

# THE ACORN

SHERWOOD OAKS NEWSLETTER

100 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

[www.sherwood-oaks.com](http://www.sherwood-oaks.com)

October 2022 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. 41, No. 8

## *Sherwood Oaks in the Fall ...*



Painting by Dorothy Fitzpatrick

Photo by Rabe Marsh

*as the days dwindle down ....*

Gentle Readers:

*The Sherwood Oaks 40th Anniversary party is just now in our rearview mirror. What fun it was to be together again, in our best “bib and tucker,” celebrating the amazing story of this, the oldest CCRC in western Pennsylvania! Kudos to Gary Brandenberger and his Anniversary Committee, and to Jesse Komara and our phenomenal kitchen and waitstaff. How fortunate we are, indeed.*

*This experience may lead us to ponder how things might look around here 40 years in the future, in 2062, when our successors gather to mark the 80th remembrance of our founding by Margaret McCoy and her circle of friends.*

*Perhaps, by then, the parking lots will sport charging stations for electric vehicles. Maybe robots will replace servers in the dining room. It could well be that we’ll travel to the store, doctors’ appointments, and downtown by flying electric vehicles!*

*Without a doubt, there will be innovations we can’t even imagine. But it is likely that human beings will still value friendship, fun, joy, and companionship. In all probability, they will still be curious about the world around them, relish the beauty of nature, and seek to know how they can make the world a better place.*

*If you think about it, what makes Sherwood Oaks the marvelous place it is – a sense of community – hasn’t changed much in the years since 1982. May it be the inheritance that we pass on to residents of the future!*

– The Editors



**Holiday Poinsettia sale:** There will be a poinsettia sale this year, but we will not know the price and other details until mid-October! Stay tuned. – Peggy Rubel

## OCTOBER CALENDAR

Yom Kippur begins	Oct. 4
Columbus Day (observed)	Oct. 10
Indigenous People’s Day	Oct. 10
Global Cat Day	Oct. 16
United Nations Day	Oct. 24
Diwali	Oct. 24
Hallowe’en	Oct. 31

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

**Oct. 15, 2022.**

## IN MEMORIAM

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

Donald MacLeod August 11, 2022

Linda Wilkes August 26, 2022

Elizabeth Cecil September 1, 2022

Catherine Pearsick September 2, 2022

Jeanne Brown September 6, 2022

Beatrice Moore September 10, 2022

Joan Pitts September 11, 2022

Marjorie Long September 17, 2022



## **CLAUDIA JONES - #272**

By Jan Wendt - #158



Photo by Mike Mills

Among the late summer “new class” of residents is Claudia Jones, an outgoing and approachable gal whose résumé includes mother, teacher, and theater aficionado.

Claudia was born and raised in Hampton Township and, after graduation from Westminster College, taught for five years in the Shaler School District before moving on to Seneca Valley. In addition to teaching English, she was instrumental in developing SV’s Senior Project program. For a number of years, Sherwood Oaks sent residents to help evaluate the students’ presentations of their year-long research.

Perhaps it’s no surprise that the “drama” of the Senior Projects was Claudia’s brain-child, as she is a lover of all things theater. More a backstage worker than an actor, Claudia has long relished live theater.

During a time when she lived in Cleveland, she trained and worked as one of the famed “Redcoat” ushers at the Cleveland Playhouse complex, an experience of which she has fond memories. Since returning to Pittsburgh, she has volunteered at the Aviary and as a tutor of adults.

The art of the ballet is close to her heart, as well. She took lessons and danced until the age of 18.

While teaching and volunteering, Claudia found the time to raise four children. Her oldest, a son, holds a PhD in Virology from Stanford, and will soon move to New Zealand. Claudia’s oldest daughter works for The Armory on Park Ave. in New York; the third child, an ordained Methodist pastor, works as a counselor; and Claudia’s youngest daughter is an engineer with Shell. There are also four grandchildren to round out the clan.

When I asked Claudia what she would like her new community to know about her, she said, “I’ve always been outspoken, and I’ll always stick up for the little guy.” Her favorite pastimes include reading, dancing, yoga, and Tai Chi. She also enjoys board games.

At the conclusion of our interview, I spotted Lorraine Commeret nearby in the lobby. Lorraine is a leader of the Sherwood Oaks Drama Club. I introduced the two of them, so look for Claudia to participate soon in an upcoming production!



## **MARRYING A RELATIVE**

By Anonymous

Boy aged 4: Dad, I’ve decided to get married.

Dad: Wonderful! Do you have a girl in mind?

Boy: Yes ... Grandma! She said she loves me, I love her, too ... and she’s the best cook and storyteller in the whole world!

Dad: That’s nice, but we have a small problem here.

Boy: What problem?

Dad: She happens to be my mother. How can you marry my mother?!

Boy: Why not? You married mine!

## JOANNE SCHOLLAERT - #216

By Kathie McCormick - #188



Photo by Mike Mills

I had a delightful visit with one of our newest residents, Joanne. She moved here in June from Ben Avon, along with her beautiful cat, Bill. She is originally from Philadelphia, having moved to the Pittsburgh area when she married.

Joanne took her Registered Nurse's training in Philadelphia. For the last fifteen years of her career (she retired in 2018), she was a hospice nurse, including here at Sherwood Oaks. She worked with and is a good friend of Jan Wendt. When her children were little, she did some other things, such as owning a video store for a while and being involved in interior design. She went back to nursing in the late 1990s.

Joanne raised four children – all boys! Two are still in the Pittsburgh area, one is in Cleveland, and one lives in Portland, OR. The son who lives in the Sewickley area has three children: two girls and a boy. These grandchildren are quite active: her 10-year-old granddaughter is a swimmer, the 12-year-old granddaughter is into ballet and the theatre, and her 14-year-old grandson is a very proficient golfer.

We talked about her many current interests. She likes to travel and has just returned from a Viking River Cruise on the Rhine. She enjoyed the people on the cruise, as well as the relaxed atmosphere,

and especially appreciated seeing all the wonderful castles along the way! In the past, she has traveled to many places, specifically mentioning England and Scandinavia as highlights. She also has a trip planned for this fall to see her son in Portland. It is always nice to have children living in great places to visit!

Joanne was also interested in and participated in ballroom dancing, especially enjoying the salsa and the cha-cha. The theatre is another love, particularly the City Theatre. Fishing is one of her interests as well. In fact, Joanne enjoys living in the Pittsburgh area because of all of its many activities and opportunities.

As if that were not enough, Joanne is also interested in politics and has served as a volunteer on various committees.

We do welcome Joanne. She joined us here because she knew the facility and recognized the quality of care. She especially appreciates Oak Grove.



### Waxing Crescent Moon



Photo by Jim Mauch

## **“Home, Sweet Home” ... for 36 years!**

By Jan Wendt - #158



Photo by Marketing Dept.

In this season of Sherwood Oaks' 40th Anniversary, Ina Cheetham (#109 ) holds a singular distinction: in a community of seniors, she has the most seniority. She may not be the oldest, but she has lived here longer than anyone else.

Ina moved to our campus from her home in Pittsburgh's Spring Hill neighborhood on April 2, 1986. When I asked her what has changed the most here over the past 36 years, she paused a moment, then said, "Everything."

Back then, she recalls, "there weren't so many people." The apartment building and Oak Grove Center were yet to come, and the configuration of the Center was quite different. The dining room was larger, extending to the present Café area, with a substantial porch that faced the lake.

Residents provided a bit more "hands-on" help in Skilled Nursing. They joined in feeding patients and assisting with wheelchair transport to meals and activities.

Ina, widowed several years earlier, was 60, when she moved here with her 91-year-old mother. They lived together in patio home #156 (now Granny's Attic Annex) for six

years. After her Mom died, Ina scoped out #109, an alcove unit, deciding that she would do just fine in less space. She has been happily ensconced there ever since.

Backing up a bit: Ina was born in the same neighborhood she left to come to Sherwood Oaks. After high school, she began working at Bell Telephone as an operator, a job she enjoyed. In a few years, she had enough seniority to work steady daylight hours, while taking evening courses at Pitt. She stayed at Bell Telephone (later, AT&T) for over 40 years, finishing in the HR department.

As she rode the streetcar every day, a gentleman named Ralph Cheetham spotted her and arranged to make her acquaintance. They began dating and married in 1958. The couple lived with Ralph's parents around the block from Ina's childhood home. After Ralph's death, and being without children or siblings, Ina worried about who would look after her mother "if something happened to me." She read about Sherwood Oaks in the newspaper, talked it over with her Mom, and out they came.

Ina began swimming daily, as well as working in the library and gift shop. She also enjoyed walking around campus. She has never had a car while living here, but takes the bus for shopping. Her longevity may be due, in part, to her adherence to a mostly plant-based diet. She admits to a ferocious sweet tooth, but limits herself to one treat a day. She told me she takes only one pill a day, "for a little high blood pressure."

An old friend from the Spring Hill neighborhood, Anna Mae, travels to Sherwood Oaks every month to have lunch with Ina. Although they have eaten out in the last couple of years, they are really looking forward to when the Café re-opens to guests, as that has been their favorite venue for their monthly get-togethers.

When I asked Ina what she likes best about living here, she responded, "The feeling of safety and security, and the kindness and warmth of residents and employees. It's a real community."

## WHAT'S NEW WITH SORA?

(SO Residents Assoc.)

By Dolly O'Toole, Secretary - #195  
Report on August Meeting

NOTE: Complete Minutes are always available for review on the SORA mail-room bulletin board, on the SORA APP, and in the SORA binder on the windowsill in the Library.

The Operating Treasurer reported the SORA Bank Balance as of 7/31/22 as \$87,976.51.

**Administration:** Laura Scales was welcomed and asked to say a few words. She is an intern with UPMC Senior Communities and an Administrator in Training at Asbury. She is completing her Master's in Health Admin. at the University of Pittsburgh, after having served in the Peace Corps.

**Census:** IL at 192 units occupied by 242 residents (5 homes under contract - 1 Aug., 3 Sept., 1 Oct.). Skilled Nursing - 35/43; Personal Care - 38/42; Oak Grove Center - 28/30. A Marketing Open House is scheduled for Sept. 22.

### Other News:

- Butler County's positivity rate is currently over 19%; signage in lobby and common areas reflects masking requirements and references Butler County transmission status.
- Architect for Auditorium project is working with Cranberry Township Plan Reviewer regarding concerns with stage lift location and access.
- UPMC Marketing and Communications staff was on site in July interviewing residents and taking pictures for Community Connections 40th

Anniversary story; photos for marketing brochures were updated; finalizing events for Sept. 22 Open House.

- Committee on Resident Activity: Committees requesting Sherwood Oaks Administration funding should schedule a meeting with the Executive Director prior to project spending.
- Landscaping and grounds questions should be directed to the Maintenance Supervisor, at Ext. 8599.
- Armstrong fiber optics wiring has been completed for SORA Wi-Fi project. Shiloh to activate.
- Glass panels have been ordered for covered walkways; painting continues.
- Assessing campus interest for SO team walk at Alzheimer's event in Fall is ongoing.
- Awaiting final report from DOH concerning the annual SNF inspection.
- Next resident get-together will be held Aug. 19 at 1:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Continued Nursing Dept. will be featured.

**LIAISON REPORTS:** Continued Learning: All 6 speakers have been reserved for the Fall series of in-house presentations beginning Oct. 3 and ending Nov. 7.

Recycling: The TREX recycling program will begin on Sept. 15. Master collection bins will be located in the Scooter Room, near the kitchen, and in a spot to be determined on the Center's lower floor.

Focus on the World: ACORN articles will continue on the climate crisis.

Health Affairs: Mark Nord, Skilled Nursing Administrator, discussed the changing climate in healthcare in general and in



long-term care in particular, especially regarding staffing shortages. The committee decided to use part of its budget to purchase two health newsletters to be located in the Library.

Patching and Piecing Quilters: Donated a quilt to Dutilh Church, which gave it to Sleep and Heavenly Peace, located on Rochester Road.

Sew and So: Usually have 5 to 10 hats turned in every Friday and have over 500 for the year.

Dining: New members were introduced at the last meeting. Bill Lefler reported on the comment cards.

Painting Class Exhibit: The paintings on the walls of the Scooter Room are by Sherwood Oaks residents, both past and present. Each represents a view of Sherwood Oaks as seen by the painter.

Civic Affairs: Looking at the possibility of another Candidates Night in the Fall. An article will appear in the Sept. ACORN.

Trips and Tours: Unable to plan any trips due to high Butler County positivity rate.

Sherwood Gifts: Discussion continues on updates for the Gift Shop. Samples of carpet and paint were requested from Gary Whoric.

Maintenance: Gutter cleaning is 85% complete; windbreak painting is in progress; new fountain pattern has been installed; received quotes for paving behind the 600s.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Gary reported on the 40th anniversary upcoming events:

- Open House, Sept. 22, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Marketing needs our help as greeters or tour guides and for gift distribution.

- Curio cabinets change monthly.
- Scooter room sign will be installed featuring Sherwood Oaks artists and scenes.
- Remember Sept. 13 Resident Meeting Program and Sept. 15 Dinner Party.
- Jason Lyle reported on Shiloh which has installed the feeders.
- Residents are to call front desk to report audio problems with Channels 950 and 951.
- Our APP (SOAPP) needs to be updated with new modules.
- Fiber optic lines have been added; it's been a matter of getting all the equipment needed.

**NEW BUSINESS:** We need to update our Wish List as we do every 2-3 years. Board members are requested to submit 2 or 3 recommendations to Jean Henderson (#346) by Aug. 31.

**VISITORS:** Nine residents attended.

The next SORA Board meeting was set for Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.



Photo by Kathie McCormick

## WHAT'S NEW WITH SORA?

(SO Residents Assoc.)

By Dolly O'Toole, Secretary - #195  
Report on Sept. Meeting

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

Summary of reports and actions for the September 6, 2022, Board meeting:

### TREASURERS:

- Memorial Special Projects - Ending balance, \$46,451.12
- Employee Appreciation - Ending balance, \$16,993.10
- SORA Bank Bal. as of 8/31/22 - \$85,678.89

**ADMINISTRATION:** Census - IL at 193 units occupied/245 residents; 3 homes under contract. Skilled Nursing - 32/43; Personal Care - 36/42; Oak Grove - 30/30. Marketing is receiving good response to billboard on Turnpike.

- Leaders at SO continue to participate in COVID-19 update calls with Senior Communities; we anticipate a Fall booster clinic. Butler County positivity rate is currently over 17%.
- SORA Wi-Fi project, now complete, is named Sherwood Resident; password is 100sherwood.
- Auditorium pricing came in higher than the \$200,000 budget; we have requested project costs by line item and will schedule meeting with Resident Task Force to review project scope.
- Reminder: any committee or activity requesting S.O. administration funding should schedule a meeting to review it

with the Executive Director prior to project spending.

- Glass panels have been received for covered walkways; pinstriping has been ordered and will be installed by the Maintenance Dept.; lakeside trimming is in process; bamboo trimming behind the 600s will happen this month.
- Sherwood Oaks has a team for the October 8 Alzheimer walk in Pittsburgh; a resident transportation sign-up sheet will be posted in the mail-room one week prior to the event (<http://act.alz.org/goto/swo>).
- A new floating swan feeder has been installed.
- Next resident get-together will be held **Fri., Sept. 30. at 1:30 p.m.** in the auditorium; housekeeping and laundry departments will be featured.

### **TECHNOLOGY TEAM REPORT:** Jason Lyle (Chair)

- The Sherwood Resident Wi-Fi is up and running on the Personal Care and Skilled Nursing floors, and in the main lobby/café and boardroom areas. The Wi-Fi name is Sherwood Resident; the password is 100sherwood.
- The Radiant encoders for Channels 950/951 have suffered audio freezes. Armstrong is trying to resolve the problem
- Following each monthly resident get-together, SOAPP dispensers will be available to assist residents with downloading the app to phones and devices and with taking "selfies."

### **LIAISON REPORTS:**

Chapel – Service attendance is holding steady at approximately 34 attendees each week.



Landscaping - An upgrade to the garden path at the Summer House is of highest priority.

Recycling - The master collection bins provided by TREX are located in the Scooter Room, in the Resident/Music Room on the lower level, and near the kitchen; we are trying to reach the 500-lb. goal to earn a bench.

Movies – Sat. Night - Sept. and Oct. movies have been scheduled.

Focus on the World - There'll be a video on 10/10 on climate change, and another video on 10/20 on Hunger in America. The Food Bank collection will be 10/16-10/22.

Men's Bible Study - Purchasing a new reference book for members.

Drama Club - November performance will be, "You Can't Take It With You."

Sew and So - The group has made 681 caps, 16 scarves, 33 pairs of gloves, and 3 blankets; worsted weight yarn has been donated to make more caps.

Dining Committee - Beverly Puglia was presented with a signed Certificate of Appreciation for her years of service. Emily Barnard is the new Director of Dining.

Hand Bells - Will continue to meet every Wednesday.

Chorus - Anyone interested in participating in the chorus is encouraged to attend the meetings.

Security & Transportation – Penn Power repaired the large hole in the ground next to #128. Jason Lyle has a video camera that can be used to make a short presentation to residents on storm safety.

Living With Loss - The Longest Night service will be held on December 21.

Civic Affairs Committee - On October 6 there will be a Candidates Night featuring PA House candidates.

Sherwood Gifts - Beth Brown's review of the last 4 years' performance of Sherwood Gifts indicates that sales were \$83,000 and expenses were \$21,000; \$56,000 was contributed to the Memorial Special Projects Fund; information is to be disseminated to employees who are not familiar with the Gift Shop or Annex.

Maintenance Committee - Cranberry Twp. will arrange a meeting with Meeder to address the drainage issue; bids are being obtained for re-piping drainage issue near #206; permanent railings need to be installed near #126-128; ditch near #175-178 is full of weeds.

**VISITORS:** 14 residents attended.

The next SORA Board meeting is scheduled for **October 4, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.**

### Floral-Looking Fungus on Campus



Photo by Peg Rychcik

## FURRY FELINES OF SHERWOOD OAKS: PART #6

By Kathie McCormick - #188

Let's meet **VELVET**, a five-year-old boy living with Bobbie Harley in #116:



When Bobbie lost her 20-year-old cat, Catan, she wanted to have another companion. At the Animal Friends Shelter in Pittsburgh, Bobbie and Velvet picked each other out. She named him for his soft, velvety coat!

Velvet is curious about everything. Indeed, Bobbie admires his ability to explore without knocking anything over. His favorite perch is on the arm of the chair, from which he loves to watch TV movies. Crime stories, especially, get his attention. He also loves to watch the birds at the feeder, rather longingly!

He does enjoy eating, which means Bobbie has to be careful not to overfeed him.



Here we have **MR. GRAY** and **MRS. GRAY**; they live with Esta Weiss in #719.



When Esta moved into her apartment at Sherwood Oaks a year and a half ago, her family decided she needed company. Esta's daughter (Beth), who rescues cats, brought over Mr. Gray, who is about 9 years old, and Mrs. Gray, who is about 7 years old, to share her mother's new home. They had been dropped off and appeared at Beth's back door.

This pair (unrelated, but best buddies) had lived in the country. Because they were not used to cars and people, they would often run and hide. Now they like Sherwood Oaks! They have a window perch that faces the lake, and they love to watch the swans. Much to the cats' entertainment, there are birds living in a nearby tree who often perch on the railing.

Although they have two beds to sleep in – one for each of them – they insist on sharing the same one. They also like to follow Esta around the apartment, especially after company has left. According to Esta, they run the house.



**YETI** and **ZOE** live with Kathie McCormick in #188, where they coexist with Betsy, the resident Alaskan Malamute.



They have their own bedroom and have the run of the patio home at night, when Betsy is asleep in her crate.

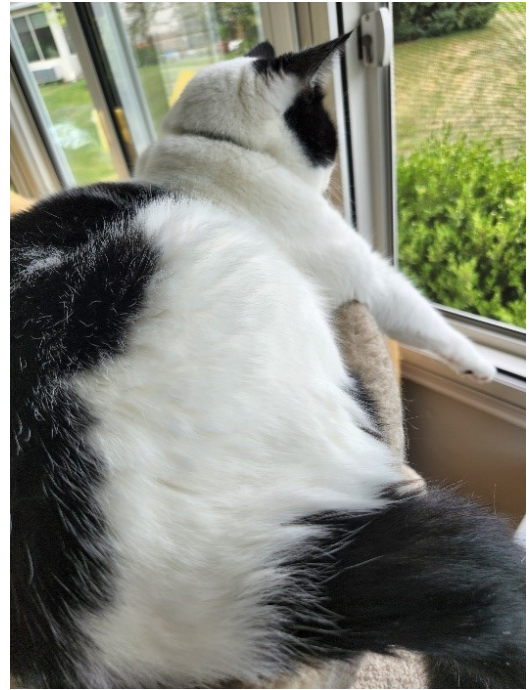


The two cats, who are littermates, were 15 years old this spring. They have stubby tails, about 2 inches long. Their father was a Manx, and who knows what their mother was – though she must have been at least in part Siamese, to look at Yeti! They came to live with us when our best mouser died and our two boys couldn't handle the job! The girls took over that task, essential when you live in the country and all kinds of critters like to find a cozy home.

Indoor/outside cats for most of their lives, they have been very entertaining. When younger, they used to take hikes with us on our trails, just as if they were dogs! As they have gotten older, they are content to be spoiled house cats and are quite happy here at Sherwood Oaks. They have their toys and outside views for entertainment!



Joanne Schollaert, #216, just recently moved into Sherwood Oaks with her feline companion, **BILL**!



Bill, a lovely black and white, was adopted from Animal Rescue on the North Side two years ago. Because he weighed in at 16 lbs., he was named BIG BILL, and the name stuck.

When Bill came to live with Joanne, she was recuperating from a fractured femur and it was the beginning of the Covid pandemic. He became a wonderful companion during the lockdown.

Soon Bill wanted to be outside, discovering the bushes and the patios. He became known as the chipmunk hunter, when he began bringing them into the house. Joanne became very efficient at helping them escape. All the neighbors got to know Bill and were very sad when they moved.

Joanne was worried about Bill having to stay inside when she moved to Sherwood Oaks, but he is doing well and seems very happy here. His favorite place is the sunroom with lots of windows. He lies on the back of the sofa watching for chipmunks, people walking by, and critters in the grass. He shows no sign of wanting to get outside, but Joanne is very careful.



## MEET THE CANDIDATES FORUM

By Dan Cindric - #107

Chair, Civic Affairs Committee

On **Thurs., Oct. 6, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.**, the SORA Civic Affairs Committee will hold a forum for residents to meet candidates for the November 8 General Election. Attending will be the Democratic and Republican candidates for the PA General Assembly District 12 House seat, who are aiming to replace retiring PA State Rep. Daryl Metcalfe. Local, regional, and state issues will be discussed. District 12 consists of Cranberry, Jackson, and Adams townships, and the Boroughs of Zelienople, Evans City, Seven Fields, Mars, and others. Please join us for this important discussion.

## LIVING WITH LOSS EVENTS

By Jean Henderson - #346

The next **GRIEF GROUP CLASSES** will be held on **four Thursdays, Oct. 20 and 27 and Nov. 3 and 10**, from 1-2 p.m., in the Chapel on the Lower Level. The leader will be Bridges Hospice Chaplain Sam Blair. Since the class is limited to 10 people, please contact Jean Henderson at 8346 to sign up.

Our annual **LONGEST NIGHT** service for those having a difficult time during the holidays will be held **Dec. 21** in the Auditorium, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

If you are interested in **AA MEETINGS**, please contact St. Ferdinand's or Dutilh United Methodist for meeting times. If you need a ride to a meeting, contact Jean Henderson at 8346.

Have you seen the **GRATITUDE BOOK?** During difficult days, it is easy to recall what we are NOT thankful for!

We invite you to jot down what you ARE thankful for today. Your words may help someone else or bring a smile. No names are to be noted. The book is located in the Lobby between the curio cabinets. CBS News told of a grieving son, Teddy Droseros, who started this effort country-wide. Help us start our own tradition here at SO.

## 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, October 2

Rev. Jean Henderson

Sherwood Oaks

World Wide Communion Sunday

### Sunday, October 9

Rev. Michael Arnold

Christ Church at Grove Farm

### Sunday, October 16

Rev. Donna Giver-Johnston

Presby. Church of Ben Avon

### Sunday, October 23

Rev. Dean Ziegler

Coraopolis United Methodist

### Sunday, October 30

Rev. Alick Kennedy

Sherwood Oaks

*"He is the Lord. Let Him do what He thinks is best."*

*1 Samuel 3:18*

*The biggest lie you tell yourself is "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."*

## CONTINUED LEARNING PROGRAMS

By Bruce Cooper - #715

If you have been regularly watching Channel 951, you've undoubtedly noticed that the Continued Learning Committee has been presenting a video every Tuesday, generally following the themes of Fine Arts in week one of the month; Science in week two; Local Interest/Travel in week 3; Environment in week 4; and Religion, whenever there is a fifth Tuesday in a month. New videos will be shown on Channel 951 in October and the remainder of the year.

In addition, we will be presenting 6 in-house programs during our Fall Speakers Series, as follows:

**Mon., Oct. 3, 7:00 p.m.** – Thaddeus Osial, MD, on the topic of Arthritis.

**Tues., Oct. 11, 10:30 a.m.** – Pete Broeren speaking about Genealogy.

**Tues., Oct. 18, 7:00 p.m.** – Jason Lyle with a program titled 'The Best Career Ever – My Life as an Audio Engineer.'

**Tues., Oct. 25, 10:30 a.m.** – Jno Hunt lecturing on *The Marriage of Figaro*, which will be performed by the Pittsburgh Opera on several dates in November.

**Mon., Oct. 31, 7:00 p.m.** – John Bridges speaking on 'Sixty Years of Building Wooden Boats.'

**Mon., Nov. 7, 7:00 p.m.** – Judith Shifrin with a program on 'Travels in Morocco.'

We trust you will enjoy these presentations!

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*Lately, you've noticed people your age are so much older than you.*

## PAPERBACK PONDERINGS

By Jean Henderson - #346

Have you stopped by the paperback room in the Library lately? If not, some changes will greet you:

- All the Great Courses materials are now in the main library on the shelf above the DVDs.
- All the music CDs are now in the main library behind the books on CDs.
- Non-fiction books are easier to reach – look to your right.
- When books are 'withdrawn,' they are placed on the FREE cart in the hall. These are yours to take, but please don't return them.
- Thanks to all of you who donate paperbacks so generously!

## THE LIBRARY LOWDOWN

By Barbara Christy - #237

Have you thought about honoring Sherwood Oaks's fortieth anniversary in some way? One possibility might be to make a gift to the library. When a donation is received, we select a book to order (or order the book requested by the donor) and put a label inside the front cover, identifying both the donor and the occasion. This is also our process for memorial contributions. Both types of donations receive a thank-you note that can be used as documentation for IRS purposes of your gift as a tax-deductible contribution.

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*"On time" is when you get there.*

*Talk to yourself. There are times when you need expert advice.*

## COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #715

There's good news and bad news in the climate arena this month. The good news is that Congress has passed major legislation to speed up the transition from a fossil fuel-based economy to one that is powered by clean, non-polluting energy derived from wind, solar, hydro, and nuclear sources.

The bi-partisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was passed into law on November 15, 2021. In addition to nearly \$300 billion to be spent on roads, bridges, railroads, airports, and ports, funding for 'green' infrastructure includes:

- \$65 billion to upgrade the power grid;
- \$21 billion to clean up abandoned mines, old oil wells, and Superfund sites;
- \$7.5 billion to build electric charging stations; and
- \$7.5 billion to buy electric school buses.

The \$250-billion CHIPS and Science Act, passed in August with bi-partisan support, will boost efforts to manufacture more zero-carbon technology in America, establish a new federal office to organize clean-energy innovation, and direct billions of dollars toward disaster-resilience research.

And, finally, the Inflation Reduction Act will invest \$369 billion over the next 10 years to ensure domestic energy security and combat climate change.

The bad news is that all of this should have happened a long time ago and makes winning the battle against climate change precarious. You'll find the reasons for the delay in this month's climate change video: *The Biggest Cover-Up in History: 60 Years of Climate Change Secrets*. Watch it on **Mon., Oct. 10, at 10:00 AM, 4:00 PM, or 7:30 PM** on Channel 951.



## WORTH A LOOK: BOOKS NEW TO OUR LIBRARY

By Barbara Christy - #237

*Alias Emma* by Ava Glass. Fiction. Just graduated from basic training, Emma Makepeace is assigned to London to find the son of a Russian dissident and escort him to safety. But CCTV cameras are everywhere, so traveling unseen by bus, train, car, or subway won't work. Nor is it possible to use credit cards or bank cards. With only 12 hours lead on the Russians, Emma and Michael, her charge, must use every bit of their ingenuity to survive. F GLA

*What Comes After* by JoAnne Tompkins. Fiction. Red-haired and tempestuous Evangeline emerges from a forest in coastal Washington and into the lives of two grieving families of two teen-aged boys, dead by murder and suicide. This book is appropriately named, as it begins where the tragedy begins, following Evangeline and the parents in the aftermath, as the mystery of their overlapping past unravels and they deal with grief and loss, even while finding kindness and hope. F TOM



*A Safe House* by Stuart Woods. Fiction. Stone Barrington agrees to use his private plane to fly an endangered, top-secret “person of undisclosed gender” across the Atlantic and house him/her in England on his private estate. But his guest attracts the attention of a US Senator and his hired gun, who are intent on getting rid of any threats to their plans. F WOO

*The Christie Affair* by Nin de Gramont. Fiction. A fictionalized version of the actual disappearance of Agatha Christie, which weaves a tantalizing mystery into a novel about lost love, grief, and revenge. The story begins in 1925, when an Irish housemaid is employed by the Christies. But the housemaid, Nan, has bigger plans. She becomes Archie’s mistress and, she hopes, his wife – after he divorces Agatha. Mingling Nan’s backstory filled with loss and cruelty with the emerging tale of Agatha’s mysterious disappearance, the author raises questions about what people do in the name of love, what drives a person to murder, and what is forgivable. F GRA

*Crooked River* by Douglas J. Preston & Lincoln Child. Fiction. Agent Pendergast is vacationing in Florida when Sanibel Island becomes the landing site for more than 60 shoes, washed on shore by a rough tide. But the shoes each have a disembodied foot inside. Is this evidence of murders? Or mutilations? Did the shoes come from Cuba? F PRE

*The Great Bridge* by David McCullough. Non-fiction. Once again McCullough has created an enthralling account of one of the greatest building achievements of history. With roots in Pittsburgh, the Roebling family emerges as daring, visionary, and committed. Including ob-

servations about the social milieu and the characters who, for better or worse, influenced the project, this is the story of a miraculous engineering accomplishment. 624.2 MCC

*From Strength to Strength* by Arthur C. Brooks. Non-fiction. Succeed in work and in life – that is the mantra embraced by ambitious young people in the first half of life. But, by middle age, the mantra sometimes wears out, and the strivers find themselves not where they expected – happy, successful, and proud – but somewhere less congenial. Brooks challenges readers to take another path to avoid the “striver’s curse.” He identifies counterintuitive measures, using scientific, philosophical, and theological ideas, to encourage the workaholic to form new strategies for living. “Change is inevitable, but suffering is not.” 155.67 BRO

*Allow Me to Retort* by Elie Mystal. Non-fiction. Most of us have not recently re-read the Constitution (or maybe even read it for the first time), but we think we know what it says. This humorous, expert, but easily digestible volume dissects legal concepts we hear about daily – equal rights, due process, the electoral college – from a politically liberal point of view. 342 MYS

And a host of new Patterson books:

*Confessions: The Murder of an Angel* by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro. Fiction. F PAT

*Crazy House* by James Patterson and Gabrielle Charbonnet. Fiction. F PAT

*Judge and Jury* by James Patterson and Andrew Gross. Fiction. F PAT

*Kill or Be Killed* by James Patterson. Fiction. F PAT

## FOSSIL FUELS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

By Frank Conte - #106

In a recent article in the *ACORN*, the headline read, “Keep Calm, Stop Burning Fossil Fuels.” The idea of not using fossil fuels, now and in the near future, raises a number of serious, thought-provoking issues for me.

One is based on the fact that the need for batteries and fuel for motive power cannot be satisfied with solar and wind power. Batteries are not in and of themselves a source of power; rather, they are a storage device for energy, which is released when called upon; clearly, that energy must come from a continuous source of electricity, which means that batteries cannot reliably be charged at night from solar or intermittent wind movement. While batteries are rechargeable, they do wear out. Moreover, at present, there is no effective way to recycle them. Indeed, batteries add significant weight to a vehicle, especially a large one, thus demanding more power from that source.

Another aspect of the fuel equation is the need for power in various modes of transportation and work, especially given current supply chain issues. If diesel and fuel oil were not available for trucks and ships, for example, how could goods be efficiently transported to market? Farming machinery, moreover, requires large combustion power to provide for the production of food.

Batteries, for their own production, require a source of elements and raw materials, primarily from mining. How would the heavy machinery be powered to move millions of tons of earth to capture these raw materials for the production of batteries? Moreover, the military has many weapons systems that require an uninterruptible source of energy. Tanks, combat vehicles, ships, planes, etc., cannot rely on a source of energy other than fossil fuels, with the exception of US Navy aircraft carriers and submarines, which are nuclear-powered.

The above are some of the reasons why I believe that in the near future we cannot exist without fossil fuels. The quality of life in all parts of the world, as well as safety from aggressors, is dependent on reliable energy sources such as fossil fuels. Thus we must continue to extract these fuels from the earth.

## A NICE MEAL, INTERRUPTED

By Dennis Lynch – #335

If you were eating lunch or dinner in the Center Dining Room on Wednesday, Aug. 31, your masticating was interrupted by a dozen or so fellow residents rising and bursting into “Give My Regards to Broadway,” backed by Richard Pospistle on the keyboard. Many stouthearted souls at other tables even sang along!

We were members of the Drama Club, and our Chair, Lorraine Commeret (#131), explained that we were beginning a new year after last winter’s SRO production of “Check Please.” We want some new blood, no matter how inexperienced, to join our group. We invite you all, again: Come to a meeting: every 3rd Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in the Auditorium, beginning again in November (see the flyer you received or Channel 950, or call or drop a note to Lorraine at #131). For our productions, both actors and backstage workers are needed.

We like audiences, too, so mark your calendars for a Dinner Theatre performance on **Wed., Nov. 2**, or a matinee on **Sat., Nov. 5**. There’ll be a formal announcement of the Dinner Theatre in October.

We will be presenting a special short version of the 1936 award-winning Broadway comedy, “You Can’t Take It with You,” by Kaufmann and Hart. Watch for a ticket announcement in October. Admission is free, but you’ll need a ticket, as seating is limited.

## THE COLETTA MCKENRY LIBRARY ACCESSIONS

### FICTION, INCLUDING LARGE TYPE

The 6:20 Man	Baldacci, David	c. 2022	F BAL
Alias Emma	Glass, Ava	c. 2022	F GLA
The Best is Yet to Come	Macomber, Debbie	c. 2022	F MAC
Dark Horse	Hurwitz, Gregg A.	c. 2022	F HUR
Forever and a Day	Chase, Marlene	c. 2022	F CHA
The Key in the Attic	Dodson, DeAnna Julie	c. 2012	F DOD
The Other Americans	Lalami, Laila	c. 2019	F LAL
Overboard	Paretsky, Sara	c. 2022	F PAR p.b. L.T.
The Paris Apartment	Foley, Lucy	c. 2022	F FOL
Road Trip!	Fields, Jan	c. 2019	F FIE
A Safe House	Woods, Stuart	c. 2022	F WOO
Select Editions – 2022/4	Reader's Digest	c. 2022	F REA L.T.
Shattered	Patterson, James	c. 2022	F PAT
Switchboard Soldiers	Chiaverini, Jennifer	c. 2022	F CHI p.b. L.T.
Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow	Zevin, Gabrielle	c. 2022	F ZEV
Upgrade	Crouch, Blake	c. 2022	F CRO
What Comes After	Tompkins, JoAnne	c. 2021	F TOM

### NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES

James Patterson by James Patterson: The Stories of My Life	Patterson, James	c. 2022	BIO PAT
Always Faithful	Schueman and Zaki	c. 2022	355.02 SCH
Anticancer: A New Way of Life	Servan-Schreiber, D.	c. 2009	616.99 SER
The End of Faith	Harris, Sam	c. 2005	200 HAR
The Great Bridge: The Epic Story of the Building of the Brooklyn Bridge	McCullough, David G.	c. 2012	624.2 MCC
Happy-Go-Lucky	Sedaris, David	c. 2022	928 SED
One Thousand Gifts	Voskamp, Ann	c. 2010	248.4 VOS
The Palace Papers: Inside the House of Windsor	Brown, Tina	c. 2022	941.085 BRO

### **LANTERNFLIES, PART 2**

Shared by Stan Foster - #349

From *The Week*, Sept. 2, 2022



If you see a lanternfly (about 1" by ½"), kill it. While harmless to humans and animals, the

lanternfly is death to many plants, including grapevines, blueberry bushes, and walnut, oak, and apple trees. Its waste products block photosynthesis, and it weakens trees by drinking their sap, rendering them more vulnerable to diseases and other pests.

The insect flies only about five miles on its own, but it has spread farther by attaching itself to clothing, flying into cars, and laying eggs on everything from cloth and furniture to trees and vehicles. In Pennsylvania alone, lanternflies could be responsible for \$324 million in economic damage and the loss of about 3,000 jobs per year.



## BREAKFAST WITH JOE

By Winnie Dietz - #725

It's 8 o'clock and I must rush to get to the café. Joe will have been there ten minutes already, turning on the lights and sitting at the far table while he waits for his coffee. He sits there so he can wave to both staffers and residents, whoever they happen to be ... like a maître d'!

Finally, I arrive, having dashed on my make-up and grabbed my clothes. (It didn't matter what, as I can correct the outfit later!)

Joe almost always orders bacon and eggs, toast, and coffee, seldom straying from his routine. We talk a lot about our sweethearts – his Marilyn and my Don. We had met them at nearly the same time in our lives, so we were comfortable talking about recent “dates” and future plans.

Joe has been on our Trips and Tours Committee arranging dinner outings for the last few years, so we discuss different restaurants, foods, and trips, but especially those in Beaver County, where he used to live. Incidentally, his favorite is the Wooden Angel, an old hangout of years past.

As new diners come in, he greets them heartily, usually by name, as though he were the mayor or at least a member of the Welcoming Committee. New residents can't feel like strangers with Joe in charge!

Some mornings, when you're all by yourself and you need to get out, come on down to the café and sit for a spell. If it's before 8:30, you'll be sure to see Joe Widmer.

## FOCUS ON THE WORLD

Submitted by Bruce Cooper - #715

World Hunger Day will be observed on Sunday, October 16. The Focus on the World committee will be sponsoring a Fall Food Collection at Sherwood Oaks during the **week of October 16-22**. Your donations of food and/or money can be left in the boxes located in the Scooter Room.

FOTW has decided to establish a relationship with the Lighthouse Foundation, located in Valencia, PA, as a focus for our food drives going forward. Some of the food items currently sought include:

- Whole wheat pasta
- Cooking oil (any type, but esp. olive oil)
- Condiments (catsup, mustard, relish, light mayo, etc.)
- Packs of tuna, chicken, or salmon
- Boxes of instant or scalloped potatoes
- Peanut butter
- Canned fruit (esp. pineapple)
- Shelf-stable milk
- Breadcrumbs
- Pasta/Spaghetti sauce
- Skillet meals (e.g., Hamburger Helper)
- Mac 'n' Cheese
- Jelly (any flavor)
- Broth (chicken, beef, vegetable)
- Chili/Stew
- Bottles of juice

If you would prefer to donate money, please make your check payable to Lighthouse Foundation, with 'Food Distribution' on the memo line, and place it in the envelope marked for money donations.

On **Thurs., Oct. 20**, beginning at 7:00 p.m., a new video titled *Hunger in America* will be shown in the Auditorium. Please plan to attend.

By Gary Brandenberger, SORA  
President - #602

Tipping is not permitted at Sherwood Oaks. Although we often express our sincere gratitude when the opportunity is presented, the Employee Appreciation year-end gift is an indication of our “financial gratitude” as well. Please consider all the service and care we expect and receive. And then be generous!

By Gussie Dimmick - #401

In the meantime, residents with items to share for the Hallowe'en display are invited to bring them to the Center Lobby on **Oct. 3, 10:00 a.m.-noon and 4:30-5:30 p.m.** Someone will be there to take the items and register them in the owner's name to facilitate pick-up at the end of the season. We shall all be looking forward to the new display!

*Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.*

By Catherine Wagner - #731



What a pleasure it was, all during August and September, to find in the Mailroom trays of garden-fresh tomatoes contributed by residents from their vegetable gardens! It was so kind of them to share their harvest bounty with the rest of us. Thank you to all who contributed!

[By Anonymous]

*If you're bad at haggling, you'll end up paying the price*

# Samples of Art in the Scooter Room in the Community Center



Robert Typanski



Jane Rittelmann



Joan Stoessel Pun



Ann Ferguson



Barbara Dixon

Photos by Rabe Marsh