

THE ACORN

SHERWOOD OAKS NEWSLETTER

100 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

www.sherwood-oaks.com

December 2022 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. 41, No. 10

*Caps for Kids sing loud and clear:
“O, Christmas Tree, O, Christmas Tree”*



Photo by Bill Lefler

DICK AND PAT JONES - #722

by Jan Wendt - #158



Photos by Mike Mills

As in the case of a number of residents before them, Dick and Pat Jones experienced that “aha!” moment when they walked through the front doors of the Center for their appointment with John Sterling: “We knew this was the place.”

The couple had lived for a decade at the Liberty Hills Community and been very happy there. But some new health issues had them thinking about the increased care they might need at some point in the future. They liked our beautiful campus, a perfect place for Pat to walk her beloved poodle, Rusty, and the convenience of nearby stores and restaurants. They are now settled in their corner apartment, from which they can watch the comings and goings of residents and staff.

Given that this is not the first marriage for either, their large, blended family includes eight children, twelve grandchildren, and two great-grands. As it happens, Dick and Pat met online and have been married about 20 years. Pat worked as an accountant for Guardian Protection, while Dick is a self-taught civil engineer. He has worked for firms and also been self-employed. One of his projects was the roundabout in the Cranberry Woods Office Park. Although not

initially inclined to use a roundabout as a solution for that traffic situation, PennDOT gave Dick the go-ahead. Its completion later garnered Dick an award from PennDOT, which now uses roundabouts routinely.

In the corner of their unit’s living room is a lovely large wood desk and cabinet, designed and built by Dick, who had an extensive woodshop in his previous home. The woodshop itself was dismantled and given to grandsons, who had learned the craft from their grandpa over the years. Though he may explore spending some time in our workshop, Dick is currently busy searching for a billiards partner.

Pat enjoys reading, but also adheres to a schedule of walking Rusty three times a day. She reports that he enjoys exploring the courtyards and the summer gardens. Be sure to experience Rusty’s enthusiastic greeting when you encounter the duo around campus.

Both Dick and Pat, who credit John Sterling with playing a crucial role in their move to Sherwood Oaks, wish him well as he heads off to his next adventure. Be sure to welcome the Joneses when you meet them.



Bears having tea in a corner of the apartments hallway



Photo by Denton Bond

BEO STRING QUARTET TO PERFORM

By Jean Henderson - #346

A special treat will be offered to us on **Jan. 3, 2023, at 7 p.m.** in the Auditorium, when the BEO STRING QUARTET returns for a classical string quartet concert. This professional quartet's mission is to expand the role of chamber musicians in today's global culture, mixing all types of music with classical. Their instruments include violins, viola, cello, keyboard, percussion, and a whistle! Recent tours have included Colombia, Brazil, and New York state. Our concert, sponsored by your Program Committee, will also be performed in January at several sites in California, before ending in NYC. Do come and enjoy!

DECEMBER SEARCH CONTEST

By Joan Pun - #304

This December, the craft section will again feature a search contest, along with a prize for the winner. You will be searching for angels with cork bodies.



Photo by Joni Pun

They will be found in the Independent Living area from unit 100 to unit 360. None are located on trees or bushes, but rather along the walkways. They may be set on ledges, attached to someone's wreath or

decorations, set on a post or bench, and so on. Folks who want to play must bring with them a paper on which they can jot down where they found an angel – for instance, “by #304,” or sometimes between two units, as in “between #305 and #306.” Please do not touch or remove any angels that you find. The photo above shows you what they look like, so don't confuse them with other decorations that residents may have put out. The first person to find all the angels wins the prize! Watch Channel 950 to find out when the competition starts. Good luck!

PROUD TO BE A SHERWOOD OAKSER!

By Jan Kimball - #226

Along with four others in our community – Dan Cindric, Ruth Inkpen, and Barbara and Wally Christy – I had the privilege to be a poll worker at our precinct on Election Day 2022. The hours were long, but the effort was so rewarding! Over 1,100 voters turned out to make their voices heard (a record number for a mid-term election here). Many voters expressed their gratitude for our service, and I was proud to see so many young people turn up to vote.

The day was not, however, without its challenges. There were three precincts voting inside the Cranberry Township Municipal Center, so there were lots of people coming and going in different directions. The atmosphere inside the building was busy and without incident. Moreover, the voters in our precinct were patient and appreciative. I was very happy that I had the opportunity to do this work for the very first time! It was a most enjoyable experience. Thanks to Dan for his awesome leadership, to the helpful coworkers who were there that day, and to those of you who came to vote for your encouraging words!

CHAPEL NOTES

By Gary Brandenberger - #602
For the Chapel Committee

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

Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend.

Sunday, December 4

Rev. Ron Brown
Hope Lutheran

Sunday, December 11

Rev. Ben Robbins
Northmont Presbyterian

Sunday, December 18

Please come at 1:30 p.m. for a pre-chapel concert by the Sherwood Oaks Chorus and Handbells.

Rev. William Dambach
North Hills United Presbyterian

Saturday, December 24, 2:00 p.m.

In House
Meditation and Carols

No chapel on Sunday, Dec. 25.

*"Listen in silence before Me."
– Isaiah 41:1*

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

By Jean Henderson - #346

Our fifth annual LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE – "A SERVICE OF COMFORT" for those having a difficult time during the holidays – will be held **December 21 in the Auditorium at 1:30 p.m.** The service will include prayers, readings, and music. A special gift stone and reading will be given to those who attend. Leaders of the service will include members of the Living with Loss Team here at Sherwood Oaks.

MISS ME BUT LET ME GO

By Christina Rossetti

When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room
Why cry for a soul set free?

Miss me a little – but not too long
And not with your head bowed low
Remember the love that we once
shared

Miss me – but let me go.

For this journey that we all must take
And each must go alone
It's all part of the Master's plan
A step on the road to home.

When you are lonely and sick of heart
Go to the friends we know
And bury sorrow in doing good deeds
Miss me – but let me go.

CURIO CABINETS FOR JANUARY

By Jean Henderson - #346

What a great job Gussie Dimmick and her faithful crew have done over the years with our Curio Cabinets! They have been a great way for residents to share memories and possessions! She will be stepping down at the New Year, and we'll miss her creativity.

On **Jan. 3**, please pick up the items currently in the Cabinets. Then, for one month, the Living with Loss Team invites you to focus on HOME. On January 5, please bring pictures of your previous home to share, along with a short description of where it was. This home could be a permanent home or a vacation home – or both!

We come from many places. It would be fun if you would share your home with all of us here, who now, together, share Sherwood Oaks as our current home.

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 mail-room bulletin board, on the SO APP, and in the SORA binder in the Library on the windowsill.

Summary of reports and actions for the November 8, 2022, Board meeting.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER: Peter Broeren submitted Financial Statements for the period ending 10/31/2022. Memorial Special Projects accrued interest of \$0.39, with an ending balance of \$46,451.89. Employee Appreciation accrued interest of \$0.56; payments were made of \$331.75, with an ending balance of \$111,419.81. Peter was to put \$11,000.00 more into the checking account today, planning to update the balance accordingly. The remaining 40th Anniversary total was \$5,221.

REPORT OF OPERATING TREASURER: Beth Brown reported that the balance of the checking account as of 10/31/22 was \$97,688.87. The SORA Committee income of note was none. Total expenses were \$863. The Protected Funds income of note was also none. Total expenses were \$670. Monthly Snapshot: Deposits = \$63.84; posted checks = \$1,533.74; outstanding checks = \$808.

LIAISON REPORTS

AL BRAHM. Chapel: Nothing to report.

BRUCE COOPER. Continued Learning: This committee will move its in-house presentations in November, March, and early April to Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. Preparations for the Spring series have begun.

Landscaping: A bid of \$19,400 has been received for improvements to the path

by the Summer House. We are awaiting a second bid. Recycling: Approximately 250 lbs. of eligible plastic have been collected thus far. If additional plastic sorters can be identified, the committee thinks the program should continue indefinitely, now that most residents are in the habit of saving plastic film.

DAN CINDRIC. Movies, Saturday Night: Movies have been set for Nov/Dec, but no movies will be shown on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve. which are both on a Saturday this year. Focus on the World: Emily Barnard, Director of Dining Services, was to speak on Nov. 17 on CURA's Waste Nothing Program. Lighthouse Foundation will make a presentation in January, February, & March (speakers were discussed). Larry Schweiger, past President of the National Wildlife Federation, will speak on April 20 in connection with Earth Day.

NANCY MARSHALL. Health Affairs: Nothing to report. Drama Club: Both performances of "You Can't Take it with You" received good reviews. Patching and Piecing Quilters: Nothing to report. Sew and So: The total number of caps, scarves, and gloves knitted and crocheted to-date this year is 862. PUZZLES: Nothing to report.

KATHIE McCORMICK. Dining: Jesse Komara had reported that the menu selections had been made for the next round, based on almost all the suggestions from the residents. Since sticky buns are no longer available on Sundays, they are going to try cinnamon rolls instead. There are still some supply chain issues with rolls/breads and dessert selections. Reuben sandwiches will be added to the Always Available Menu. Bill Lefler discussed the comment card summary. The acoustic problem in the dining room was referred to the Maintenance Committee. Curio Cabinets: The Halloween display will be followed by a Christmas theme.

There is still a need for a volunteer to take over for Gussie Dimmick. Resident Art and Craft Wall: Joni Pun, who is planning a contest to search for little angels around the Independent Living areas, hopes to offer a prize for the winner.

JUDY PINYOT. Library: Anne Hunt, Library Manager, reported 54 volunteer hours for September and 73 hours for October. Book Selection Committee: Mary Bouwkamp, Chair, invites volunteers who are interested in helping to select new books to contact her at 724-591-5799.

PEGGY RUBEL. Program Committee: They are beginning to plan for the new year. Living with Loss: A program for living with grief is underway, and the "Longest Night" service is scheduled for December 21 for anyone having difficulty getting through the holidays.

FRANK WEISS. Sherwood Gifts: Sales increased 30% over the previous month, with the Annex having a jump in sales at the end of the month. Jane Paul reported that the Gift Shop has a glut of Lenox pieces and an entire storage unit of Christmas decorations. Four additional carpet samples have been requested; the Treasurer is still waiting for Myers & Patsy to provide a contract for review. The Annex and both garages are full. It would be appreciated if Landscape personnel would call ahead when delivering furniture, as they often place items in inconvenient locations. Maintenance Committee: Gary Whoric reported the following: Cranberry Twp. has arranged for Charter Homes to dredge east of the lake during the Spring of 2023. Alcoa has cleared the pipe in the North Woods under the path bridge. Three patio homes are being worked on for new move-ins. A drainage issue near #206 has been identified, and we are obtaining bids for repiping. Wi-Fi for the Community Center is up and running. In preparation for Winter, instead of salt in the salt bins, we will

use salt with an easy-to-use shaker bottle. The Greenhouse roof was replaced and new flashing installed. We are awaiting bids for seamless gutters in various areas. A total of 80 walkway lights will be redone this year. Spread Sheet Item: LSA paint is fading; units 613 and 611's retaining walls are mildewed, and 611's wall is sagging; they will remove the "bogus" 270-271 sign on the walkway; the pole light near Oak Lodge is out.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – ANNETTE McPEEK

Annette McPeek reported as follows. **(1)** Census - IL is at 189 units occupied/241 residents (four homes under contract, one each in November, December, February, and March). Marketing continues to be busy. Skilled Nursing, with 34/43 residents, has a 5-star CMS rating. Personal Care serves 36/42. OGC is at 29/30. **(2)** Leaders here at Sherwood Oaks continue to participate in COVID-19 update calls with Senior Communities. We had good resident and staff participation during the October 28 Bivalent vaccine clinic. Butler County positivity rates are steady and currently at 13.48%. Please remain at home if you are sick, and do not ignore symptoms of any type. Be sure to communicate symptoms to the Community Nursing Department. Our goal has been to keep areas of the campus safely open for resident use. **(3)** The SO Fund approved additional monies for the Auditorium project. **(4)** A Veterans Day event was scheduled on Nov. 11 at 1:30 p.m. in the auditorium and card room. **(5)** Drone footage is available for view on the Sherwood Oaks website. **(6)** Cranberry Township officials had been on-site for the annual building fire inspection. **(7)** A new roof and flashing were installed on the greenhouse. **(8)** DEP was on-site for the annual dam inspection. **(9)** Reverend Sam Blair was to present a holiday grief program on Thurs., Nov. 17, at 1:30 pm in the

auditorium. **(10)** The next resident get-together was to be held Fri., Nov. 18, at 1:30 p.m. in the auditorium. The Dining Services department was to be featured.

OLD BUSINESS: Wish List: Jean Henderson expressed appreciation to Jane Lohman for preparing the final list dated Oct. 22, 2022. Annette McPeck will share the information with the campus leadership team, and Jean Henderson will present the results in January.

CCRC Update: Gary Brandenberger presented the following update: As reported at the October meeting, 4 SORA officers attended the CCRC meeting after a 2½-year pause due to COVID. The group addressed 6 topics. All 6 CCRCs answered the questions put to them, and we discussed each topic in detail at the Longwood at Oakmont meeting on October 25. The 6 topics were: information technology, Board of Directors representation, Employee Appreciation, Resident committee operation/formation, integrating new residents, and dealing with isolated residents.

Jean, Peter, Beth, and Gary gave brief summaries, with full reports to be published within the next month or two.

Information Technology: Five of the six committees use the Touchtown Community APP. Longwood is considering switching to Caremerge due to poor customer service. All have TV channels. IT support varies from 2 Administrative support personnel to 2-3 resident volunteers. Paper is still required at all communities and will be in the foreseeable future. 10-20% of residents have no IT equipment and do not want any. 50% use email but are reluctant to share their email addresses. 65% of those with smart phones and computers or tablets install the APP, but use varies.

Governing Board Voting Residents: Sherwood Oaks has 3 IL voting members on the PLCC Board. Masonic Village has 1 on its Board with a vote. Other communities have virtually no representation, which is a source of concern, especially when they believe their community may be “helping” other struggling communities. One of the CCRCs has 1 shared member also representing 7 other communities.

CCRC Notes Prepared by Beth Brown:
Structures: All 6 CCRCs offer resident-run committees and activities: SO (47), Longwood (31), Providence Point (13), and Concordia (10-15), while Masonic and Friendship Village did not provide numbers. Several, including SO, also have resident liaisons representing multiple committees for resident meeting purposes. All have some form of community Administration support for key committees such as Maintenance/Landscape, Dining, Health Care, Finance, etc. **Committee Management:** All CCRCs have regular committee and formal resident meetings, either monthly or quarterly. Most have By-Laws or Standing Rules to be followed, with some offering Mission Statements. Most committees have term limits for Chairs or Managers. New committees need approval by Resident Boards. Most CCRCs, which face challenges in recruiting new volunteers, offer a yearly event to showcase what options are available to new and current residents. **Take-away from Meeting with all CCRCs:** Create a brochure for all Sherwood residents that showcases all the committees and activities we offer, and whom to contact if interested. The brochure could also be used by Marketing and the Welcoming Committee.

Employee Appreciation Account Questions from the CCRC Meeting, Prepared by Peter Broeren: All 6 communities (Sherwood Oaks, Longwood at Oakmont, Providence Point, Masonic Village, Friendship Village, and Concordia) have some form of Employee Appreciation Fund. Contributions varied by community, from \$1.00 per resident per day (= \$350 per resident per year) up to \$1,090 per person per year. The average gift was approximately \$600 per resident, or \$50 per month. Giving rates averaged between 80% and 90% of residents in Independent Living; rates for PC, Skilled, and Memory Units were lower. Gifts to employees ranged from \$400 per FTE (full-time equivalent) to \$1,400 per FTE. Most community gifts to employees are not tax-deductible for the resident, thus the gifts to the employees are NOT taxable. An exception is Providence Point, where the employees receive a Form 1099 with their check, so the gifts must be reported to the IRS. A variety of methods to collect contributions are used, including letters and notices to residents, thermometers to show % giving, receptions, signage, raffles, fundraisers, TV channels, and reminders. In some communities, the Fund is managed by Administration; in others, it is managed by the residents and/or the communities themselves.

CCRC Report Prepared by Jean Henderson: Question #5 (Assimilation of New Members). For our consideration at SO: (1) A member of the Welcoming Committee is assigned to new residents before their arrival; that person contacts them beforehand and follows up for a short time after. (2) A Resident Ambassador/Mentor is assigned to new residents by Welcoming Committee to follow up for 6 months, with frequent contacts and guidance re activities, etc. (3) Establish a "Newcomers Table" in the Dining Room to help new folks become acquainted. (4) Evaluation

sheets are given to new residents after 6 months to review their move-in experience. (5) A Welcome Basket is given with information about the greater community: services, restaurants, maps, food stores, etc.

Also part of Question #5 are issues related to Isolated Residents. Here are some points for our consideration at SO. (1) One-on-one contacts work the best, along with small groups and good communication via IT offerings. (2) Neighbors should be invited to specific activities on and off campus. (3) Grief groups help those having difficulty moving. (4) Quarterly coffees are held for widows/widowers. (5) Most CCRCs have a chaplain on staff who deals with all these issues. (6) In reality, some people are born extroverts and some introverts. Privacy must be respected.

NEW BUSINESS: Two new activities are being established, and one funded. (1) **Lounge music** to provide appropriate listening in the Center Lobby for residents who wish to linger after dinner. Co-Chairs: Frank Conte and Joe Bacco. (2) **Pickleball** is being considered in terms of the feasibility of developing a pickleball program at Sherwood Oaks. Chair: Denton Bond. (3) The Board approved a \$150 budget for the **Jigsaw Puzzle** activity. Motions made to approve these activities were passed.

Granny's Attic will reopen. See the 950 channel for details. Motion made, seconded, and passed.

VISITORS TIME: 11 residents were in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next meeting was set for Dec. 6, 2022.

"At every party there are two kinds of people – those who want to go home and those who don't. The trouble is, they are usually married to each other." – Ann Landers

Scenes from “You Can’t Take It With You”



Rick Berg and Joanne Schollaert



Barbara Dixon and Kathie McCormick



Rick Berg and Cindy Horr



Winnie Dietz and David Gieschen

Drama Club, Nov. 2 and 5, 2022



Babbie Holding, Lee Wierman and
Ellen Brierly



Laura Kopp



Joanne Schollaert



Babbie Holding, Ellen Brierly, and Lee
Wierman

LOOK AT US NOW!

By Talley Ferguson - #269

"Hi" to all my Sherwood Oaks family. It has been a while since I wrote about my life, and it has really changed. If you look in the Feb. 2021 *Acorn*, you will find my introductory picture. I was scrawny then, but look at me now! On Oct. 11, I turned two years old. I am 16 inches at the withers and weigh 20 lbs., with a beautiful full white ruff. Next to me is the new addition as of March. Fergy Ferguson will be one year old on Dec. 27. He is full size at 14 inches at the withers, weighing 15 pounds. He is not quite full-furred. We are extremely different in personality. I have become the conservative businessman, on the alert for any possible change. Fergy is a wild man. He barks just for fun and jumps as high as the kitchen counter and then up for Mom to catch.

I have been busy this year competing. I have earned AKC trick titles, obedience titles, and rally titles. I have also spent time teaching my little brother various skills he will need when he starts to earn titles. Fergy has a few ribbons, but not as many as I have.

We play together. I like to play chase. Usually when we play, Fergy uses me for dental floss and pulls out my fur. Mom doesn't have to brush me as much because Fergy takes care of that. He always has fur hanging out of his mouth. Yuck. Fergy likes to play, tug, fetch, and pull on me. He hasn't learned to relax yet and drives both Mom and me nuts.

Merry Christmas, and see you around!



Photo by Ann Ferguson

STRONGER THAN HATE

By Joanne & Frank Weiss - #154



Photo by Frank Weiss

You may have noticed this sign in front of the Community Center. Pittsburgh has the sad distinction of being the city in the United States where the largest number of persons of the Jewish faith were killed in a mass shooting. This happened at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Squirrel Hill on October 27, 2018. Eleven members of the congregation died, and several others were wounded that day. Almost immediately, as the city tried to process the shock and grief, T-shirts, yard signs, and other articles began to appear with a take-off of the Pittsburgh logo and the simple phrase, "Stronger than Hate."

The brother of a dear friend of our daughter was one of the victims, and we received a yard sign. With permission from the Administration, it was placed in front of the Center later that year. It has reappeared each year since, remaining in place through the Christian and Jewish holidays. Look for it again next October.

Sherwood Oaks is Stronger than Hate.

Love ... is an able master; it teaches us to be what we never were before. (Molière)

Having somewhere to go is home. Having someone to love is family. And having both is a blessing. (Anon.)

SORA QUARTERLY MEETING

By Gary Brandenberger - #602

Please plan on attending the SORA Quarterly Meeting on **Dec. 13 at 7:15 p.m.** in the auditorium.

In addition to our financial reports and Executive Director's report, you will hear the results of our Employee Appreciation donation collections.

A special Operating Committee Report on Health Affairs will be provided by Dr. Warren Howe, the new Chair. This committee is very important for all of us when we need medical help here at Sherwood Oaks.

Four SORA officers will provide reports on a recent meeting of the 6 CCRCs in Western PA. Six topics of general interest to all communities were discussed, and you will be provided with a brief summary of each.

Finally, we will try to reschedule the drone tour viewing, now that it has been lengthened.

WHAT'S UP WITH THIS PICKLEBALL BUSINESS?

By Denton Bond - #736

Socialization is so important in our later years! Pickleball gives us an opportunity to be outside and socialize. Our hope is to have a space where we can enjoy this game this spring.

We plan on inviting all who are interested to join us in a meeting in February.

Do come for a Q and A! This is a social/physical activity that is so much fun! Most often this game is about the enjoyment of being outside, moving around, and having fun with other people. The score does not matter!

If you are interested in this opportunity, please talk with one of us:

Denton Bond #736 (C) - 412 400 2423

Larry Brown #617 (C) - 412 364 9007

Bruce Cooper #715 (H) - 724 553 5620

DINING ROOM PLEASURES

By Carolyn Broeren - #739

Special dinners at Sherwood Oaks are always lots of fun. Pete and I were a little down, however, on Nov 3, when we entered the dining room without play tickets, as we had been late in making a reservation for the Dinner Theatre that night. The dining room was nearly empty, since most diners were at the play. The hostess directed us to a table for four, but we were alone, another disappointment.

Shortly, however, another couple, with whom we were not acquainted, asked if they could join us. We were happy that the hostess had invited Ed and Markie McCarthy, relative newcomers to Sherwood Oaks, to come to our table.

When we had finished introducing ourselves, we found out that both couples owned homes at Lake Chautauqua, the McCarthys at the Chautauqua Institution and the Broerens farther down the lake. That information started a lively, fun conversation. We all had several good stories to share.

So it turned out to be a delightful dinner, even as many do at Sherwood Oaks. Whenever you say "yes" when the hostess asks if you would like to join so-and-so, or sit with a friend, or ask a new neighbor to join you, dinner in the dining room can be a real pleasure.

Family connections are always worth preserving, good company always worth seeking. (Jane Austen)

COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #715

I am not a vegan; and, given my age and the ages of my neighbors, we will probably never become vegans, although I'm pretty smitten by an Impossible Burger. So please don't turn away near the end of the December climate change video – *Endgame 2050* – when it makes a big push for veganism! There is much more to the video that is really important to understand.

As I write this column, there are three events occurring that are critical to the fight against the climate crisis:

- A) Though the mid-term elections in the U.S. are not yet fully decided, it looks as if President Biden will have to work with a split Congress to push his agenda for moving the country towards a clean energy economy.
- B) The Conference of the Parties is meeting for the 27th time (COP27) in Egypt, with major issues such as Just Transition, Finance for Climate and Development, 'Green' Hydrogen, Water Security, and Sustainability of Vulnerable Communities. *If only the world had begun in 1995 to address these problems directly. . . .*
- C) A draft version of the 5th National Climate Assessment has been made available for review by the U.S. Global Change Research Program, compiled by 13 federal departments and agencies. In a quick review, the *Washington Post* finds 7 major conclusions:
 - 1. Every part of the U.S. is grappling with climate change – but not equally;
 - 2. A warming world threatens reliable water supplies;
 - 3. Extreme events are wreaking havoc on homes and properties;
 - 4. The U.S. can expect more forced migration and displacement;
 - 5. Climate change is a growing public health threat;
 - 6. It's not just humans who are feeling the effects;
 - 7. There is good news and opportunity remaining to shape the future.

The final report will be published next March.

MONDAY / DEC. 12

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

CHANNEL 951

ENDGAME 2050

93 min.

2020 NOT RATED

FEATURING:
SOFIA PINEDA OCHOA
MOBY
PAUL ERLICH

DOCUMENTARY

Humanity's Last Chance Is Now

What will the future be like in the year 2050? A mere three decades away, many of us hope to still be around. So, what kind of future are we riding into? ENDGAME 2050 gives us a glimpse into that future, and it does not look good. Humanity has backed itself into an ecological endgame as we approach mid-century. Featuring musician Moby along with leading scientists, ENDGAME 2050 lays out the reality that, unless we act urgently now, we are hastening our own destruction.

**WATCH ON CHANNEL 951
FROM THE COMFORT OF
YOUR OWN HOME!**

"The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits."

– Albert Einstein

SCIENCE: WHAT IS IT?

By Frank Conte - #106

Over the past decades, and also more recently, we have been confronted with happenings the explanations of which are based in science. Two cases in point are the current predictions regarding climate change and the recent Covid-19 pandemic. Decisions based on scientific findings related to these two areas have had profound impacts on our lives here in the United States.

Science is not a truth ... but it is always seeking the truth. The word itself comes from the Latin *scio*, to know. Science is the seeking of knowledge. If we are intellectually honest, we continue to pursue new and relevant data that add to a subject's store of knowledge.

At various times in history, there have been beliefs that were fixed in certainty. Two such were the flat earth principle and the conviction that the sun revolves around the earth. People who espoused these theories were either sanctioned or excommunicated. As it turned out, further study revealed these beliefs to be without merit.

The earth's atmosphere has a calculated weight of about 5.5 quadrillion tons (that's with 15 zeroes!). Carbon dioxide comprises about 700 parts per million of a unit of air, or 0.07% of that weight. Do we know enough about the earth's atmosphere to predict, with any certainty, temperature change 20-30 years out? Many knowledgeable climatologists have done credible research that does not agree with the idea of "settled science."

The Covid-19 pandemic saw the implementation of various protocols and lockdowns. Businesses were shut down, schools were closed, and people were told to stay indoors, among other directives. Not all the scientific data were taken

into account when these decisions were made. Many creditable doctors and epidemiologists were not consulted.

True science continues to probe the subject and is willing to accept valid research findings from competent sources. By coming up with a "scientific consensus," based on a political agenda or a personal bias, debate is curtailed and free speech is stifled. Money is spent and policies are implemented that lead to long-term results that are not necessarily in the best interests of the people whom they affect.

AT A CROSSROADS

By Robert Typanski - #190

Sherwood Oaks is our home.
It is located as such,
at the crossroads of two highways,
filled with people in a rush.

While at the crossroads of our existence,
with determination and persistence,
we sought a new chapter in our lives.

From a life of work and commotion,
we arrived at a new emotion.

It was one of anticipation,
of change whose time had come.
We paid attention.

We completed lives of which we're proud,
lives of striving, caring, helping, and sharing.

We learned what is important, what goes
away,
what to do now or on another day.

Now, here at Sherwood Oaks,
a new world is open to us.
One where we no longer have to fuss.

The intersection that we now face
is not to take one road or the other,
but to rise above that hectic race
and seek how to help one another.

WORTH A LOOK BOOKS NEW TO OUR LIBRARY

By Barbara Christy - #237

Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng. Fiction. It's difficult living in an authoritarian state. Nine-year-old Bird Gardner knows this – not because he has been told, but because of all the things he's not allowed to do: ask questions, make noise, draw attention to himself. For the last ten years, the State has been passing laws to “preserve American culture,” and that means he can't speak the name of his absent Chinese American mother or read any of her poetry books. He knows the penalty for children who deviate from the rules is being removed from the parents and relocated to an “approved” family, so he is obedient, even if unconvinced. But when he finds an obscure scrap of paper written in his mother's handwriting with a name and address on it, Bird is driven to find the address, find the person, and find the answers to his many questions.

F NG.

Brave Companions by David McCullough. Non-fiction. Have you ever wondered about the street in the Meeder development named Roebling? His fascinating story is included in this volume. Compiled initially for publication in 1992, this collection of magazine articles was reissued in 2022 in honor of McCullough's life and recent death. Exceptional men and women, some famous and some not, are profiled for their unique contributions to America, with vitality and appreciation that is the trademark of this award-winning local historian. Whether unknown, such as Henry Caudill, lawyer of Kentucky, or highly esteemed, such as Antoine de St-Exupéry, all come to life in these seventeen stories. 920 MCC

Treasure State by C. J. Box. Fiction. Cassie Dewell, PI, is hired to find a con man who has absconded with a fortune, while, for herself, she has taken on a challenge to find the poet who published a poem full of clues that has started a massive treasure hunt for a hidden pot of gold. Anaconda, Montana – also known as big sky country – is where Cassie ends up marveling at the scenery while dodging the dangers of other people's secrets. F BOX

A Place to Land by Lauren K. Denton. Fiction. Arriving on the doorstep of the Two Sisters Art Shop, eighteen-year-old Maya is fulfilling some strange urge to relocate to Sugar Bend, Alabama. Her grandmother died seven years ago, and she has been rootless ever since. Now, on the banks of the Little River, she begins to find a place of her own with the sisters Violet and Trudy. Trudy, a survivor of domestic abuse, and mute for the last forty years, is the artist, making sculptures from found objects, while her protective sister, Violet, runs the store. Their lives are quiet and settled, but they are burdened by a secret they share, until a long-submerged boat surfaces and drifts into town. F DEN

The Hero of This Book by Elizabeth McCracken. Fiction. Wandering the streets of London in search of memories about her mother, the author finds herself confronting questions about the future as well as reflecting on the challenges of the past. The setting is the year before the pandemic, which in retrospect was a year of calm and prosperity, when the biggest challenge was climate change. The memories are about her tiny, brilliant, obstinate mother, but the observations are all about living with love and loss. The author says, “If you want to write a memoir without writing a mem-

oir, go ahead and call it something else.”
In this case, it’s called a novel. F MCC

Fairy Tale by Stephen King. Fiction. A lonely, motherless boy and his dog. The beginning is simple, but when 17-year-old Charlie inherits his deceased neighbor’s dog, he also inherits a 90-minute cassette tape from the owner with a wild story about a parallel world whose portal is in the locked shed behind his house. According to the dead neighbor, the city was once a grand, vibrant place, but now is ruled by a terrifying god, and it is Charlie’s assignment to destroy the link before residents of earth discover that there is a rich new world to conquer. F KIN

The Measure by Nikki Erlick. Fiction. What would you do if you were offered a package with the exact date of your death inside? Sometime during one March night, every adult in the world got a small mahogany box whose contents were entirely unexpected. Each one was labeled with the recipient’s name and, on the top, in blue cursive writing, was the inscription: “The measure of your life lies within.” Inside was a piece of string, perhaps short, perhaps long. As the world shifts its focus from upcoming elections to the meaning of the strings, scientists race to test the accuracy of the “predictions.” Meanwhile, individuals confront their own choices – open their box or not, reveal their string length or not, adapt to the information or not. F ERL

Dinners with Ruth by Nina Totenberg. Non-fiction. When Nina’s husband died, Ruth was there for her. When Ruth’s husband died, Nina was there, in turn, for her. This book is a powerful account of a deep friendship that lasted 40+ years

and supported two groundbreaking women, as they forged lives that were personally fulfilling as well as professionally important. It all began when a cub reporter for *The National Observer* (Nina Totenberg) phoned an unknown law professor in New Jersey (Ruth Bader Ginsburg) to inquire about her novel theory that sex discrimination was wrong and her plans for proving it before the Supreme Court. Starting from their early childhoods and proceeding through their personal and professional lives, this is a captivating account of a very special relationship. 920 TOT

THE TREX PROJECT: UPDATE

By Ruth Inkpen - #225

The TREX project is well on the way to allowing Sherwood Oaks to earn a TREX bench for the campus. By the end of November, we will have collected over 300 pounds of plastic bags and film.

Details of the TREX project are described on Channel 950. Check it out! Kudos and thanks to Jason Lyle for creating and posting the information.

HOLIDAY CONCERT SCHEDULED

By Jean Henderson - #46

The Hand Bell Choir and the Chorus are pleased to announce a HOLIDAY CONCERT that will be presented in the Auditorium on **Sunday, Dec. 18, at 1:30 p.m.**, just before the weekly Chapel Service, which begins at 2 p.m. All residents are invited to enjoy holiday music made by fellow residents. Do come and support our campus musicians!

THE COLETTA MCKENRY LIBRARY ACCESSIONS

NONFICTION, INCLUDING LARGE TYPE

2 Sisters Detective Agency	Patterson, J. & C. Fox	c. 2021	F PAT p.b.
Blowback	Patterson, James	c. 2022	F PAT
The Book of Lost Names	Harmel, Kristin	c. 2021	F HAR
Buried Secrets	Harper, Sophie	c. 2022	F HAR
Call My Name	Ogden, Jenni	c. 2022	F OGD p.b.
The Cartographers	Shepherd, Peng	c. 2022	F SHE
A Dark and Stormy Tea	Childs, Laura	c. 2022	F CHI
Doubloon Jeopardy	Dilts, Catherine	c. 2022	F DIL
Fairy Tale	King, Stephen	c. 2022	F KIN
The Family Remains	Jewell, Lisa	c. 2022	F JEW
The Forest of Vanishing Stars	Harmel, Kristin	c. 2021	F HAR
French Braid	Tyler, Anne	c. 2022	F TYL
The Hero of This Book	McCracken, Elizabeth	c. 2022	F MCC
The Land Was Ours	Bailey, Charles Waldo	c. 2022	F BAI
The Lioness	Bohjalian, Chris	c. 2022	F BOH L.T.
Mad Honey	Picoult, J. & J. F. Boylan	c. 2022	F PIC
The Matchmaker's Gift	Loigman, Lynda Cohen	c. 2022	F LOI
The Measure	Erlick, Nikki	c. 2022	F ERL
The Memoirs of Stockholm Sven	Miller, Nathaniel Ian	c. 2021	F MIL
Mother Daughter Traitor Spy	MacNeal, Susan Elia	c. 2022	F MAC
The Nature of Fragile Things	Meissner, Susan	c. 2021	F MEI
Our Missing Hearts	Ng, Celeste	c. 2022	F NG
A Place to land	Denton, Lauren K.	c. 2022	F DEN
Righteous Prey	Sandford, John	c. 2022	F SAN
Robert B. Parker's Fallout	Lupica, Mike	c. 2022	F LUP
Rules of Engagement	Abrams, Stacey	c. 2022	F ABR L.T. p.b.
The Shadow Murders	Adler-Olsen, Jussi	c. 2022	F ADL L.T. p.b.
Sparring Partners	Grisham, John	c. 2022	F GRI
The Twelve Topsy-Turvy, Very Messy Days of Christmas	Patterson, James	c. 2022	F PAT

NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES

Brave Companions: Portraits in History	McCullough, David G.	c. 1992	920 MCC
Courage to Surrender	Steffey, George S.	c. 2016	248.4 STE p.b.
Heirs of Auschwitz	Fried, Jack	c. 2020	940.53 FRI p.b.
Lessons from Lucy: The Simple Joys of an Old, Happy Dog	Barry, Dave	c. 2019	818.602 BAR
Me and a Guy Named Elvis	Schilling, Jerry	c. 2007	927 SCH p.b.
My Shadow is My Skin: Voices from the Iranian Diaspora	Whitney, Katherine	c. 2020	305.891 WHI
The Patch	McPhee, John	c. 2018	080 MCP
Rogues: True Stories of Grifters, Killers, Rebels and Crooks	Keefe, Patrick Radden	c. 2022	364.163 KEE
This Land is Our Land: How We Lost the Right to Roam and How to Take It Back	Ilgunas, Ken	c. 2022	333.330 ILG p.b.
Trespassing Across America: One Man's Epic, Never-done-before (and sort of illegal) Hike Across the Heartland	Ilgunas, Ken	c. 2022	333 ILG p.b.

A FATAL GRACE, BY LOUISE PENNY

By Dennis Lynch - #335

Book publishers have sales reps who travel the country hustling the new books. There was a contest once upon a time for the best introductory line to peddle a new release; the winner: "This is the new book by Stephen King." The same line would work, I think, for Louise Penny, although this 2007 Agatha Award winner is not her newest book – it's #2 in a long series. If you are a long-time fan of the Three Pines series, you will surely want to read it again; if you are new to the Chief Inspector Gamache stories, this is a good place to start. Suspenseful alternates with cozy. The stock characters are all there, even the duck. What is more, you get a very interesting way to murder someone nobody in Three Pines likes, and in the middle of winter, too.

COURTYARD AT NIGHT IN NOVEMBER



Photo by Peg Rychcik

FIRST SNOW OF WINTER NOVEMBER 15, 2022

By Jim Miller - #142



Photo by Jim Miller

What's this I see as I gaze out my
door?

It's white stuff, all galore.
I think I've seen it all before.
I'll try not to look on it with horror,
Lest it fill my heart with sorrow.
Perhaps it will be gone tomorrow.

*I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until
noon. Then it's time for my nap. – Bob
Hope*

*The idea is to die young as late as possi-
ble. – Ashley Montagu, British-American
anthropologist*

*The secret of staying young is to live
honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your
age. – Lucille Ball*

*No one is as old as those who have out-
lived their enthusiasm. – Henry David
Thoreau*

Christmas Trees in Skilled Nursing Unit

December 2021



Photos by Roberta Breninghouse