

THE ACORN

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

November 2021 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. 22, No. 9

Mum's the word



Garden of Chrysanthemums in front of Community Center



Chrysanthemums by entrance to Community Center Parking Lot

Photos by Rabe Marsh

Gentle Readers:

Even as we emerge from the darkest days of the pandemic, nature's Season of Darkness begins in the northern hemisphere. Evening closes in earlier and earlier each day. As a result, many find themselves with decreased energy, lower mood, and general malaise. The "cure," of course, is light! And more light will, indeed, come eventually, following the Winter Solstice on December 21.

Meanwhile, we humans look for brightness, or make it, where we can. This may involve candles, of course; holiday lights in the neighborhoods; and displays at Rockefeller Center, Hartwood Acres, and downtown. These physical illuminations are helpful, no doubt, filling a void until we swing around closer to the sun again.

Moreover, since Covid, it seems we have found our way to forgotten, quieter sources of light, just because we survived a new kind of darkness. These might include a goldfinch at the feeder, the sparkling eyes of a shared glance across a room, the face of a toddler in front of us at the grocery store. These lights glow from within, often causing us a catch, a lump in the throat.

Just as we understand that the physical earth needs a barren, resting time to make the kind of summer beauty we love, it must be that the exterior darkness compels us, as well, to find interior sources of light. Maybe that interior light is sparked by faith, a healed relationship, a new hobby, or travel.

Even as the pandemic forced us to be still and delve deeper for meaning and joy, let's use the coming dark weeks to be on the lookout for those lights that shine within.

Jan Wendt, for the Editors

IN MEMORIAM

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

*Shirley Power
October 1, 2021*

*Corinne Shepard
October 17, 2021*

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Election Day	Nov. 2
Daylight Saving Time ends	Nov. 7
Veterans Day	Nov. 11
Thanksgiving Day	Nov. 25
Black Friday	Nov. 26
Hanukkah begins	Nov. 28
Cyber Monday	Nov. 29

THE ACORN

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Submissions for the December issue must be sent to the Editor no later than
November 15, 2021.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

By Jean Henderson - #611

What fun it has been to see the names of a Sherwood Oaks couple pop up on Channel 900, wishing them a Happy Anniversary! So far, we have about a dozen couples who've contacted us, but we'd love to see more. Just send me your names and the date and year of your wedding day. We'd love to help you celebrate!

DAN ZANDER and LORRAINE COMMERET - #131

By Harriet Burress - #112



Photos by Mike Mills

When one enters the home of Dan Zander and Lorraine Commeret, their love of books is immediately apparent. Bookshelves holding many volumes cover an entire wall, and “there are more in another room,” commented Lorraine. Dan continued, “When we were on a marketing tour at Sherwood Oaks, the Library told us worlds about the community and its residents, who have to be well-read, curious, educated, and wanting to learn more.”

Dan and Lorraine moved here from Gibsonia, where they had lived for ten years. “Actually, that is the longest we have stayed anywhere,” Lorraine observed. She and Dan have resided in ten states, their moves having been dictated by their jobs. She has taught at colleges and universities in the Midwest, on the East Coast, and in Germany. He has worked for Conagra Foods, Kraft Foods, and Smithfield Foods, among others. “As an operations controller, I helped to make plants more profitable, while maintaining the current workforce.” Prior to returning to college at age 30 and obtaining his degree from the University of Iowa, he drove a semi-truck cross-country for ten years.

Lorraine has quite a background in teaching and directing theater. In both areas, she sought to work organically and collaboratively, always alert to what the students and actors brought to the table. She has directed more than fifty productions, including classics, modern dramas, comedies, musicals and even one operetta. She has already been “FOUND” by the Sherwood Oaks drama group: “I was invited to have lunch and then to assist with the upcoming production, and later asked to co-chair the Drama Club.” Lorraine received her BA from Muskingum College and her MA and PhD from the University of Illinois. During her three years in Germany, she was able to complete her dissertation research, most of which was in German. While she was there, she taught theater at Schiller College and English at a German high school.

With Dan and Lorraine’s moves to different areas of the United States, they have had wonderful experiences. Over the years they had a sailboat on the Chesapeake Bay and toured the U.S. in a motor home. Dan was also a member of a glider club: “I flew solo in a glider over Pike’s Peak – over 30,000 feet in altitude – and received an award.” At the time of the last total eclipse, they were at a campground near Clemson, SC, and saw it almost directly overhead. “It was an amazing experience,” Dan commented. They are members of East Liberty Presbyterian Church and enjoy their Sunday School Class on Zoom.

Dan and Lorraine have two sons and six grandchildren. “Our sons were tremendously helpful during this move, but they had a long way to travel.” One lives in Fresno, CA, with his family, and the other with his family in Denver, CO. “We have no family here,” Dan said, but, one may hope, they will soon feel totally at home here and a part of the FAMILY of Sherwood Oaks.

Welcome, Dan and Lorraine!

BEVERLY PUGLIA – DIRECTOR OF FOOD SERVICES

Interview by Denton Bond - #736



Photo by Denton Bond

If you thought Beverly Puglia grew up spending a lot of time in the kitchen, you would be wrong. Her joy was in dance (tap, ballet, and jazz) as well as in cheer-leading. She participated in both of these at West Mifflin High School and West Virginia University. She also studied dance at Point Park College, but moved on to Computer Science and Mathematics at WVU. She transferred to the University of Pittsburgh after being injured in an accident on the way home from a Pitt/Penn State football game during her sophomore year. She now has three daughters, two stepchildren, and two adopted children; her 100-year-old mother lives with them as well. She is thankful for a large, caring family support system.

Beverly entered the food service industry when she was asked to be a server at the Pittsburgh Golf Club, where she worked for 16 years. She had the interesting opportunity to work as the Assistant Food Service Director at St. Vincent College for two years.

Beverly enjoyed the atmosphere there with the – monks and with the Steelers when

they came to train at the facility. She came to know the likes of Troy Polamalu and Ben Roethlisberger. Have her tell you some ice cream stories!

Beverly has been Director of Food Services at Sherwood Oaks for seven years, following a stint as Assistant Director of Food Services at Longwood at Oakmont. It turns out that Sherwood Oaks has the largest dining service of all the UPMC Senior Living Centers, with a total of 150 employees on staff.

Beverly literally felt as though she had "come home" when she entered the doors at Sherwood Oaks. Not only did she have the same carpeting in her own house, but the job presented a perfect fit for a rewarding and challenging position. Her key skill is that she can match up individuals with tasks that help them to grow and succeed. She sees her work here as "a calling from God," as she has often been provided with opportunities to assist residents as they go through difficult challenges. We are most fortunate to have such a trustworthy person in her role.



IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Submitted by Ruth Inkpen - #225

Crocheting plastic bags has come to an end at Sherwood Oaks! The bags hanging in the trash rooms for collecting plastic bags were removed at the end of October.

✓ NOTE to shoppers: Giant Eagle, Walmart, Target, and other stores have bins for recycling your plastic bags of all kinds. (Take your own reusable bags to the store for shopping whenever possible!)

✓ NOTE to everyone on picking up take-out meals: To cut down on plastic bags, please bring a reusable bag of your own.

CHAPEL NOTES

By Gary Brandenberger - #602

For the Chapel Committee

Services begin at 2 p.m. in the Auditorium

EVERYONE WELCOME

Sunday, November 7

Rev. Graham Standish
Samaritan Counseling

Sunday, November 14

Rev. Moni McIntyre
St. Stephen Episcopal Church
McKeesport

Sunday, November 21

Rev. Karen Slusser
St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Sunday, November 28

Rev. Barry Mariana
Christ Church at Grove Farm

"We should be rigorous when judging ourselves and gracious when judging others."

John Wesley

WOODSHOP AND WORKSHOP INFORMATION

By Safwat Habashi - #320

We are here to serve your needs for minor furniture repair and similar projects. Consultation is free of charge. Work will be done to the best of our abilities. The charge is \$2.00 per hour of work (minimum charge of \$2.00), in addition to the cost of materials needed. We will sharpen knives and scissors for \$1.00 per blade.

When you bring your items to the Woodshop, please be sure to attach your name and home unit number. Indicate the problem on the request form and what you want to have done. You will be notified of the estimated cost.

You are also invited to join us in our activities. You may do your own projects

or work for others, as you wish. The money charged goes to the workshop equipment and maintenance fund. Of course, you must demonstrate proficiency before using some of the power equipment! We do not carry insurance.

Gen. Inquiries: Dick Zuberbuhler ["Zubie"]
(724-553-5896) and
Ann Ferguson, Co-Chair (8269)

Electrical: Sandy Rubel (8258)

General Info: Safwat Habashi (8320)

General Wood: Jim Seanor (8217)

Member at Large: John Bridges (8122)

A MAGICAL MOMENT

By Jane Lohman - #717

When my grandson Luke was about five, he came to visit. It must have been close to his June birthday, because I had given him a present: a magic set, complete with a cape, a wizard's hat, a magic wand, and various tricks – cards, coins, etc. He worked and worked on the disappearing coin in the box until he had mastered it. Then he said he was going outside for a while.

When he came back, he said he had shown the trick to someone, and I thought no more of it. Then that evening I had a call from Paul, a neighbor several doors away. I didn't know him well, but I did know he lived alone and was very religious. He said he had been given a sign from God that day. He had just returned from the hospital, where his mother was dying, and he was in great despair. Then his doorbell rang. It was a small boy in a wizard's outfit who offered to show him a magic trick, after which he thanked him and said goodbye. Paul felt his spirits lift and took this as a divine intervention. I was glad my gift had had such a happy outcome. Luke, by the way, is now 25 years old and works in a bank.

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

By Jean Henderson, Secretary - #611

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

Summary of reports and actions for the **October 5, 2021**, board meeting:

TREASURERS: Memorial/Special Projects Fund balance is \$117,499.28. Employee Appreciation Fund balance is \$20,468.81. The SORA bank balance is \$74,280.38. 75% of residents have contributed the \$40.00 resident annual activity fee.

LIAISON REPORTS:

Welcoming. The December dinner will not be held.

Continued Learning. Watch Channel 900 for several upcoming events.

Chorus. Rehearsals through 2021 are canceled. Bells are rehearsing.

Recycling. Residents are asked to bring reusable bags to pick up their meals.

Living with Loss. Longest Night Service will be held December 21. A grief support group is planned for the Spring.

Landscape. Residents are needed for tending public gardens. Sidewalks and storm sewer drains have been repaired.

ADMINISTRATION: Annette McPeck reported the Butler County COVID-19 positivity rate as 14.5%. Census: IL 203; SNU 38/43; PC 38/42; and OGC 28/30. Six homes are under contract through January. **Masks should be worn and hand washing practiced, even after immunization.** Visitors/families are to be masked and screened at entry. Residents should not plan on having visitors in SO public areas, e.g., lobby,

dining room, billiards room, or chapel services. Resident satisfaction surveys are being distributed. The new SNU Administrator is Mark Nord.

OLD BUSINESS: Auditorium/Stage. The Board approved allocating up to \$50,000 for the project from the SORA Memorial/Special Projects Fund. This is one of three funding streams for the rehabilitation.

VISITORS: Fourteen were present.

The next SORA Board meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021. The next quarterly residents' meeting is Dec. 14, 2021.



TO ALL RESIDENTS!

Submitted by Roberta Breninghouse

"A Patriotic Salute to Sherwood Oaks' Veterans"

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1:30 P.M.,
AUDITORIUM**

PROGRAM:

"HONORING OUR VETERANS"

INVOCATION

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

MUSIC BEGINS AT 1:30 P.M.

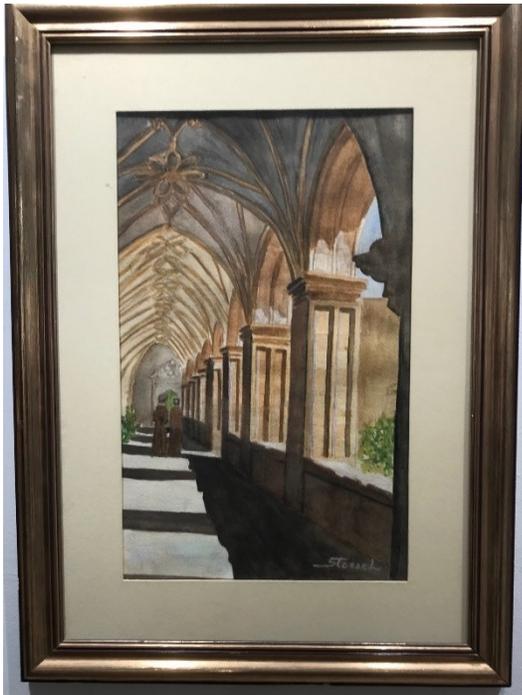
SPEAKER: Jim Hvidding,
Navy Submarines

RECOGNITION OF VETERANS

TABLES OF VETERANS' MEMOR-
ABILIA WILL BE DISPLAYED,
AND INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED
COOKIES AND CARTONS OF
PUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE TO
ALL

TWO BLUE RIBBONS!

By Joni Pun - #304



Recently, I have been the recipient of two blue ribbons for first prize in different art categories. Both were at the North Hills Art Center, of which I am a member. In September, I received first prize in the watercolor category in the gallery show for my painting, "Cloister in Leon, Spain." Earlier in the summer, I received first prize in the fiber/fabric award for my batik named "Sailboat on Lake Arthur." Here are photos of both of them.



SHERWOOD GIFTS

By Co-Managers Kelley Noble – #189
and Jane Paul - #341

It may be hard to believe, but the holidays are rapidly approaching! When you are doing your gift shopping, be sure to look at all that the Gift Shop has to offer. We have jewelry, scarves, handbags, beautiful glassware pieces, decorative items, Christmas decorations, and boxed Christmas cards. In addition, we have greeting cards, sundries, and candy for your own sweet tooth.

For those of you who are newer residents, the shop is in the lobby of the Community Center. It is open from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. If you have never visited the shop, please stop in to browse.

Many items have been given to the shop by residents or their families. The small items are sold there, while furniture donations are sold in Granny's Attic, also known as the Annex (unit #156), which is open by appointment between noon and 2:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. (Items to be donated must be pre-approved by one of us.) All purchases in both the Gift Shop and the Annex are by cash or check only.

Some things that we do *not* accept are: clothing, electronics, personal grooming items such as razors or electric toothbrushes, books, phones, items personalized with initials or organization names, bed linens, or items that are chipped, cracked, or missing parts.

The profit from Sherwood Gifts is donated quarterly to the SORA Memorial/Special Projects Fund. The shop is staffed entirely by volunteers; if that sounds like something you might like to do, please contact one of us for further details!

SWEET AUTUMN YEARS

By Bill Paul - #167

The calendar and mirror do not lie. I am in the autumn season of my life. The signs are numerous and unavoidable. Nor are they limited to wrinkles, liver spots, and aching joints.

There's the challenge of remembering names of people I haven't seen for a while. There is the frequency by which I am now referred to as "Sir." When my urologist considers my age, his eyes signal a prognosis that I am more likely to die of something other than my prostate cancer. Most annoying is my bum knee. It won't let me run or shoot turn-around jump shots. When all things are considered, however, I have no right to complain. Lord Providence has been very good to me.

Frailties of aging are inevitable, unrelenting, and sometimes devastating. Folk wisdom asserts that "growing old isn't for sissies." I heartily concur and take that seriously.

Having worked with people for more than 50 years, I am not indifferent to the heavy burdens wrought by sorrow, suffering, and depression. Yet, in spite of chronic pain, limiting disabilities of mind or body, even the loss of beloved spouses, many in their autumn years, while not without sadness, still find their lives rich with meaning.

But what is true now has actually been true all along. When lived with purpose and passion, each season of life tests our faint hearts.

Kierkegaard once observed, "Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards." The Apostle Paul urged us to let go of our accumulated baggage and "press on" into the future.

Acting on this wisdom, and desiring to make the most of our time, Nancy and I

sold our 10-room house and moved to Sherwood Oaks Retirement Community. Also motivating us was a sense that property maintenance would soon become burdensome. Moreover, we wanted to decide for ourselves where we would live our last years and spare our children from having to make the choice for us.

Anticipating this transition, we thought we would like living in our new community. Truth is, we love it. The move has proven better than anything we could have imagined. It has been eye-opening, life-affirming, and deeply reassuring. It feels right. The relocation has only enhanced our hope that whatever years remain for us can be the best of all.

Freedom from property upkeep and the assurance of lifetime health care contribute to peace of mind. Our patio home is a short walk to the dining room, library, fitness center, and medical offices staffed around the clock by health professionals.

Every day the café and dining room offer a bountiful salad bar and a choice of entrees. Regularly scheduled are continuing education opportunities, weekly entertainment, and transportation to regional shopping, medical, and cultural venues.

Best of all, we're discovering that our neighbors comprise a veritable treasure of fascinating personalities. They reflect a wide range of life and career experiences in business and government, in college and graduate schools, and in world travel and passionate service through a variety of faith institutions. There's a palpable sense that we are bound by something more than geographical proximity. We're really all together in the community.

It's also here that I have reconnected with people from my distant past. They include vocational colleagues and personal friends, one of whom was a high school classmate.

I'm discovering that the autumn season of life can be a time to grow young, perhaps not in body, but in outlook and spirit. One new neighbor confided that, when he and his wife moved to Sherwood Oaks, some of their family and friends thought they were preparing to die. "The truth is just the opposite," he said. "We came here to live."

Days have never been as precious, or life as full of promise. More than ever, I am free to do what I love most: read, take a daily walk, listen to fine music, dine with good friends and family, keep up with national and world events, follow my favorite teams, and devote money and time to important causes.

Michelangelo, at age 89 and aware that his life was coming to an end, said his only regret was that he was then just beginning to learn the ABCs of his profession. His age and artistic genius notwithstanding, the great artist knew there was still room to grow. I affirm that perspective. For us in our autumn years of life, there is ...

***Still room to grow, still time to live, Still wisdom to know, still love to give;
Still pardon to lend, still bells to ring,
Still hurts to mend, still songs to sing.***

Perhaps it's a harbinger of what the next season holds.

TABLE DISPLAYS REVIEW

By Ann Ferguson - #269

The table in the lobby was set up to inform and remind our residents of the available activities in which we may choose to participate. Each week there was more or different information.

We want to thank the committees and groups for jobs well done:

March - Patching and Piecing Quilters

April - Sew and So's crocheting and knitting of caps and scarves

May - Recycling plastic bags into Plarn to crochet mats to donate

June - Living with Loss and the aids that are available

July - Craft ideas

August - Recycling in the trash rooms

September- Landscape Committee

October - Wood Shop

This concludes the table displays. We hope they have encouraged you to consider participating in some of these activities. There are, in fact, even more things going on at Sherwood Oaks than those that were displayed! Keep your eyes and ears open to learn about – and try – something new.



HELP WANTED!

By Frank Finley - #615
SORA President

1. The SORA Board is looking for a resident **to chair the new House-keeping Advisory Committee**. Interested residents should contact Frank Finley at 724-591-8714 or <flyfish5x@aol.com>.

2. The Civics Affairs Committee is looking for a resident who is interested and able **to coordinate the distribution of absentee ballots**. Interested residents should contact Mary Lou Fox at #128.

People who wonder if the glass is half empty or half full miss the point. The glass is refillable.

Sometimes it takes me all day to get nothing done.

KELLY O'S RESTAURANT

By Jean Henderson - #611



During a recent breakfast outing at the new Kelly O's Restaurant in Warrendale, just off Route 19 behind Labriola's, I had a special treat – I met Kelly O'Connor in person!

She was greeting customers during the opening week of her third restaurant (she owns two other Kelly O's: in Ross Twp. and the Strip District). When I told her that I live at Sherwood Oaks, we had an "aha! moment: Kelly worked here when she was 18, during the 1985-86 school year! Her eight-hour shifts found her serving in the dining room at lunch, working in the kitchen between meals (she made lots and lots of salads!), and then heading back to the dining room for dinner. "I loved working there! The people were great!"

And look at her now: one of the busiest female restaurant entrepreneurs in Pittsburgh! She's made a couple of appearances on the TV Food Channel's "Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives," with Guy Fieri, and this fall she is celebrating her 20th anniversary as owner of Kelly O's.

A large sign hangs on one wall at the restaurant: "She believed she could, so she did." And it all started at Sherwood Oaks. Congratulations, Kelly!

SOLITUDE OR ISOLATION?

By Robert Typanski - #190

At first it seemed almost desired – those days with thoughts inspired, thoughts that could never grow into action with outcomes to show.

We hoped only that one bright day we'd leave that prison to say: we looked out that window afar, and saw a new world, like a star, a world much better than this, where we'd be met with a kiss, or a smile or a laugh or a hand, to help us all rise and stand.

During that long time alone, we lived in peace, but was it home? We could not help those in need, not knowing their pain or their grief.

Now we have left that space, coming together in a race that seems to have brought us back from that land, to fight and attack.

Some want more since they suffered; others say why we recovered was due to them, although there were others not doing their share.

What was that time and place? A land of solitude and grace? Or just one of isolation that for greed was preparation?

Here's what we must believe:

That now we all have seen the value of living a dream of peace, love, and sharing. while for others we are caring.



Painting by Robert Typanski

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TABLES

By Rosemary Coffey - #113

Please consider joining us at our foreign language tables for a chance to chat or just to practice otherwise rusting skills!

French – First Wednesday of the month for *dinner* beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Spanish – Second Tuesday of the month for *lunch* beginning at noon

German – Third Thursday of the month for *dinner* beginning at 5:30 p.m.

We'll be at Table No. 2 at the far end of the dining room!

CURIO CABINETS

By Gussie Dimmick - #160

The current display of Hallowe'en items will end on Tues., Nov. 9 (pick up 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 4:30-5:30 p.m.). The witch is back this year, giving out candy, now that the pandemic is a little less severe. Thank you, everyone, for making this such a fun event.

This display will be followed on Thurs., Nov. 11, by our annual Holiday trio: Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Hanukkah. Please bring us your Holiday items on Nov. 11 between 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 4:30-5:30 p.m.

QUESTIONS FROM A FOUR-YEAR-OLD NAMED BEN

Shared by his grandmother
Joan McBurney - #206

1. How many words are spelled with two letters?
2. Do alligators get sunburned?
3. Why are all the Presidents boys?
4. Can a bug talk to a worm?
5. How many times are in ten minutes?
6. Why does the jungle only grow tropical fruit?
7. What if a squid sucked all the juices out of a whale?

HARVEST PRAYER

Submitted by Jean Kabbert - #371

Please be gentle with yourself and others.

We are all children of the Creator,
And none can say why some fields
blossom

While others lie brown
beneath the harvest sun.

Take hope that your season will come.

Share the joy of those
whose season is at hand.

Care for those around you,
Look past your differences.

Their dreams are no less than yours,
Their choices in life no more easily made.

And give.

Give in any way you can.

Give in every way you can.

Give whatever you possess.

Give from your heart.

To give is to love.

To withhold is to wither.

Care less for the size of your harvest
than for how it is shared.

And your life will have meaning,

And your heart will have peace.

*Anonymous 17th Century Sermon
From Soaring Eagle, Billings, MT*



Never sing in the shower! Singing leads to dancing, dancing leads to slipping, and slipping leads to paramedics seeing you naked. So remember... don't sing!

During the Middle Ages they celebrated the end of the plague with wine and orgies. Does anyone know what is planned when this one ends?

I'm at a place in my life where errands are starting to count as going out.

We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

TERRY NEELY'S LATEST

By Ruth Becker - #340

Do you remember the Civilian Conservation Corps from the 1930s? Well, resident Terry Neely can give you an update based on his recent trip west.

About seven years ago, in a nature magazine, Terry saw a notice from Historicorps (headquartered in Colorado) about volunteer opportunities for outdoor-minded people. Volunteers would be provided meals and a place to camp, as well as necessary on-the-job training in return for a week's labor restoring historic buildings in National Forests and State Parks. Terry has volunteered at six sites, two of them this fall. (The program skipped a year during the big Covid lockdown.)

On September 24, Terry and Claire, the Neelys' Lab, took off in their new camper for the first site: Custer City, Black Hills, South Dakota. They returned, unscathed, on October 24, having also worked at Terry's second assignment in California (where gasoline cost over \$5 per gallon). The trip measured a total of 5300 miles.



Photo by Terry Neely

In South Dakota, during week two of a three-week project, six volunteers – three women, three men – worked to restore a

1930s CCC headquarters building for Hell's Canyon Fire Fighters (see photo above). Restorations require skilled workmanship. The crew stripped paint, applied linseed oil to the logs to show the natural grain, and replaced rotted wood with new, carved-to-fit pieces.

Terry then went on to Bodie Ghost Town State Park in Bodie, CA. (He stopped in Wyoming on the way to check out a former prison that once held Butch Cassidy; it has now been turned into a State Park. But to return to the CCC part of the story....)

In Bodie, at 84-hundred-foot elevation, near Lake Tahoe, Terry did not sense any of the smoke and odor from California's wildfires. Bodie was a gold mining town where, in the 1870s, its heyday, the population reached 8,500. There were 2000 dwellings, 60 saloons, and a "Chinatown." The mines produced ten thousand tons of gold ore, with a value of \$15 million. By 1886 the population had fallen to 1500; then, in 1892, a fire destroyed half of the buildings. In 1932, after another fire, Bodie was abandoned before being designated a State Historic Park and a National Historic Landmark. Since Bodie has had trouble with looters, tourists are allowed only into some buildings and only when the State Park is open.

This year, over a three-week rotation, two teams totaling up to 22 volunteer laborers worked on two buildings: the train station and the Cain barn. The aim was to arrest the decay, not to rebuild. All restoration needed to match the original ghost town materials and construction, even though old-fashioned wavy window panes are hard to come by. Tourists can peer through the restored windows to check



Photo by Terry Neely

out the "simples" on the pharmacy shelves (see photo above). This was the fifth year that Historicorps has been doing restoration work at Bodie.

And now, a word about Historicorps: Instruction and tools are provided (as well as the aforementioned campsites and meals.) "The volunteers are great people. The age range ran from my age down to 20," said Terry. Some volunteers were working on their 12th-14th projects. Needless to say, the work is somewhat seasonal.

Finally, another nod to the CCC. One year Terry volunteered closer to home, at Laurel Hill State Park, near Donegal, PA. The team restored a 1930s CCC-built mess hall. The year before, he had helped restore ten CCC-built cabins at Allegheny State Park in New York. The work of the CCC is an amazing part of our American heritage; thanks to organizations like Historicorps and its volunteers, our children and grandchildren can enjoy this heritage for many years to come.

See <www.historicorps.org> for more information or the complete schedule of projects.

CHANNEL 901 GETS LATE NIGHT PROGRAMMING

By Jason Lyle - #295

If you find yourself unable to sleep, there is a new option to late-night television other than the hyperactive infomercials and paid programming that rule television channels after midnight. From 12:01 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. every night on Channel 901, a random assortment of alternative entertainment and education can be found. Different every night and quite unpredictable, the line-up will include documentaries of science, nature, and history; biographies; vintage short-subject featurettes from the '40s, '50s, '60s, and '70s, and walking tours of the world, of Pittsburgh, and even of Sherwood Oaks. There will also be music performances of all kinds, and some fun with classic cartoons from the studios of Disney, Warner Brothers, and Pixar. You'll never know what you may find, and there will not be a listing of upcoming features.

The concept is to provide something to watch until sleep finds you once again, not to entice any of us purposely to stay up later than we should. Good sleep is very important to our health, well-being, and sociability toward our neighbors.

But, for those times when sleep is elusive, my hope is that Channel 901 will be a nice alternative to commercial television. Channel 900 will remain the regular slideshow with non-stop, commercial-free music, so there are even more choices to help in dealing with insomnia. Where else, but at Sherwood Oaks? Now, go to sleep!

This virus has done what no woman has been able to do: cancel sports, shut down all bars, and keep men at home.

A SAFE PLACE

By Ellen Brierly - #734

I have a safe place where I put things that I want to keep for future use. These items do not get thrown in with the ordinary and the mundane. There is one problem, however. I have trouble remembering the location of the safe place! It always seems perfect at the time I select it, but later my mind somehow dismisses the entire scenario.

When I discover the latest loss, there is much searching, along with attempts at recalling my thought process when I first decided to put this piece of valuable whatever into a safe location. Sometimes I even find other lost things that I once labeled as important, as I am searching for the most recent gem.

The good that comes out of this is a cleaning and ordering of shelves and drawers and nooks and crannies that need attention.

Indeed, as I write this, I am in the process of hunting for my latest lost treasure. I haven't a clue as to where it is located, but I do know where it is not!

MEMORIES OF THANKSGIVING 2007

By Julie Eden - #290

I heard the urgency in his voice as he called, "Julie, come here." While many were filling themselves with oversized meals and watching football on Thanksgiving afternoon, I was called outside on a western Kentucky farm to see a flock of sandhill cranes flying overhead, migrating to their wintering location. My friend Bill and I had seen cranes in Nebraska that summer, and now they were saying hello again. They circled over the area and went on their way.

Bill and I had been busy with the gathering of the harvest, and preparations for winter, when the birds passed. Shock fodder, hay bales, pumpkins, gourds, and pots of mums beside an old farm wagon brought color to the drying, fading landscape. I brought in the last bounty of the garden and gathered kind-

ling for the fires we lit most mornings and evenings. Bill spent time splitting and stacking firewood. As colored leaves danced on the ground, he took time to share stories of autumns on the farm, the final storing of the harvested corn, and watching chickens skidding across the driveway on the first frost. These were memories not of large family gatherings, but of how nature gathers herself toward winter.

THANKSGIVING CORNSTICKS

By Joanne Weiss - #154

As newlyweds, Frank and I visited Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts on our way to Cape Cod. We purchased a black, iron cornstick pan there that bakes cornbread in the shape of little ears of corn. Thus began our family tradition of "It wouldn't be Thanksgiving without cornsticks." Regardless of who hosted the dinner, cornsticks were always on the menu. When we moved to Sherwood Oaks in 2017, the cornstick pan went to our daughter Gretchen. She carries on the tradition at her home in Wexford.

Gretchen & Joanne Weiss, 1968



Photo by Frank Weiss

It wouldn't be Thanksgiving dinner without three kinds of cranberry sauce.

– Ruth Becker - #340

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

The Best American Short Stories 2019	Doerr, Anthony	c. 2019	F DOE p.b.
Blind Tiger	Brown, Sandra	c. 2021	F BRO
The Carol Burnett Show			F CAR DVD
The Cellist	Silva, Daniel	c. 2021	F SIL
Class Act	Woods, Stuart	c. 2021	F WOO
Death in Focus	Perry, Anne	c. 2019	F PER
The Eagle's Claw: A Novel of the Battle of Midway	Shaara, Jeff	c. 2021	F SHA
Fifty Words for Rain	Lemmie, Asha	c. 2020	F LEM
Patterns of Deception	Herne, Ruth Logan	c. 2021	F HER
Songbirds	Lefteri, Christy	c. 2021	F LEF
Sunflower Sisters	Kelly, Martha Hall	c. 2021	F KEL
The Tunnel	Yehoshua, Abraham	c. 2020	F YEH
The Turnout	Abbott, Megan E.	c. 2021	F ABB

NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES

Across the Airless Wilds	Swift, Earl	c. 2021	629.4 SWI
Better to Have Gone	Kapur, Akash	c. 2021	335.092 KAP
Diary of a Pint-Sized Farmer	Urwin, Sally	c. 2020	636.3 URW
Flying Tigers	Ford, Daniel	c. 2016	940.54 FOR p.b.
Ginkgo: The Tree that Time Forgot	Crane, Peter R.	c. 2013	582.16 CRA
Heart and Steel	Cowher, Bill	c. 2021	796.332 COW
Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family	Kolker, Robert	c. 2020	616.89 KOL
Presidents of War	Beschloss, Michael R.	c. 2018	355.0 BES p.b.
Their Life's Work: The Brotherhood of the 1970's Pittsburgh Steelers	Pomerantz, Gary M.	c. 2013	796.332 POM p.b.

PAPERBACK PONDERINGS

By Jean Henderson - #611

Have you visited the Paperback Room in our Library? Hundreds of paperbacks are waiting to be read – mysteries, chick lit, biographies, suspense, historical novels, nonfiction, and devotional books – such a variety! You don't even need to check them out – just take a book and enjoy it. Before you return it, however, put a checkmark on the small tab on the inside back cover and then put it in the return box in the main library. Let us reshelve it. Thanks so much, and happy reading!

SHERWOOD OAKS ARCHIVES

(The place where the past is kept
for the future!)

By Joe and Peg Rychcik - #297

Residents, one and all: THE ARCHIVES
HAS ITS OWN MAILROOM CUBBYHOLE!

Please put items related to Sherwood
Oaks, such as newspaper articles,
concert/play programs, and posted
events from the bulletin boards, into the

“ARCHIVES” CUBBYHOLE

We need you to help us preserve the
history of life at Sherwood Oaks!

WORTH A LOOK BOOKS NEW TO OUR LIBRARY

By Barbara Christy - #237

The Tunnel by A. B. Yehousua. Fiction. This is a delightful book about the slow mental decline of a former road engineer in Israel. As his loving wife and son work to find coping strategies, Zvi delights in tweaking them and his co-workers with humorous remarks about his condition. A long-term road engineer, he is encouraged to take a job as an unpaid assistant to an engineer building a secret road in the Negev desert. There Zvi meets a Palestinian family with a complicated backstory, hiding amid ancient Nabatean ruins. Determined to protect the ruins from road construction, they try to convince the engineers to build a tunnel instead. F YEH

The Cellist by Daniel Silva. Fiction. Gabriel Allon is on the prowl again. This time he is after the murderer of a fabulously wealthy Russian exile, living in London. Indebted to this billionaire for saving his life in the past, Gabriel feels compelled to find the killer, especially when British intelligence focuses on the wrong person. F SIL

When She Was Good by Michael Robotham. Fiction. Evie Cormac is the last living witness to some heinous crimes. For seven years after her discovery in a bolt hole, where she is found after a gruesome murder, nobody was able to learn her identity. Everyone who tried is now dead. Forensic psychologist Cyrus Haven is, nevertheless, determined to try, only to unleash a furious response from the corrupt and evil people who wish her dead. F ROB

The Paper Palace by Miranda Cowley Heller. Fiction. This captivating novel unfolds over 24 hours, but covers fifty years. Elle Bishop is spending August with her family on Cape Cod, as they have done for generations. There she encounters her

first love, Jonas, with whom she always expected to live out her life. But a tragic event intervenes, and she marries another man, with whom she builds a satisfying, loving life. F HEL

Beautiful Country by Qian Julie Wang. Biography. This is both a coming-of-age story and an immigrant's tale. Qian, who is born in China, arrives in the US at age 7. In China, her parents were professors. Here they can find work only in New York sweatshops. Under the stress of creating a new life, her parents quarrel, and her mother becomes seriously ill. Despite everything, Qian finds joy in little things – her first taste of pizza, “sidewalk shopping” on trash collection days, the children's book section of the public library. Translated, the Chinese word for America is “beautiful country.” America may not be all Qian expected on her arrival, but it is enough. BIO QIA

Nowhere Girl by Cheryl Diamond. Biography. Growing up as the child of outlaws running from international law enforcement, Cheryl Diamond initially experiences the peripatetic lifestyle as exciting and adventurous. By the age of nine, she has lived in over a dozen countries under assumed names. As she reaches her teen years and her family fractures under the stress, Cheryl realizes that her identity has been recreated so often that she has no proof she exists. She can't trust her family, and she lives with fear and violence. Finally settling in Amsterdam, she recounts the way she reconstructed herself. BIO DIA

All In by Billie Jean King. Autobiography. Now that women's sports are closer to approaching equality, it is easy to forget the upheavals instigated by the early sports activists. Billie Jean King was in the forefront of that group, becoming a cultural icon as she fought to gain equal status for

women's tennis. Not limited to her brilliant tennis career, King's account covers her early childhood quest for freedom and her struggle to find her authentic self – one that included but was not limited to her sexual identity. Her descriptions of the riotous early days of women's tennis, her evolution into global Grand Slam champion, activist, and public figure are counter-balanced by introspective passages about the challenges to her physical and emotional health. It's good to be reminded of a past that we all lived through. BIO KIN

American Marxism by Mark R. Levin. Non-fiction. This book follows a 2009 volume, *Liberty and Tyranny*, in which Levin proposed a framework for understanding and halting the progressive agenda of the Obama years. In his new book, Levin ties this agenda to Marxist ideology, while exploring the psychology and tactics of the Green New Deal, critical race theory, and higher education. 320.53 LEV

The Gift of Belief: Philanthropy and the Forging of Pittsburgh, edited by Kathleen W. Buechel. Non-fiction. Philanthropy has certainly been included in the stories of Pittsburgh industrialists Carnegie, Frick, Mellon, and Heinz, but it has also been included in the stories of everyday Pittsburghers. This collection explores twelve examples of the meaning, method, and measures of voluntary action for the public good, based on a continuum from immediate relief, through the quest for long-term solutions using public planning to solve societal needs, up to efforts to expand local cultural life through civic engagement. The narrative of this work will engage the reader in accounts of ordinary citizens' efforts to help, along with explorations of the values and visions of mega-donors. This intriguing volume will widen your understanding of how commit-

ment to community good has shaped and framed Pittsburgh's story, for better and for worse. 361.70 BUE

Presidents of War: The Epic Story from 1807 to Modern Times by Michael Beschloss. Non-Fiction. This is a behind-the-scenes look at how our Presidents have handled the stress and demands of taking our country to war. Facing the challenges of a recalcitrant Congress, anti-war protesters, critical press, and even the courts, Presidents have grown into the job or been broken by it. Beschloss's style is reader-friendly, while the content from interviews with surviving participants and newly released security documents provides new insights into the context and events surrounding major foreign policy decisions. Most thought-provoking, though, is following the pathway from the efforts of the Founding Fathers to limit Presidential war powers to our current situation, where a President can initiate nuclear war with the press of a single button. 350.0 BES

OUTDOOR GAMES

By Joni Pun - #304

The outdoor games were plagued with problems this year – rainy weather and lack of attendance made it impossible to do many playoffs. The following players, however, were winners in some of the games: Dan Cindric, Norm Ferguson, Herb Weiss, Joni Pun, and David Gieschen. Let's hope we have better turnout next year!

Meanwhile, we need a new chairperson for this program. I have done it for two years, but am now too involved in other activities to continue. Please get in touch with me (8304) if you are interested. It is not difficult and can be a lot of fun!

THE NEW ASSEMBLY LINES

By Dennis Lynch - #335

The first time I went to England, I got off the red-eye in London and went to get an Underground pass. The chap behind the counter spoke to me politely – and I couldn't understand a word he said. I could only assume he was speaking English, because, after all, I was in England. I thought, "This trip is going to be harder than I anticipated!"

But now, right here in Cranberry, it seems to me that everybody speaks a foreign language. I finally figured it out: it's not foreign, it is just too darn fast. Everybody talks like TV commercials, with 43 seconds of words to fit in a 30-second spot.

Remember Lucille Ball on the assembly line? Everything has been speeded up. Trimmed up. Cleaned up. Simplified. Depersonalized and homogenized.

Let's take haircuts. My experiences have been very foreign at the local "Clip" shop. They don't ask for my name, just my phone number. Entered into the cash register/computer, it outputs a slip with my name on it and what they did to me last time: "Use *this # shield on your clipper, then this #, then this # on the beard.*" That slip is handed off to the next free clipper, and away we go. I don't recognize any of the staff from last time.

I climb awkwardly into the chair and hand over my glasses. The barberess does not know what to do with them. Starting to pull off my hearing aids, I say, "Without these, I'm deaf." She looks at my ears and says, "Oh, that's OK." No, "Honey," it is **not** OK. You try being hearing impaired! Oh, never mind....

Well, I get mowed, pay up, leave a tip, and head out for the parking lot. (For what can happen then, see *The Acorn* a few months back.)

Before I moved here, I patronized a barber shop in Glenshaw. It was run by two Italians who had been in this country a long time but still talked like Chico Marx. Most of the customers were regulars, and Italian was the *lingua franca*, which left me out in the cold.

But it was a slow, personable place. For example, I once described a mysterious growth of mushrooms in my backyard to one of the barbers. Throughout the shop, all work and conversation stopped. I was quizzed at length, as the barbers and customers tried to pin down the edibility of my mushrooms. The cupboard behind the chairs was opened, and a very well-thumbed *Field Guide to Mushrooms* (the big, fat one) was produced. (The barbers were gardeners.)

The shop could not agree about which picture showed my mushrooms. Finally, the older man slapped the book shut and instructed me, "You pick 'em an' cook 'em up good. If a water turn black, you doan eat 'em!"

In the tonsorial parlor I now patronize, such conversations could never occur. I'm happy when the efficient mechanism falters.

Otherwise, I am grateful that the staff here takes the trouble to recognize us and call us by name. Our servers are pleasant and helpful: "Do you want ice cream with that?" And I actually *enjoy* going to the Medical Office. I hope assembly-line homogeneity never comes to Sherwood Oaks!

COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #715

As I write this, Congress is wrestling with gigantic infrastructure and budget resolution legislation, the latter of which contains substantial language to accelerate the fight against the climate crisis that is affecting the entire planet.

Last month's Capsule introduced the idea that we must find ways to remove fossil fuel emissions already in the atmosphere and oceans, if we are to keep our world habitable. And yet the NOVA program featured in October showed us that much of the technology necessary to get to 'negative' emissions isn't much further along than being on the drawing board.

November's presentation, titled *2040*, (Channel 901 on Nov. 8), looks at where our planet might be if we were simply to ramp up the technologies, agricultural practices, and efficiencies we already know how to use. While the outlook is encouraging, it's not enough. One of the essential elements that Congress must put in place is a carbon price, to provide a financial incentive to use less and less fossil fuel. The way to do that, supported by my group, Citizens' Climate Lobby, is through a carbon fee and dividend process. You can find information about it at www.energyinnovationact.org.

The most important worldwide meeting about the climate crisis is scheduled to be held in Glasgow, Oct. 31 through Nov. 12. The U.S. must lead the way with concrete legislation ahead of that meeting. Let's hope Congress can come together to do the right thing and finally stop supporting the fossil fuel industry. This may be our last chance to begin the restoration of our home world. Leave it in the ground!

FOCUS ON THE WORLD



DOCUMENTARY

The biggest risk in fighting climate change is an overwhelming sense of helplessness. "2040" points to a practical, achievable path toward solutions, but its most important contribution is a sense that change is possible. Director Damon Gameau says that he wants "to create a vision of a different future" based on "an exercise in fact-based dreaming." This film does not scold us; it is hopeful.

WATCH ON CHANNEL 901

Nov. 8: 10 a.m., 4 p.m., & 7:30 p.m.

**FROM THE COMFORT
OF YOUR OWN HOME!**

Autumn Flowers and Haikus by Julie Eden



Winter's edge provides
frosty coats on fallen leaves;
sunsets steal the light



Slow descents to sharp winds
a garden sound of pine trees
and memories glow



Shuffling through the leaves
onward through colored Autumn;
darkness brings my sleep



Muted Autumn colors
create a candelabra
of simmering warmth



Autumn breezes flow;
fallen leaves find unknown paths
to follow homeward