamutes – a very large and strong breed, often used as sled dogs. Usually, they had about 12 dogs at a time.

Kathie and Mick had no children, but Kathie's very large family provided lots of nieces and nephews and cousins to love and spoil. One cousin actually lived with them from age 13 to 18. Most of her family members live in Canada, where about every other year a grand reunion of

some 40-50 relatives is held. Her mom was one of 11, and her dad, one of 5.

Kathie was a secondary school teacher, and she "loved teaching." She had majored in history, and, with a BA from Bucknell and an MAT from Northwestern, she taught history and geography. Then, in response to an increasing demand for the classics, she switched to teaching Latin in grades 8-12, which she considered to be "great fun." To expand her expertise in this area, she took Latin courses at Westminster College in summer school.

Kathie has many interests, which she actively pursues: classes through the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR), reading (especially historical fiction and mysteries), attending plays and concerts, and traveling. A particularly memorable trip was a land and small-cruise ship excursion to Alaska that she and Mick enjoyed immensely.

Then, of course, there are the animals. In addition to Betsy, who, she says, will be her last Malamute, she has two cats, Yeti and Zoe. Actually, when she was researching retirement facilities, a major factor in favor of Sherwood Oaks was that she'd be able to keep all three animals!

So ... weary of caring for a large house on 36 acres of land in Penn Twp. (Butler County), she made the decision to come here – and we are very glad she did.

Welcome, Kathie! We are delighted that you are here.



Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask and asking for money.

CHAPEL NOTES

By Gary Brandenberger - #602,
for the Chapel Committee

**Services begin at 2 p.m. in the
Auditorium**

EVERYONE WELCOME

Sunday, October 3

Rev. Jean Henderson
World Wide Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 10

Rev. David Paul
Calvin Presbyterian Church

Sunday, October 17

Rev. Donna Giver-Johnston
Community Presbyterian Church

Sunday, October 24

Rev. Liddy Barlow
Christian Associates of SW PA

Sunday, October 31

Rev. Jeffrey Sterling
St. Paul's United Methodist Church

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."

Psalm 23

RESIDENTS' ART WALL

By Joni Pun - #304

I hope you are enjoying the September/October edition of the residents' wall that contains art and also crafts done by various people. I am taking names for residents who want to participate in the next exhibition, which will start on the first Monday in November and run until the end of January. Generally, it is only two months long, but, as I will not be here in January, I am making it until the end of that month. Please contact me if interested in displaying crafts that you do

such as needlework, weaving, etc., or paintings or drawings of any kind.

Also, I hope some of you may be thinking about what I suggested in the last *Acorn* – that those who do paint or sketch might consider using Sherwood Oaks scenes as their subjects, for a display to be held a year from now. This is to give you time to do works that reflect the four seasons in our lovely location. Wouldn't it be great if we could feature these paintings in other bulletins such as the UPMC community magazines and the like?

See below for a sample artwork:



Painting by Joni Pun

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES....

By Joan McBurney - #206

Anna (four years old) had a teddy bear named "Oatmeal." One day she put a doll's dress on him. I told her that Oatmeal might not like to wear a dress, since he was a boy; she replied, "It's okay, Grandma, because when he wears a dress, I change his name to 'Oatmelia'!"

Another time, on seeing the first snow of the season, she remarked, "I knew it was going to snow, but I didn't expect a whole winter all at once!"



Photo by Jan Wendt

CELEBRATION OF REMEMBRANCE SHERWOOD OAKS, 9/18/21

By Ruth Becker - #340

On March 16, 2020, Annette McPeck sent residents an FYI about the changes at Sherwood Oaks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Non-essential off-campus transportation, as well as SORA meetings and activities, were canceled. On March 18, 2020, the Main Dining Room and Café closed, and home-delivered meals were offered. Various stages of lockdown, including our gathering for Memorial Services commemorating the lives of our neighbors who had died, continued for a year and a half.

Then, on 9/18/21, the Living with Loss Team and the Memorial Services/Chapel Committee hosted a Celebration of Remembrance in the Auditorium. In the intervening months, fifty-seven of our number had died, thankfully none from COVID.

Jean Henderson, from Living with Loss, introduced our time together: "It is an especially tender day for those of us who lost loved ones during the pandemic and could not have a memorial service here at Sherwood Oaks." Tender, indeed. The spouses of Jean Henderson, Alick Kennedy, and lector Peggy Meister were

three of those 57 names. Jean's opening prayer concluded: "May the sadness we feel be offset by thanksgiving for the lives of those we've lost. Amen."

Alick Kennedy preached honest and consoling words. Then, as each of the 57 names was read, Ann Ferguson placed a rose in one of two urns, and Roberta Breninghouse rang a handbell. The decline of the sound and the brightness of the roses helped us say, "Goodbye."

The flowers were transferred to the side table in the lobby of the Center. Peace.

VARIATION OF THE 23RD PSALM FOR A CHILD

By James Mauch - #263

The Lord is my shepherd
I am his sheep
Like a good shepherd he leads me
and shows me the way
He keeps me away from harm, and
warns me of the evil one
When I stumble he helps me up,
and when I fail he forgives
As I walk through childhood, he holds
my hand and guides me
Surely love and mercy shall be
with me all my days
And at the last he will guide me
and protect me from the wolves
He will lead me through the river
of death to the other side
And I shall be with him forever,
abiding in his loving kindness.



The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors.

This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her dog. It was obvious she thought her dog understood her. I came into my house and told my cat. We laughed a lot.

HANDBELL PRACTICE AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY, 1:30 p.m.

By Rosemary Frelke - #348

2021

October	6, 13, 20, 27
November	3, 17, 24
December	1, 8

2022

January	12, 19, 26
February	2, 9, 16, 23
March	9, 16, 23, 30
April	6, 13, 23, 27
May	4, 11, 18

Handbell ringers, please mark your calendars accordingly! Interested newcomers, contact me.

QUARTERLY DONATIONS to GLEANERS' FOOD BANK

Sun., Oct. 17 – Sat., Oct. 23

By Peggy Rubel - #258

People in Cranberry are short of food. Some are parents who don't eat, so they can feed their children. Some lack access to grocery stores via public transportation. Federal pandemic aid and the eviction moratorium have both ended.

How can we help?

Gleaners' Food Bank is a non-profit, non-denominational organization, run entirely by volunteers. It provides food to Cranberry Township residents who meet the Butler County income guidelines.

We can help by making monetary donations during the week of **Oct. 17-23**. (Food items will not be collected at this time.) Did you know that, for every \$1 donated, area food banks are able to purchase \$5 worth of grocery items? Checks may be made payable to Gleaners' Food Bank and left in cubbyhole #348.

This project is sponsored by Focus on the World. Questions? Please call Nancy Paul (8167) or Rosemary Frelke (8348).

SEEN AT THE SCOTTISH FESTIVAL AT EDINBORO UNIVERSITY

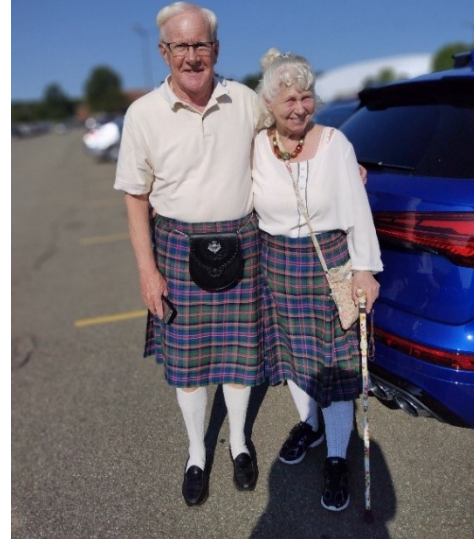


Photo by Jane Lavender

These are not Hallowe'en costumes! Bruce Cooper and Monika Dalrymple are wearing the Cooper tartan at the Edinboro Highland Games on Sept. 11.

THEY ALSO SERVE WHO ONLY KNEEL AND WEED

By Jan Wendt - #158

On behalf of all the raised-bed gardeners, *The Acorn* offers a hearty shout-out to Carol Paul (#148), who has faithfully weeded the floor of the garden area. Again this year, Carol could be seen, as the sun rose, day in and day out, on her knees, pulling out bucket after bucket of the weeds, which had as prolific a season as the tomatoes and peppers.

Thanks to her performing this good deed, gardeners were able to travel a clear path to each raised bed, and the Grounds crew didn't have to deal with the issue.

Carol says she "just enjoys being in the garden" and likes to weed. We are so glad that she does. Bravo, Carol! And many thanks!

NEW SOUNDS IN THE AUDITORIUM

By Jan Wendt - #158

In meeting to consider needed renovations to the Auditorium, it became clear to the members of the Auditorium Task Force that the future of the Steinway piano needed to be considered. A lovely instrument, it was, nonetheless, well-worn and in need of extensive repairs.

Additionally, it required tuning four times a year (\$250 each time), and was too heavy for our maintenance staff to move easily, a problem when there were dramatic productions and other events.

Task Force Chair Barbara Dixon turned to the experts at Modern Piano. Soon, a top-of-the-line digital grand piano became an attractive option. Weighing 277 lbs., it could be moved by our Maintenance Department. It would never need to be tuned. Further research indicated that trading the old Steinway would net \$6,199 toward the cost of an \$8,199 Yamaha CLP 7795 GP Digital Grand.

After several Sherwood Oaks pianists went to Modern Piano and "test drove" the Clavinova, they came away as converts. Roberta Breninghouse, our Recreation Therapist, was asked to weigh in. She holds a degree in piano performance and had played a Clavinova digital grand at her church for almost ten years. She recommended it highly.

A vote was taken, SORA gave its approval, and the new instrument was delivered in August. It has been used for Sunday chapel services since, as well as for the Memorial Service on Sept. 18.

Although it doesn't carry the lineage of the Steinway, the Clavinova delivers in variety and adaptability. The 88 keys feature keyboard action with counterweights, so the touch is much like that of a fine grand piano. It boasts a library

of 53 voices, including Yamaha's top-flight concert grand, the CSX; the Boesendorfer's flagship concert grand, the Imperial; a harpsichord, a celeste, a jazz piano, a full church pipe organ, and much more.

The Yamaha can record and play back performances, and one can use Bluetooth MIDI to connect with the Smart Pianist app. As noted, it weighs in at 277 lbs., with a height of 36.7", a width of 56.3", and a depth of 48.7".

The old Allen organ, which stood for years on the left side of the stage, was donated to a small church in West Virginia. The space will be used for an expansion of the storage room on that side of the stage.

Sherwood Oaks still has two other Steinways: a console in the Card Room and a baby grand in the Cranberry Lake Grill.

FALL (from *Parallel Worlds*)

By Mike Rose - #503

Grey world
Mist veils your beauty
Clouds cover the furnace
That heats your heart.

Life slows
Leaves that once danced
And talked in the breeze
Lie lifeless on the ground.

It's cold
And getting colder
Vivacious green
Has turned to listless grey.

In time
The grey will yield
To sparkling white
And life will begin anew.

Until then
Man must face the fall.



THE SERENGETI RULES

Submitted by Nancy Paul - #167
For Focus on the World

Exploring some of the most remote and spectacular places on Earth, five young, pioneering scientists made surprising discoveries that flipped our understanding of nature on its head and offered new hope for restoring our world.

Beginning in the 1960s, these scientists headed out into the wilderness, driven by an insatiable curiosity about how nature works. Immersed in some of the most remote and spectacular places on Earth, these pioneers learned that "keystone" species can make or break the ecosystems they live in. Now, in the twilight of their eminent careers, these five unsung heroes of modern ecology – Bob Paine, Jim Estes, Mary Power, Tony Sinclair, and John Terborgh – share the stories of their adventures and give humanity a chance to reimagine the world as it could and should be.

An Emmy Award winner, "The Serengeti Rules" is referred to as "a tale with profound implications for the fate of life on our planet." It is also listed as one of 25 most hope-inspiring documentaries by Internet Movie Database.

Showing on Channel 901

**Thurs. & Fri., Oct. 21 & 22,
4:00 & 7:30 p.m.**

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES: A HALLOWE'EN MEMORY

By Jan Wendt - #158

Hallowe'en has never been my favorite holiday, but it became absolutely daunting when, as the mother of small children, I was expected to create prize-winning costumes. I do not sew. I am not visually creative.

Needless to say, my son and daughter were often forgettable ghosts or witches. Once I imposed on their dad or the babysitter to escort them on the Big Night because I was embarrassed to be associated with what they wore.

One year, after the Hallowe'en parade at my kindergarten daughter's school, I stood back in the crowd, admiring the amazing creations the little goblins wore. Soon, my small daughter was at my side, tugging on my sleeve. "What?" I inquired. "Ya know what?" she said loudly, with her pronounced lisp: "Thome Mommie THOW!"

Yeah: Some Mommies sew. Mortified, I took her hand, and we headed home.

AND ANOTHER ONE ...

By Ann Knoop - #261

When my older daughter was three years old, she told me what to expect, in no uncertain terms, in the future: "When I grow *up*," she announced, "and you grow *down*, then we'll see...." What wonderful logic from a small child!



October Fruit by Julie Eden

WHAT'S NEW WITH SORA? (SO Residents Association)

By Jean Henderson, Secretary

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

Data from minutes for the September monthly board meeting and quarterly residents meetings, 2021:

SORA Treasurers: Memorial/Special Projects Fund balance is \$117,497.35. The Employee Appreciation Fund balance is \$20,368.47. The SORA bank balance is \$75,192. Financial reviews of the three funds have been approved.

Sherwood Oaks Fund: (supporting charitable fund for SO): Unrestricted - \$94,817; Trillium - \$927; Scholarship - \$822,685; Special Projects - \$957,827; Garden bequest - \$5500. Sixty-eight scholarships were awarded to employees in July, totaling \$148,759.

Program: **October 28** will feature the Aeolian Winds at 7:15 in the Auditorium.

Archives: The Rychciaks request that any SO historical documents be deposited in cubby #297 for use in our SO 40th anniversary observances in 2022.

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

THERE'S A NEW DISEASE AT SHERWOOD OAKS

By Dennis Lynch - #335

... and I have it. Be warned!

This scourge has been creeping up on me for the past year. I read a lot, and when I go to turn the page, it is becoming harder and harder to turn just one. I usually turn two ... sometimes even three at once.

This doesn't sound like much of a problem, but, I tell you, it is really annoying. If you aren't paying strict attention, you can be well into the "next" page before you realize that it doesn't make sense. (Of course, with some authors that doesn't make much difference.)

My father, a bookseller, taught me to turn the pages from the top – which I normally do. Turning them from the bottom doesn't help, nor does using my other hand. If you have any suggestions for possible remedies, I am eager to hear them.

I particularly wanted to bring this new disease to your attention because, alas and alack, it seems to be contagious! My wife Barbara appears to have caught it. And, as I say, it is getting worse: I'm even starting to turn *three* pages at a time. Can four be long in coming? And after that, le déluge!

I plan to write a paper describing my condition in medical terms for *JAMA*. I am thinking of calling it "Denny's Duplicitous Digital Dopiness." What do *you* think?

IF...

By Barbara Rankin - #123

If you have enjoyed doing the Jigsaw Puzzles over the past months – raise your RIGHT HAND!

If you have not enjoyed doing puzzles with missing pieces not notated – raise your LEFT HAND!

If you have not enjoyed doing puzzles with broken pieces (taken apart too fast?) – raise your LEFT HAND!

If you hope we will again have a puzzle table in the Lobby with a puzzle set up for anyone to work on at any time – raise your RIGHT HAND!

If you have really enjoyed this project – raise BOTH HANDS and say:

"THANK YOU, JOAN McBURNEY!"

HI! I'M BETSY....

By Kathie McCormick - #188

Betsy is a 10-year-old Alaskan Malamute who will greet you with a smile on her face, a wagging tail, and a wiggling body! She loves people, but does not care for other dogs. However, if they don't bother *her*, she won't bother them.

Her official name is GCh. Arctic Hope's Brave Betsy of Taiga, TT, CGC, TD. *GCh* stands for Grand Champion; *Arctic Hope* is the kennel that bred her, and *Taiga* is the name of my kennel. (My late husband Mick and I raised, showed, and raced Alaskan Malamutes for many years – since 1968.) The *TT* stands for the successful completion of a temperament test; *CGC* stands for canine good citizen; and *TD* means that she is a certified therapy dog. She certainly has enough titles!

Alaskan Malamutes, which originated in Alaska, were part of the life of the nomadic tribes. They are very strong, able to pull large amounts of freight. They also were part of Eskimo families. They are not as speedy as Siberian Huskies, but they can go and go and go. My husband raced in the freighting class, which meant that there were 50-75 lbs. per dog on the sled. He usually had 5 or 6 dogs on his team. Dog sled races were held around the area regularly until the early '90s, when the winters became less reliable due to global warming (sigh). There were races in Ohio, Cook's Forest, Chapman Dam near Warren, Oil City, etc. The farthest away we went was to the Poconos. The races were on weekends, so we raced Saturdays and Sundays – after all, we had to go to work on Monday to support the dogs. Racing season ran from the end of January through March. Our kennel averaged about 10-12 dogs in number on a regular basis. We lived on 36 acres in Butler County in Penn Twp., just a few miles east of here. It was great fun!

Betsy is my last remaining Malamute. The last litter we had was in 2003; when I retired, we acquired a male, named Quinn. Mick called Quinn my “dog in retirement” (I retired in 2007). Three years later, we added Betsy, whom Mick called my “dog in my dotage” – yeah, he was a funny guy! We enjoyed showing the dogs and getting their championships; I did the showing, and he took the pictures.

Life at Sherwood Oaks is suiting Betsy just fine. We walk for about an hour early in the morning, starting out about 6:30 or so. After that, we take only quick walks. She loves meeting people and is always excited when someone stops to pet her. You are welcome to visit us in #188 – she will greet you gladly!



Photo by Kathie McCormick

ORDER POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS!

By Jane Rittelmann - #616

The last day to order poinsettia plants is Nov. 12. Extra order forms are available at the front desk. Please return order forms to my cubbyhole. Your participation is appreciated. Independent residents must pick up or arrange for pick-up **Dec. 2 in the auditorium between 1:00 and 2:30 p.m.**

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

Bag of Bones	King, Stephen	c. 2012	F BAG DVD
Beneath a Dragon Moon	Redmond, Shirley Raye	c. 2021	F RED
The Book of Longings	Kidd, Sue Monk	c. 2020	F KID
The Bourne Betrayal	Lustbader, Eric	c. 2007	F LUS L.T.
Brass Chains	Kelly, Donna J.	c. 2019	F KEL
Breathe	Oates, Joyce Carol	c. 2021	F OAT
Golden Girl	Hilderbrand, Elin	c. 2021	F HIL
Grumpy Old Men		c. 1994	F GRU DVD
Heat		c. 1995	F HEA DVD
The Kingdom		c. 2007	F KIN DVD
Legacy	Roberts, Nora	c. 2021	F ROB
The Madness of Crowds	Penny, Louise	c. 2021	F PEN
The Man With the Silver Saab	Smith, Alexander McCall	c. 2021	F SMI
Medals in the Attic	Elliott, Cathy	c. 2010	F ELL
The Music of Bees	Garvin, Eileen	c. 2021	F GAR
The Personal Librarian	Benedict, Marie	c. 2021	F BEN
The President's Daughter	Clinton, Bill	c. 2021	F CLI
Rendition		c. 2007	F REN DVD
Seven		c. 2004	F SEV DVD
Storm of the Century	King, Stephen	c. 1999	F STO DVD
Suburban Dicks	Nicieza, Fabian	c. 2021	F NIC
The Sweetness of Water	Harris, Nathan	c. 2021	F HAR
Troubles in Paradise	Hilderbrand, Elin	c. 2020	F HIL
True North	Gould, Leslie	c. 2021	F GOU
Unfinished Business	Jance, Judith A.	c. 2021	F JAN
Unraveled Tidings	Fields, Jan	c. 2020	F FIE
While Justice Sleeps	Abrams, Stacey	c. 2021	F ABR
The Women's March	Chiaverini, Jennifer	c. 2021	F CHI

NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES

Haydn: His Life and Music	Landon, H. C. Robbins	c. 1988	BIO HAY
The World of Laura Ingalls Wilder	McDowell, Marta	c. 2017	BIO WIL
Crying in H Mart	Zauner, Michelle	c. 2021	920.7 ZAU
Nanaville: Adventures in Grandparenting	Quindlen, Anna	c. 2019	306.874 QUI
The Outlier: The Unfinished Presidency of Jimmy Carter	Bird, Kai	c. 2021	973.926 BIR



WORTH A LOOK BOOKS NEW TO OUR LIBRARY

By Barbara Christy - #237

Nanaville: Adventures in Grandparenting by Anna Quindlen. Non-fiction. Remember the first time your grandchild squealed with delight to see you come through the door? Remember wanting to give advice but knowing you shouldn't? Anna Quindlen has written in the past about motherhood and growing older. Now she is sharing her insights about the joys, fears, and humor of being a grandmother. A joy to read. 306.874 QUI

Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family by Robert Kolker. Non-fiction. Twelve children in 20 years – to all appearances a happy, loving, middle-class family. But behind the façade is a family living with heartbreak, despair, and even fear, as, one after another, six of the ten boys are diagnosed with schizophrenia. As one of the first families to be studied by the National Institute of Mental Health, their experiences and their genes are shedding light on the mysteries of a long-misunderstood illness. 616.89 KOL

Haydn: His Life and Music by H. C. Robbins Landon. Biography. For music lovers everywhere. This rich compendium of Hayden's life and music includes maps, a chronology of his works, and assessments of the impact of family, friends, patrons, and contemporaries. As the father of the string quartet and the symphony, Haydn's life and world are vividly captured in this volume. BIO HAY

The World of Laura Ingalls Wilder by Marta McDowell. Biography. If you were enchanted by the Little House series of children's books or by the television ver-

sion, this book will thrust you back into pioneer life with all its challenges and rewards. From Wisconsin through the Dakotas, until finally settling in Missouri, the Ingalls family stories captured the hearts of millions. This book brings to life the plants, animals, and landscapes of their world. With historical and contemporary photographs and even directions on how to visit those sites today, readers will relive a portion of our country's history. BIO WIL

The Music of Bees by Eileen Garvin. Fiction. Three unlikely strangers find each other on a honeybee farm in Oregon. Alice, 44 years old and recently widowed, is a bee hobbyist delivering 120,000 bees in her old pickup truck, when she nearly collides with paraplegic teenager Jake. Despite his enormous Mohawk hairdo, she responds to his genuine interest in her bees, inviting him to her farm, where she has just hired socially inept Harry; the three bond over threats from a pesticide manufacturer newly moved into the area. F GAR

Unfinished Business by J. A. Jance. Fiction. Wrongfully-convicted Mateo Vega, newly released on parole, is rehired by the computer tech firm for which he previously worked. Ali Reynolds, CFO and wife of the company owner, is balancing business challenges and personal life when one of the firm's tenants, deadbeat Harry McCluskey, goes missing. Also missing is their tech expert, Cami Lee. With her husband in Norway chasing new contracts, Ali is left to deal with the mess. F JAN

Sunflower Sisters by Martha Hall Kelly. Fiction. When the Civil War breaks out, Georgeanne Woolsley, a polite society misfit, sees an opportunity to do some-

thing more meaningful. She and her sister become battlefield nurses, much to the annoyance of the military doctors. At Gettysburg, they see firsthand the horrors of slavery. In Maryland, enslaved Jemma escapes during the confusion of the Union Army's passage through the area. Her owner, Anne-May, is left at home to manage the plantation, while her husband joins the Union Army and her brother goes over to the Confederates. Inspired by true stories, this novel provides vivid, detailed accounts of society during the Civil War as well as experiences on the battlefield. F KEL

Fifty Words for Rain by Asha Lemmie. Fiction. Kyoto, Japan, 1948. Noriko Kamiza is abandoned by her disgraced aristocratic mother and sent to live – locked in the attic – with her humiliated grandparents. Product of a liaison with a black GI, Nori represents a threat to the royal pretensions her family is struggling to uphold in a changing post-war Japan. When her legitimate half-brother arrives, he opens a new world to her, where she can question and discover new ideas. They form a bond that lasts for decades and spans continents. This epic story explores ties that bind, ties that free. F LEM

The Madness of Crowds by Louise Penny. Fiction. A visiting Professor of Statistics will be giving a lecture at the nearby university in Three Pines, Quebec, and Armand Gamache is asked to provide security. When Armand looks into her résumé to see why a statistics professor needs security, he is horrified by what he finds and asks the university to cancel her visit. Citing academic freedom, they refuse. After her speech, her views begin spreading, and sides are

taken in the community. From Armand's perspective, reality and confusion become so intermingled, it's impossible to tell them apart. Then a murder is committed. F PEN

The Eagle's Claw: A Novel of the Battle of Midway by Jeff Shaara. Fiction. This author brings us yet another masterpiece of military historical fiction – the Battle of Midway in June, 1942. The Japanese military code has been broken by Joe Rochefort, and Admiral Nimitz is planning his approach based on its incredible value. Using “first person accounts” by fighter pilot Perk Baker and Gunnery Master Sergeant Doug Ackroyd, and by Japanese admirals Nagumo and Yamaguchi, Shaara provides electrifying detail about one of the world's most significant battles. F SHA

TEN ADAGES FOR SENIORS

From <<https://eldercaring.ca/>>

1. It's okay to talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice.
2. “In Style” are the clothes that still fit.
3. You don't need anger management. You need people to stop annoying you.
4. Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
5. The biggest lie you tell yourself is “I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it.”
6. “On time” is when you get there.
7. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes and come out wrinkle-free and 3 sizes smaller?
8. Lately you have noticed that people your age are so much older than you are.
9. Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.
10. You still haven't learned to act your age and hope you never will.

COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #715

In the struggle against the climate crisis to keep our planet from heating no more than 1.5° C, most of what we hear about is the need to substitute renewable energy for fossil fuels to reduce, and then eliminate, the emissions that are warming the planet. But the problem is bigger than most of us realize – if we were to bring those emissions to zero tomorrow, the level of CO₂ in the atmosphere – some 420 ppm – is already more than sufficient to heat the earth well beyond the 1.5 degree target. We must find ways to reduce the emissions already in the atmosphere if we are to keep the planet livable for our children and grandchildren.

On Mon., Oct. 11, Channel 901 will broadcast an episode from the PBS show NOVA titled, “Can We Cool the Planet?” It will highlight the many ways that scientists are experimenting to either draw carbon dioxide and other fossil fuel emissions out of the atmosphere or find ways to limit the amount of sunlight that reaches and warms the planet. Carbon capture and storage technology are being hyped in the news these days; but the billions of dollars so far spent haven’t produced an economical way to isolate CO₂ coming out of the stacks of coal- or gas-fired power plants. Moreover, ‘geo-engineering,’ the idea of sending reflective particles into the upper atmosphere to block sunlight, has the climate science community on edge, because we just don’t know what unintended consequences might arise from such an experiment.

Congress is currently developing climate legislation. Let’s hope they get it right.

For constantly updated information on the climate crisis, follow the Slippery Rock chapter of Citizens’ Climate Lobby on Facebook at @CCLSlipperyRock.



Can We Cool
The Planet?

DOCUMENTARY – 60 min.

As global temperatures continue to rise, scientists are wondering if we need solutions that go beyond reducing emissions. From sucking carbon straight out of the air, to geoengineering our atmosphere to physically block out sunlight, to planting more than a trillion trees, the options may seem futuristic or tough to implement. But as time runs out on conventional solutions to climate change, scientists are asking the hard questions: Can new, sometimes controversial, solutions really work? And at what cost? Tune in on **Monday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m., 4 p.m., and 7:30 p.m., on Channel 901 to find out!**

ARE YOU WAITING, TOO?

By Rabe Marsh - #187

In February 2021, I filed my IRS 1040 income tax return for the year 2020. This was done electronically, with directions to deposit any refund in my personal checking account.

Since then, I have been waiting, patiently, for the refund (which was not small), with no success. Fearing that something had gone wrong, I went to the IRS website and clicked on the “Where is my refund” button. After entering the required information, I received a message that the IRS was still checking my return.

According to the IRS website, 8.5 million individual returns were unprocessed as of September 2, 2021. That means that I am one of eight million who is still waiting for a refund — are you one, too? According to cnet.com, the IRS ran at restricted capacity in 2020 because of the pandemic, which put a strain on its ability to process tax returns and created a backlog.

The combination of the shutdown, three rounds of stimulus payments, challenges with paper-filed returns, and the tasks related to implementing new tax laws and credits created a “perfect storm,” according to a National Taxpayer Advocate Review of the 2021 filing season sent to Congress.

It seems that the virus pandemic created delays not only for tax refunds but also for unemployment payments and landlord/tenant relief. The articles in <www.pewtrust.org> indicate that unemployment payments are weeks late in nearly every state. According to “Yahoo News” and the Treasury Department, through July, just \$4.7 billion of the \$47 billion appropriated by Congress had reached landlords and tenants. “Getting the funds to landlords

has been incredibly slow, and that has impacted those tenants who are truly in need and those landlords who are not being paid,” said Tom Bannon, President of the California Apartment Association, to the *New York Times*.

On the other hand, we at Sherwood Oaks are fortunate indeed. Any annoyance we might have in waiting for our tax refunds to arrive pales in comparison to the distress being suffered by the unemployed, landlords, and their poor tenants.

P.S. After this report was submitted, Rabe did receive his full refund from the IRS!

SHERWOOD OAKS AND APPALACHIA

Submitted by Barbara Brock - #360

Whatever we at Sherwood Oaks dispose of affects our neighbors “down the Ohio.” According to “ReImagine Appalachia,” this region has powered the economic prosperity of the nation. Yet many communities there have been left behind, exploited by absentee corporations in extractive industries. An estimated \$23.6 billion in federal investment, annually over ten years, will be needed to transform the region. At the same time, these investments would create over half a million jobs in OH, PA, and WV. Here’s what we need to do: repair the damage from the last century; modernize the electric grid; create universal broadband access; grow clean, efficient manufacturing; build a more sustainable transportation system; and relaunch the Civilian Conservation Corps.

What does this mean? It means thousands of jobs created in these areas, and a healthier environment and population. Visit <<https://reimagineappalachia.org/about/>> for more information.



When the mushrooms take over at Sherwood Oaks, this is what we get:



Photos by Diane Neely