

# THE ACORN

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

September 2022 "For the residents, by the residents" Vol. 41, No. 7

## *Sherwood Oaks: Forty Years*



Photo by Rabe Marsh

Gentle Readers:

You may have noticed that we are now celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Sherwood Oaks. We mark the occasion in this issue by printing a special 8-page review of events that have happened here every year since the beginning. It is a history of which we can all be proud.

The celebrations continue. See invitations for events later this month listed on pp. 13 and 16. As to additional happenings, obviously a lot depends on how the Covid-19 pandemic plays out. Quite a number of us have gotten sick over the summer, as we have traveled and visited friends and family far and wide; fortunately, our cases have been mild and more of a nuisance than a calamity. Still, we must acknowledge Covid's impact on what we can or cannot do with regard to interactions here and away.

This, too, shall pass. May we look forward to our continued time together.

– 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.*

*Rose Marie Rohm  
May 28, 2022*

*John King  
May 31, 2022*

*Eleanor Mattusch  
June 1, 2022*

*Beverly Pugh  
June 13, 2022*

*Evelyn Darcy  
July 10, 2022*

*Joseph Schewe  
July 14, 2022*

*William Hansmann  
July 24, 2022*

*Daniel Reynolds  
August 2, 2022*

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Labor Day	Sept. 5
Grandparents Day	Sept. 11
Patriot Day	Sept. 11
Oktoberfest	Sept. 17
First Day of Fall	Sept. 22
Rosh Hashanah	Sept. 25

## THE ACORN

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Submissions for the October issue must  
be sent to the Editor no later than  
**September 15, 2022.**

## LANGUAGE TABLES TO RESUME

By Rosemary Coffey - #113

Since **Sept. 7** is the first Wednesday of the month, we will meet for the first time since last Spring at our **French Table**, beginning at **5:30 p.m.** in the Dining Room. On **Tues., Sept. 13**, we'll have our **Spanish Table** at **noon**. When you check in for your meal, the staff person at the desk will tell you where the table is located. Do join us! It's a fun way to get back to practicing a foreign language in a relaxed setting. We can even help each other recover some of the words that we have lost for want of practice. À bientôt! Te veo pronto!

## JOE & DIANA SCHULTIES - #312

By Connie Brandenberger - #602



Photos by Mike Mills

Joe and Diana Schulties came to Sherwood Oaks in January with enthusiasm and expectations. They have not been disappointed. They had encouragement and recommendations from friends, especially present residents Frank and Joanne Weiss. Both native Pittsburghers, Joe having lived in Ross Township and Diana born in Munhall, they moved here after 43 years on their seven-acre property in Gibsonia. The close relationship of Management and residents at Sherwood Oaks is appealing to Diana and Joe, who feel that Management responds to and respects the residents' opinions and suggestions.

Joe loves all types of music. He plays the trombone with the Pine Creek Community Band, the Shrine Band, a DooWop and Big Band, The Pitt Alumni Dance Band, and a few others. He spends a lot of time on the road traveling to practice in Oakmont, Cheswick, and Hampton. Fortunately, he does not have to march in parades, as he is usually riding on the back of a flatbed truck!

Joe attended the University of Pittsburgh, graduating with a BSME/MSME. He worked as an engineer with Westing-

house and then Siemens until his retirement.

Diana's interests and activities are many and varied. She likes to keep moving. She has worked for the Pine-Richland School District in many capacities; managed the Village Gift Shop at St. Barnabas; organized and worked in their library; and managed the Pine-Richland Girl Scouts for 20 years. She has a gift for organizing. Once they are settled and "organized" in their new home, Diana will be a willing participant in many committees and activities at Sherwood Oaks.

Joe and Diana have one daughter, who lives with her husband in Cleveland. Both are air traffic controllers.

When Joe wasn't working or mowing his seven acres, he spent most of his time devoted to his band activities. Diana was involved in volunteer work. Their most enjoyable vacation was a 10-day driving trip covering the entire state of Pennsylvania, visiting many points of interest and beauty.

Diana's future plans here at Sherwood Oaks are to make friends and use her talent for "organizing." We welcome her and the "music man" to their new home.

---

*Did you know that a raven has 17 rigid feathers called pinions, while a crow has only 16? The difference between a raven and a crow is, therefore, just a matter of a pinion.*

*I told my carpenter I didn't want carpeted steps. He gave me a blank stair.*

*What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing up his own incision? Suture self.*



## GEORGE & NANCY STEFFEY - #275

by Jean Henderson - #346



Photos by Mike Mills

George and Nancy's life together could be described in three little words: faith, family, and friends. These may be little words, but they loom large in the lives of the Steffeys.

**FAITH:** Active and committed followers of Jesus, they met while working for Young Life. They have been married for 56 years. George is an ordained United Church of Christ minister, having graduated from both Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

As clergy, George served on urban Young Life staff for three years, and as a pastor for twelve years. He also spent three years as Director of Hunger and Homelessness for East End Cooperative Ministry, and 25 years serving as chaplain at the East Liberty Family Health Care Center, where he developed programs of outreach to those suffering from substance abuse and HIV.

He retired from ELFHCC in 2014. Nancy, an RN with a BSN from the University of Pittsburgh, also worked at ELFHCC for ten years. In addition, she has served in hospitals, nursing homes, and home care, and as a nursing instructor. They

are both active participants at The Gospel Tabernacle in Aliquippa.

**FAMILY:** The Steffeys' four children and ten grandchildren are a great joy to them. Three children live in the Pittsburgh area: a son who is an IT manager for a medical research company, a son who works in campus ministry with male student-athletes at Pitt, and a daughter who is a surgical tech at Montefiore Hospital. Their youngest son lives in Hastings, Minnesota, and works at Walmart as an associate manager. Their grands range in age from 6 to 22.

**FRIENDS:** Through their life journey, George and Nancy have made many lifelong friends. Their affiliation with a number of Christian traditions has been a blessing. They look forward to sharing this season of their lives here at Sherwood Oaks. I know their pleasant personalities will cause that to happen quite easily

George and Nancy both try to stay physically fit. George likes to run, and they both like to take long walks. They are grateful for the availability of training at the fitness center, where they have been going twice a week. They both like to read. George hopes to learn to work with wood, and Nancy would like to learn to paint. In the meantime, she enjoys doing jigsaw puzzles and cooking. Do take time to say hello to George and Nancy Steffey – they are wonderful new neighbors at Sherwood Oaks.



*I hate it when I can't figure out how to operate the iPad and my tech support person is asleep. She's 5, and it's past her bedtime.*

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

By Joe and Peg Rychcik - #297

### ***Celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with 40 Facts about Sherwood Oaks!***

1

It can safely be said that Sherwood Oaks is the only retirement community in the country that was begun by four women. Sally Dewees, Martha Leonard, Jane Locke, and Margaret McCoy faced a daunting task, while navigating challenging circumstances along the way in order to bring their dream to reality.

2

In the early years, Sherwood Oaks hosted the Cranberry Township Halloween Parade. Trick-or-treaters would walk to the Community Center circle, where residents would be waiting with treats.



October 31, 1987

3

Quilters met on Wednesdays in the Sewing Room, which later became the Computer Room.

4

Our Founders discovered the concept of covered walkways without steps during their visit to the Quaker retirement community named Kendall at Longwood, in Kennett Square, PA.



5

Our Cranberry Lake was once a privately-owned pay-to-fish lake with picnic grounds.

6

In July 1981, Sherwood Oaks built six model patio homes located near the Gatehouse parking lot. Later, they were moved onto campus and have been lived in ever since.



7

This 1883 grandfather clock found its home in the Community Center when Corinne Smith moved here in 1982. It was made by her grandfather, H. A. Reineman, who was a Pittsburgh jeweler.





8

The current Rehabilitation Services Room was once the Recreation Room, which included a resident's model train display, billiards, ping pong, and shuffleboard tables, games, and remote-control airplanes suspended from the ceiling.



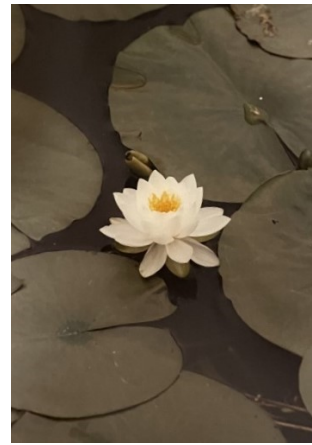
9

Oxford and Cambridge are the main walkways leading from the Community Center, with nine branches off of them. Only Chatham does not connect to a main artery. Norman Dewees made all 66 signs like this BEDFORD example. If you are lost on a walkway, turn downhill, and you will come to the Community Center.



10

Lily pads with lovely blooms graced our Cranberry Lake in 1996.



11

Norman Dewees drew and redrew patio home plans eight times in response to ideas for improvements shared by board members.

12

Grass was planted between Oak Lodge and the West Wing, prior to the building of a driveway in 2001 to allow parking at the back of Oak Lodge.



13

The Strawberry Shoppe coffee shop, decorated with strawberry wallpaper, was located along the corridor near the current Kitchen entrance.



14

Cheerful painted rocks began appearing on campus in 2020.



Painted by Jason Lyle

15

Residents volunteered once a month in a Haines Elementary School third-grade classroom from 1988 to the early 2000s. Haines School students also came to Sherwood Oaks to present programs.



16

In 1978, Cranberry Township had no zoning regulations for retirement communities, so officials had to write new zoning provisions in order to approve our construction.

17

Irish Spring miniature soap bars were scattered in the North Woods to help deter deer from eating the young Trillium shoots in the spring.

18

The Founders looked to every detail in their design. In the Dining Room they wanted servers and cloth napkins, and no assigned seating for meals.



Servers January 2017

19

Roberta (Bobbie) Mastro Cleland was Sherwood Oaks' first employee, hired in 1979; she retired in January 2018.



Bobbie Cleland

20

Madelin Clements and her husband, Ace, began collecting pink flamingos for their garden, as well as other flamingo merchandise, after they moved to Sherwood Oaks. They began the tradition of Flamingo Day on May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Their flock of about 30 flamingos would be found on their patio for "The Season," with additional birds in other garden locations throughout the community. The tradition continues decades later in 2022.





21

In addition to campus cable channels, the “SOAPP” Sherwood Oaks APP was launched on Nov. 1, 2019, to provide a new way for residents to access information.



22

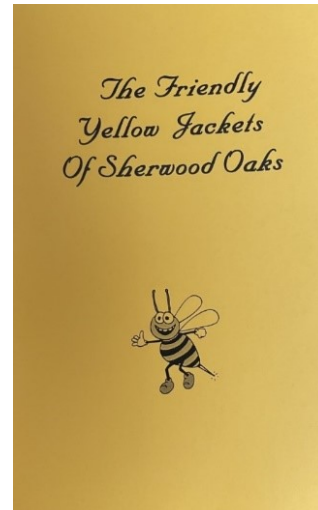
On March 15, 2020, Sherwood Oaks was closed to visitors due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hope for change began in February 2021 with a vaccine given on campus.



23

Betty Stout, Marjorie Theys, and Bill Dennis started a volunteer group called “The Yellow Jackets of Sherwood Oaks,” beginning on October 1, 2003. They visited with the

residents of Assisted Living, Skilled Care, and the West Wing, bringing them to programs and assisting in activities, while building relationships benefiting all involved.



24

The gas fireplace in the Community Center Lobby was originally a log-burning fireplace.



25

The Farmer’s Market became a very popular event in the Community Center Lobby, as shown here in September 2017.



Executive Chef Fred Buchanan



26

A power outage on Christmas Eve in 1983 brought residents to the Community Center for dinner by candlelight and warmth, since the temperature was 17 degrees below zero! Several hours later, with power restored, everyone returned home. The next day's review of the situation brought about the Neighbor Alert system: each day, residents turned a sign in their kitchen window, based on odd and even calendar days, as notification that "All is well." It was placed sideways if a resident was away.



27

In June 1988, Neighbors Alert suggested that residents out walking should carry a police whistle for emergency help. They sold for \$1.00 in the Gift Shop, with the recommendation that all residents be alert to the sound of a whistle. Also recommended was the admonition: "Keep out of reach of grandchildren!" Today our Arial pendants provide alerts anywhere on campus.

28

In February 1984, Sherwood Oaks allowed the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Department to practice its rescue techniques in heavy smoke at the newly acquired Gettings property residence (Summer House area). It was completely burned down on March 3.



29

Who says we're too old to have babies at Sherwood Oaks (Uninvited Guests)? Patio Home #159, Spring 1986:



30

A Naming Committee chose the name *Sherwood Oaks*. Impressed by the grove of oak trees on the property, the group wanted to incorporate that somehow into the name. Robinhood Drive was a major street in Cranberry Township. Those two sources came together to become the name of Sherwood Oaks.

**31**

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration in 1990 included parachuters landing at Sherwood Oaks.



**32**

In the early years of Sherwood Oaks, all residents were requested to bring an ornament to the Community Center to decorate the Christmas tree in the Lobby.



**33**

You may have heard of the Muffin Man, but Sherwood Oaks at one time had the "Sticky Bun Lady." Resident Jean Wallace would visit her new neighbors in the community and welcome them to their new homes with fresh-baked sticky buns and a pleasant visit.



**34**

This gazebo, located in the Perennial Gardens along Norman Drive, needed to be relocated to build the 600s Patio Homes.



Sept. 21, 2008

It was transferred to the Entrance to the Summer House and Resident Garden Area.



October 6, 2008

**35**

The first logo for Sherwood Oaks was designed by Robert Fantazier of Fantazier Creative in Pittsburgh, PA.





36

Residents can reserve a raised farm/garden bed near the Summer House to grow their own fresh vegetables and/or flowers.



37

Sherwood Oaks officially begins the Christmas season in the first week of December with an Eggnog Party. This tradition was started in 1982 by two residents, Betty and Charles Borgerding; it has continued through the years, with a group of residents volunteering to host this celebration for all residents. A very elegant event!



2008 Eggnog Party

38

Each Hallowe'en, pumpkin creations are displayed outside the Café, and voting takes place for the favorite. The creativity of residents and employees is always impressive.



October 31, 2020

39

Over the years, new residents have brought parts of their former lives with them to enrich the community. Dotty Stebler, for one, brought her five colorful pet Koi to our lake, and their presence here was quite an attraction. Her husband, Phil, created a fish feeding station at the end of the Gazebo to entice them to surface for food and be seen.



Orphan, Annie, Sandy, Pepe La Phew, and Blue Lady



Sherwood Oaks is the “Hidden Gem” of Cranberry Township ...



... where retirement living comes alive!



“Residents drawn to make this their home [should see it] as a new life venture, a place to follow chosen pursuits . . . . a place oriented to preventive medicine, rehabilitation, vigor, and to encouraging residents to take active charge of their own lives. A community that will strive to be a prototype of excellence.”

*The philosophy of the founding group as expressed in September 1980, two years before their dream became reality.*

*I took my new girlfriend out on our first date to the ice rink, and entry was half price. She called me a cheap skate.*

*Studies show cows produce more milk when the farmer talks to them. It's a case of in one ear and out the udder.*

## NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION

By Dan Cindric - #107  
For the Civic Affairs Committee

Oct. 24, 2022, is the last day to register before the November election.

Nov. 1, 2022, is the last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot.

Nov. 8, 2022, is the last day to submit your mail-in or absentee ballot.

**Nov. 8, 2022, is General Election Day.** Sherwood Oaks residents who vote in person do so at the Cranberry Municipal Building on Rochester Road. Buses will be going to and from the Building at various times during the day.



## EMPLOYEE SCHOLARSHIP FUND 2022

By Charles Cullen, Chair - #313

The Scholarship Committee met in late June and awarded 53 tuition grants of \$2300 each. Congratulations to the deserving awardees and many thanks to the residents for their generous support of this worthwhile project. This year's grants were entirely funded by your gifts, along with some memorial donations. The average gift was \$613, and there were 31 gifts of \$1000 or more. It was good that we did not have to draw from the endowment fund during the current market decline.

I hope that you took the time to sample the thank-you notes from the grateful recipients that were posted on the Mailroom bulletin board.



## YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED!

by Jean Henderson - #346

40 Years! 40 years of excellence! We have indeed been celebrating Sherwood Oaks' anniversary all year. NOW, two special events will culminate our festivities – and YOU are invited!

First, on **Tues., Sept. 13, at 7:15 p.m.** in the Auditorium/Card Room, our Quarterly Residents Meeting will feature our anniversary. We'll view the new drone footage, starring many SO residents. AND we'll watch the debut of the enhanced History of Sherwood Oaks video by founder Margaret McCoy. MOREOVER, each attendee will receive a gift bag with an updated history of Sherwood Oaks, an oak leaf guest soap, and a set of note cards featuring Sherwood scenes.

Then, on **Thurs., Sept. 15**, our anniversary dinner party will be held in the Auditorium/Card Room, hosted by the Sherwood Oaks Administration. Suggested attire includes black tie, semi-formal, or the best outfit you still own! In other words, it's a dress-up party. Gifts will also be distributed.

So, please, mark your calendars now and join us as we celebrate our past 40 years and look forward to the next 40!

## TO MY ONE AND ONLY

By James Mauch - #263

To my love, my one and only  
Still, after all these years  
My love and treasure  
My past and future  
Through health and sickness  
Through life and death  
My love, my one and only

## THAT POOR DOG!

by Christiane Majeski - #191

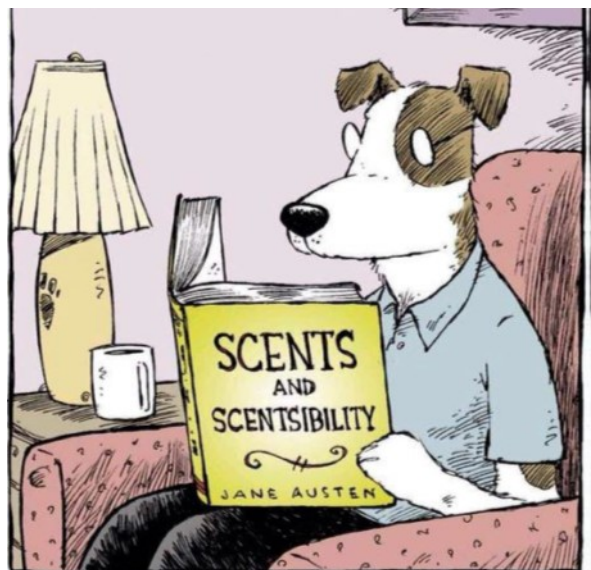
As I was looking out the window across my meadow recently, I noticed something moving slowly about – was it a rabbit or a squirrel?

Soon I could make out the head of a dog, peering toward me. "It's probably out for a walk," I thought. A few hours later in the afternoon, I decided to go out on the patio and enjoy the last rays of sun. What did I notice? That dog was still sitting in the same spot!

"Poor thing," I thought, "It's probably tied up or got stuck with its loose leash. No water or food, on this hot day!" If I had been able to walk over there, I surely would have done so, to get a closer look.

Instead, I called the front desk and described the animal as looking similar to a golden retriever, staring straight at me. Very soon one of our security guards appeared carefully from around the corner. I could not believe my eyes: my poor dog was able to get up instantly! He escaped with long strides, in front of me and uphill towards Parking lot F.

*This animal was a coyote*, no doubt waiting patiently for a tasty rabbit for dinner!



## COLLECT YOUR PLASTIC BAGS!

By Ruth Inkpen - #225

The Recycling Activity Committee has entered the Sherwood community – with administration approval! – in a TREX Community Challenge **to receive a free TREX bench**. Check it out at <[www.recycle.trex.com](http://www.recycle.trex.com)>.

**The Challenge:** To collect 500 pounds of plastic “film” in 6 months, from **Sept. 15, 2002, to March 15, 2003**.

A clear plastic bag will hang in each Trash Room, under a poster showing the many kinds of plastic film that can be recycled into a TREX bench.

Committee members and volunteers will empty the hanging bags in the Trash Rooms each week, consolidating and weighing the material. Each month we will report the amount weighed to TREX. The weighed plastic film will be taken to a Giant Eagle bin at regular intervals. (TREX has contracts with stores across the country that ship the plastic film to Trex.)

Continuing participation after 6 months will depend on our success at collecting the required 500 pounds.

A picture poster will appear in your mailbox soon. Stay tuned!

**RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG**

Recycle your household bags & wrap into Trex's Earth-friendly composite decking and railing!

**FROM THE STORE**

- ✓ Produce bags
- ✓ Store bags
- ✓ Ice bags

**FROM YOUR PANTRY**

- ✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags
- ✓ Cereal box liners
- ✓ Case overwrap
- ✓ Bread bags

**FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR**

- ✓ Newspaper sleeves
- ✓ Dry cleaning bags
- ✓ Bubble wrap
- ✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers

Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue

**RECYCLED IN AMERICA**

**NexTrex**

[trex.com/recycling](http://trex.com/recycling) 1-800-Buy-Trex



## Let's FOCUS ON THE WORLD

By Bruce Cooper - #715

*The mission of the Focus on the World activity is to help Sherwood Oaks residents be aware of world, national, and local issues, of current events to address them, and of resources available for our personal involvement.*

In other words, this activity is responsible for seeking out people and situations that require our assistance through efforts to support their cause(s).

As the new chair of this activity, I need your help. If you would like to join our group, please let me know. If you are aware of people, organizations, or situations that could use our support, please leave information in my cubby (715).

Unlike the offerings of the Continued Learning Committee, which are meant to expand the knowledge of Sherwood Oaks residents, activities of Focus on the World are calls to action to make our society a better place outside the gates of our community.

The Focus on the World activity at Sherwood Oaks has been raising awareness since 2009. It is important that we keep looking outward at our world to help those who are not as fortunate as we are.

Look for our presentations on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month**, either in the Auditorium or on Channel 951 at 10:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.

Please help! Give us your time; give us ideas for focusing our efforts; give us your support.

Thanks.

## CHAPEL NOTES

By Gary Brandenberger - #602  
Chapel Committee

Services begin at 2:00 p.m.  
in the Auditorium.

Everyone is welcome.  
Bring a friend.

Sunday, September 4

The Rev. Todd Allen  
Park Presbyterian (Beaver)

Sunday, September 11

The Rev. Hollis Haff  
New Community (Wexford)

Sunday, September 18

The Rev. Greg Cox  
Ingomar United Methodist

Sunday, September 25

The Rev. Donna Giver-Johnston  
Community Presbyterian

*"Be so preoccupied with good will that you haven't room for ill will."*

– E. Stanley Jones



Photo by Janet Desko

## WHAT'S NEW WITH SORA? (SO Residents Assoc.)

By Dolly O'Toole, Secretary - #195

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

Summary of reports and actions for the **July 12, 2022**, Board meeting:

### **TREASURER:**

Memorial Special Projects  
\$46,450.33

Employee Appreciation  
\$16,842.81

SORA Bank Bal. June 30, 2022  
\$91,542.03

### **ADMINISTRATION:**

Census: IL 194 with 246 residents; SNU 39/43; PC 36/42; OGC 28/30. Six homes are under contract; a four-course conversation marketing event was held June 27; a marketing **Open House is scheduled for Sept. 22**. Leaders here at SO continue to participate in Covid-19 update calls with UPMC Senior Communities. New vaccines and/or reformulations of existing vaccines are being reviewed. Signage in lobby and common areas reflects masking requirements and reference the Butler County transmission status. Be sure to communicate any symptoms to the Community Nursing Dept. Our goal has been to keep areas of the campus safely open for resident use. The Cranberry Township building permit reviewer requested additional information from the architect re the Auditorium project. We will be updating photos for marketing brochures, and finalizing events for the Sept. 22 Open House.

### **LIAISON REPORTS:**

Continued Learning: Four of six in-house speakers for the Fall series (Oct.-Nov.) have

been retained, with candidates for the remaining two presentations identified.

Recycling Program: We are finalizing details for the TREX plastic wrap program, which is to start on Sept. 15. (See p. 14.)

Sherwood Gifts: Furniture contributions from two OGC rooms and one patio home have been identified for the Annex. Appropriate items for the Gift Shop were donated from two patio homes. Discussion on the upgrade of the Gift Shop is continuing. Beth Brown suggested that the Shop delay its next contribution to SORA until the costs of the upgrade are determined.

Jigsaw Puzzles: The committee asked for a budget for purchasing new puzzles.

Art Gallery: Joni Pun has put up an exhibit of artwork by residents depicting scenes of Sherwood Oaks, which will be displayed through at least September.

Trips & Tours: Four proposed events were canceled because the Butler County positivity rate was over 10%. The trip to the Flight 93 Memorial and a tour of the town of Beaver may be rescheduled in the Fall.

Civic Affairs: Discussion concerning the possibility of having another Candidates Night in September is continuing.

Welcoming Committee: Four new members signed up at the Springfest. Kathy McCormick and Peggy Rubel volunteered to co-chair the committee.

**OLD BUSINESS**: Two of the upcoming 40th-anniversary events are **Sept. 13**, when the drone show and the revised McCoy video will be presented, and **Sept. 15**, when the residents' formal party is scheduled.

Jason Lyle reported the following: Gary Whoric is working on wireless equipment; Shiloh will install repeaters; seamless Wi-Fi and phones are up and running; there has been trouble with the audio freezing up from time to time on channels 950 and 951.



**NEW BUSINESS:** The Board approved the 2022-2023 budget. The SORA President was nominated for the PLCC Board and approved. The SO representatives nominated to the Sherwood Oaks Fund were approved.

**VISITORS:** Nine residents attended.

The next SORA Board meeting was set for Tues., Aug. 2.

## **COURTYARD GATHERINGS**

By Peggy Meister - #377

SHERWOOD NEIGHBORS is creating a list of courtyard gatherings. Please send the following data **by Sept. 15** to Peggy Meister at #377 in Personal Care. Thank you!

Courtyard unit #s (e.g. #344-360)

Contact person for the gathering

Date & time (e.g., 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs. at 5:30)

Location of the gathering

## **BELLS! BELLS! RING THOSE BELLS!**

By Jean Henderson - #346

Can you believe it? Thirty years of hand bells ringing here at Sherwood and another year soon to begin. But wait – there's more....

Can you believe it? We begin practicing again on **Wed., Sept. 26**, in the Auditorium, from 1:30 until 2:30 p.m. But wait – there's more....

Can you believe it? We need more ringers in order to have a full Bell Choir. If we don't, sadly, this could be the end. But wait – there's more....

Can you believe it? I do! I believe we have folks here who will step up and join us. If you can read music – even if you've never rung bells before – you're invited, and we'll teach you. And, we have fun! And, a great director,

Lyn Marsh, who has become a great friend. For further information or to join us, contact me at (8346).

## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

By Ellen Brierly - #734

The Women's Bible Study will start a new year on **Mon., Sept. 19**. We will meet in the Auditorium beginning at 10:45 a.m. and continue to meet on the first and third Mondays of the month. It is exciting to get back together after the summer break! We also look forward to seeing some new faces. Come join us as we study God's Word together.

## **ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE**

September 24, 2022

by Peggy Meister - #319

One of the effects of COVID of which you may not have been aware is that there have been no Memorial Services on campus since August 2021. Of course, there have been many deaths by which all of us have been touched.

The Living with Loss Team invites residents to remember those of our community who have died since September 2021 at our second annual MEMORIAL SERVICE on **Sat., Sept. 24, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Auditorium/Card Room. Sadly, no non-resident friends or relatives may attend at this time due to COVID restrictions. You will be notified if this should change.

There will be hymns, prayers, readings, and a devotional message. The service will end with the reading of deceased residents' names, the tolling of a bell, and the presentation of a memorial flower. Service bulletins will be mailed to all the families for their keeping.

Please join us as we respectfully remember our friends and neighbors.

## A FOOTNOTE ON THE TOEPATH

By Charles Partee - #220

When we first came to Sherwood Oaks, some of the older residents still remembered my father-in-law, Don McClure, of Blairsville, who was murdered in 1977 on the Ethiopian border with Somalia. Fortunately for me, I met him only two days before my wedding with his daughter, so he did not have enough time to stop the marriage. All I knew about him – or cared – was that he had a really pretty daughter.

Later on I learned a lot about the exciting life of his family in Africa, which resulted in the book titled *Adventure in Africa: The Story of Don McClure*, now available on Kindle for 99 cents. The story below is printed in a note on p. 454:

“The McClures received one of their tools for the Anuak\* work as a direct result of President Eisenhower’s projected visit to the Soviet Union in 1960. The visit was canceled in the wake of the U-2 incident, when U.S. pilot Francis Gary Powers was shot down. As part of that visit, the American president had planned to give Premier Nikita Khrushchev a water-jet boat with a 185-horsepower Ford Marine Interceptor engine – so new that the Russians could not claim to have invented it. This boat sat on the lawn of the American Embassy in Moscow for five months before being returned to the builder in Indianapolis.



“Pastor R. Byron Crozier, one of Don McClure’s most loyal supporters, persuaded his Wisconsin congregation to purchase this boat for the Anuak project. To fulfill the builder’s requirement of fifty hours on Lake

Michigan, the boat – now named the *Dove* – was taken by trailer from Indianapolis to Milwaukee. Then it was shipped through the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway across the Atlantic Ocean ... to be unloaded at Port Sudan on the Red Sea. From there it was to go overland to Khartoum, where Crozier himself and Dr. Allan Fidler, a radiologist, were waiting to run the *Dove* eight hundred miles up the White Nile River system to the Gilo River station. However, heavy rains washed out the railroad from Port Sudan, and the boat was landed in Eritrea instead, taken by truck to Addis Ababa and down the mountains over nearly impassable roads to Pokwo.

“The *Dove*, being jet-propelled, had no rudder or propeller. Thus, when on plane, it required only three inches of water. However, it chewed up water hyacinths and spewed them out like a thick spinach soup. It also required the high-test gasoline used by airplanes, which was very expensive to import into a primitive area of Ethiopia. The *Dove* turned out to be too sophisticated for long-term use on African rivers, because sand wore down the blades in the turbine. Nevertheless, this endeavor was given wide publicity in American newspapers, and Crozier’s congregation had a deep, costly, and personal stake in the work of a Christian missionary named Don McClure.

“The *Dove* plied the rivers of Anuak territory for some years with the brass plaque still affixed to the dash that read:

A Gift  
from

Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the  
United States of America

to

Premier Nikita Khrushchev, First Secretary  
of the Communist Party, 1960”

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\*A Luo Nilotic ethnic group inhabiting parts of East Africa



## WORTH A LOOK BOOKS NEW TO OUR LIBRARY

By Barbara Christy - #237

*A Deadly Affair* by Agatha Christie. Fiction. Thirteen short stories featuring Miss Marple, Hercule Poirot, and Harley Quin explore the fearsome nature of love, passion, and games of the heart. While one or two tales may be familiar, most will be new and exciting. F CHR L.T.

*Pianos and Flowers, Brief Encounters of the Romantic Kind* by Alexander McCall Smith. Fiction. Another collection of short stories, this one based on photos in the renowned photographic archive of *The Sunday Times*. If a picture can paint a thousand words, what about a vintage photograph? SMI p.b. L.T.

*Oh, William!* by Elizabeth Strout. Fiction. Lucy Barton is back, writing now about what a mystery her husband, William, is to her. When he asks her to join him on a trip to investigate a recently uncovered family secret, she is surprised, but not really. He is, after all, a hard man to read. As they wrestle with the past, she is forced to reconsider her convictions about the other people in her life. "This is the way of life," Lucy says: "the many things we do not know until it is too late." F STR L.T.

*The Women of Troy* by Pat Barker. Fiction. Imagine being inside the wooden horse outside the gates of Troy, wondering if the Trojans are going to fall for the ruse. The wait inside the horse, which is depicted in vivid detail, begins this engaging novel about the aftermath of the Greek victory. Using the alternating voices of Pyrrhus, son of Achilles, and Breiseis, formerly Achilles' mistress, now wife of Lord Alcimus, the author has recreated the ancient world in breathtaking detail. This is the Trojan War as you never knew it. F BAR L.T.

*The Man Who Died Twice* by Richard Osman. Fiction. This book is for the fans of the Thursday Murder Club. Still at Cooper's Chase, the posh retirement village, the four members of the Club are trying to enjoy some peace and quiet. But an old friend of Elizabeth's turns up, a fugitive from a gang whose members believe he has stolen their diamonds. Then the bodies start piling up, and it's our fearless friends against a ruthless murderer who wouldn't bat an eyelid at knocking off four septuagenarians. F OSM

*End Game* by David Baldacci. Fiction. Crime, drugs, and a growing number of militant fringe groups await Will Robie and Jessica Reel when they arrive in a rural Colorado town searching for their missing handler, code-named Blue Man. Soon the duo find themselves confronting an adversary with superior firepower and a home-court advantage. Their skill and grit will be tested to the limit, if they are to make it out alive, with or without Blue Man. F BAL L.T.

*Burning Questions: Essays and Occasional Pieces* by Margaret Atwood. Fiction. How much of yourself can you give away without evaporating? This is just one of the burning questions asked by Atwood in this collection of 50 essays. Covering the roller-coaster period of the last fifty years that has brought us the end of history, a financial crash, the rise of Trump, and a pandemic, Atwood uses her prodigious talent and impish humor to challenge us to rethink giving advice, climate change, and what is "fair," anyway? F ATW L.T.

*In This Mountain* by Jan Karon. Fiction. For Mitford lovers, this book fills in a hole in the Sherwood Oaks collection. Father Tim and Cynthia are preparing to spend a year in ministry out of state, while Mitford residents Joe Ivey, Fancy Skinner, and Dooley pursue their funky but fascinating lives. F KAR

*The Dying Grass* by William T. Vollman. Fiction. The conflicts between Native Americans and European colonizers (known today as Americans) continue, as Vollmann tells the story of the Nez Percé War, with flashbacks to the Civil War. After years of mistreatment and unfilled promises at every turn, the Nez Percés, in desperation, finally turn to war in 1877, subjecting the U.S. Army to its greatest defeat since Little Big Horn, as they flee from northeast Oregon across Montana to the Canadian border. Chasing the legendary Chief Joseph is General Oliver Otis Howard, the brave, shy, tormented, devoutly Christian Civil War veteran. In this novel, we see him as commander, father, son, husband, friend, and killer. F VOL

*We Were Rich and We Didn't Know It: A Memoir of My Irish Boyhood* by Tom Phelan. Non-fiction. Growing up in Ireland in the 1940s, before electrification, Tom Phelan spent his formative years working with his wise and demanding father, as he sought to wrest a livelihood from a farm in an isolated, rural Irish community. Along with stories of school days, turkey eggs hatching in the kitchen cupboard, and the enormous control of the Catholic church over Ireland, Phelan acknowledges the strength of the human spirit in the face of life's adversities. 941.8 PHE

*Stone House Stories: The Memoir of a Free-range Kid* by Kathy Lawton Purc. Non-fiction. "Peering into childhood's shadows takes courage." The author grew up in the Finger Lakes region of New York, before electricity and phones, on a farm still plowed with draft animals. Dad was a reserved rural Protestant, Mom was a gregarious urban Catholic, but they make it work for their three children. Kathy, as the youngest, has stories and memories of her own, as well as those she inherited from her siblings. 920.009 PUR

## YOU CAN'T TUCK FAT

By Ellen Brierly - #734

Eight years ago, I bought a spandex swimming suit to wear on a cruise. It was beautiful and fit nicely. Since I had no need for it after the cruise, it went into a drawer. At some point, a few years later, I discovered that my body had made significant changes and the suit no longer fit. Back to the drawer it went.

I eventually took up aquatics and, not wanting to struggle with a too-small suit, I bought a new one. When that one gave up the ghost, I was once again facing a bathing suit dilemma.

"Get real, Ellen. Why buy a suit when you have a perfectly fine one in the drawer?"

It took my husband Bob and me both to get me into it. Whew!

I feared it would burst open at any minute, exposing my glory to the world, but I took my chance. It fit nice and snug, with no sagging places ... but where did that fat go?

Ah, it popped out at the top of the suit right under the arms and the back. Gobs of too much skin and flesh hung not very gracefully over the edge of the suit. Not to be defeated, I suggested that Bob tuck it in. He laboriously struggled to please me, but it had a mind of its own and won the battle.

Lesson learned? You can't tuck fat.

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*An invisible man married an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at, either.*

*I didn't think the chiropractor would improve my posture. But I stand corrected.*



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

The 13-Minute Murder	Patterson, James	c. 2019	F PAT
The Arsonists' City	Alyan, Hala	c. 2021	F ALY
Burning Questions	Atwood, Margaret	c. 2022	F ATW L.T.
The Christie Affair	Gramont, Nina de	c. 2022	F GRA
Crazy House	Patterson, James	c. 2017	F PAT
A Deadly Affair	Christie, Agatha	c. 2022	F CHR L.T.
Dream Town	Baldacci, David	c. 2022	F BAL
The Dying Grass	Vollmann, William T.	c. 2015	F VOL
End Game	Baldacci, David	c. 2018	F BAL L.T.
The Family Plot	Collins, Megan	c. 2021	F COL
Horse	Brooks, Geraldine	c. 2022	F BRO L.T.
Hot to Trot: An Agatha Raisin Mystery	Beaton, M. C.	c. 2020	F BEA
Humans, Bow Down	Patterson, James	c. 2017	F PAT
The Investigator	Sandford, John	c. 2022	F SAN
It All Comes Back to You	Duke, Beth	c. 2022	F DUK
Kill or Be Killed	Patterson, James	c. 2016	F PAT
The Kitchen Front	Ryan, Jennifer	c. 2021	F RYA
The Last Mile	Baldacci, David	c. 2016	F BAL
The Lightning Rod	Meltzer, Brad	c. 2022	F MEL
Murder at Sunrise Lake	Feehan, Christine	c. 2021	F FEE
Oh William!	Strout, Elizabeth	c. 2021	F STR L.T.
One Italian Summer	Serle, Rebecca	c. 2022	F SER
Pianos and Flowers	Smith, Alexander McCall	c. 2009	F SMI L.T.
A Puzzle of Pearls	Redmond, Shirley Raye	c. 2021	F RED
The Recovery Agent	Evanovich, Janet	c. 2022	F EVA
Run, Rose, Run	Parton, Dolly & James Patterson	c. 2022	F PAR
Shadows of Berlin	Gillham, David	c. 2022	F GIL
The Silent Sisters	Dugoni, Robert	c. 2022	F DUG
The Tobacco Wives	Myers, Adele	c. 2022	F MYE
What Happened to the Bennetts	Scottoline, Lisa	c. 2022	F SCO
The Women of Troy	Barker, Pat	c. 2021	F BAR L.T.

## **NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES**

El Chapo: The Untold Story of the World's Most Infamous Drug Lord	Hurowitz, Noah	c. 2021	BIO EL C
Allow Me to Retort: A Black Guy's Guide to the Const.	Mystal, Elie	c. 2022	342 MYS
The Black Book	Harris, M. A.	c. 2019	973.049 HAR
From Strength to Strength	Brooks, Arthur C.	c. 2022	155.67 BRO
The House of Kennedy	Patterson, James	c. 2020	973.92 PAT
In Love: A Memoir of Love and Loss	Bloom, Amy	c. 2022	920 BLO
Sanctuary	Barrett, Patrick	c. 2021	920.009 BAR
Stupid Things I Won't Do When I Get Old	Petrow, Steven	c. 2021	305.26 PET
These Precious Days: Essays	Patchett, Ann	c. 2021	800 PAT
Unworthy Republic: The Dispossession of Native Amers.	Saunt, Claudio,	c. 2020	970.1 SAU
We Were Rich and We Didn't Know It	Phelan, Tom	c. 2019	941.8 PHE

## READING DURING THE PLAGUE

By Dennis Lynch - #335

More than a year ago, I had an encounter with one of my co-morbidities and did the Ambulance > Passavant Main > Skilled Nursing > PT dance. I remember it well.

When I was talking with my physical therapist, we discovered that we both liked reading about World War II. This reminded me of a book about the Civil War that I had enjoyed long ago.

That book was Harry Turtledove's *The Guns of the South* (1992); he is a meticulous author of counter-factual history. I wanted to re-read it before I passed it on to the PT guy.

To my surprise, it turned out to be even better than I remembered. The story is this: It is 1864, and we are with Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia. The battle of The Wilderness is on the horizon. The cause of the South does not look good. A stranger dressed in camouflage comes to Lee to demonstrate a new repeating rifle – a strange-looking weapon. But it shoots like Cap'n Billy's WhizBang, better than the North's "repeaters" and much better than the South's arms. If Lee will take it, the stranger and his men will supply as many as they want. Of course, Lee accepts the "new repeater."

"You might as well call it by its name, General," says the stranger ... "AK-47."

So the South wins the war. That is what the strangers want. They are time-travelers, and they wish to change the political-cultural system of 2014 to one more to their liking. It seems that the evil, ugly, gangly man, that ever-lovin' Abraham Lincoln, freed the Negroes

(Turtledove uses the word common in 1864), and the subsequent Northern attitude toward Negroes has caused no end of trouble for free white men, like them, ever since. Why, Negroes can even vote and hold office! This offense against God's Design must be nipped in the bud, and the Civil War seemed the place to nip it. They are not nice men, these visitors from our time. But they are powerful. And they see Lee as the man to help them achieve their goal by succeeding to the C.S.A. Presidency after Jefferson Davis. That's half the book. Then the story gets interesting.

Lee is having second thoughts about the South's "peculiar institution." In fact, he is becoming an abolitionist. The strangers from our time are not happy with Lee and decide to run a candidate against him, Nathan Bedford Forest – a man who understands that a Negro's place is swinging a hoe or swinging on a rope. Worse, they bring to the gentlemanly South our twenty-first century ideas of how a Presidential campaign should be run.

The story is not simplistic, and the characters have complex emotions and desires. There is a tension throughout between stereotypes and the different knowledge and feelings we have when we know an individual personally.

The major characters struggle with their own conflicting emotions and the reactions of their open- or closed-minded friends.

The book could have been written last year, or just after the Conventions. It is a fable for our time, whether you are a Lee voter or lean toward Good Old Reliable Nathan. The Cranberry Library has a copy.



## COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #715

"How to save the World from Climate Change" is a 2015 (yes, from 7 years ago) documentary that travels the planet to show the effects of global warming and some of the solutions that we have at our disposal, if we can find the political will to implement them at the scale necessary. **Watch Channel 951 on September 12.**

I recently returned from a Cruisetour to Alaska, 25 years after my first visit. And here is what I experienced during my time there:

- The Mendenhall Glacier just outside of Juneau has receded 12 miles since 1958 (from *UStravelia*). Indeed, its face was noticeably back from its position in 1997;
- The road into Denali Park and Preserve, some 60 miles long, has been washed out at Mile 12, because melting permafrost is dropping a section of the road there at the rate of five feet per week; moreover, there is no longer a way to keep it safe for transit beyond that point;
- 271 wildfires were burning in the state, covering everywhere we visited in a haze that could be smelled. Luckily, the winds in the park picked up on Day 2 to provide a magnificent view of the mountain for which the park is named;
- All along the trip by train from Whittier to Denali, the landscape was filled with dead and dying black spruce trees, killed by pine bark beetles whose larvae are no longer destroyed by Alaska winters; alas, there is no natural predator for the beetle.

Clearly, climate change will continue to affect us all for the unforeseeable future. Recent legislation that addresses it has been passed by both Houses of Congress, which is a sign that we are moving in the right direction.



**MONDAY/SEPT. 12**

**10:00 AM, 4:00 PM, 7:30 PM**

**CHANNEL 951**

**HOW TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM  
CLIMATE CHANGE**

**54 min.**

**2015 NOT RATED**

## DOCUMENTARY

While Paris won't stop global warming, it can slow it – and around the world some extraordinary things are happening that kindle hope and optimism.

"It isn't too late. Is the door closing? Absolutely. But when I look at a door and see a tiny little crack I'm like, well, we are walking through that crack." – UN climate chief Christine Figueres

**WATCH ON CHANNEL 951**

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



# *Sherwood Oaks at the End of Summer*



Photos by Mike Desko