

THE ACORN

SHERWOOD OAKS NEWSLETTER

100 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

www.sherwood-oaks.com

April 2023 "For the residents, by the residents" Vol. 42, No. 4

*Happy Seventh Anniversary, Dear
Sherman and Oakley...*



Photos by Debra Rittelmann
[Daughter-in-Law of Jane Rittelmann]

We're always glad to see you!

Gentle Readers:

Every time we think the pandemic is over, or almost over, something happens – specifically, someone we know gets sick. All that isolating, all that masking ... somehow, it didn't do the trick, after all. But who knows? If we hadn't done as we were told, the outcome might well have been far worse.

In my home, where I was pretty much out of commission with Covid for more than a week during the month of March, I was especially struck by the patience and forbearance evidenced by my cat, Mandy! Ordinarily extremely demanding (she does have to live up to her name, of course), she was quite gentle and patient with me (as long as her food dish was never allowed to become completely empty). We'll see how long it takes her to revert to her regular reminders to me not to forget about her.

Support from SO was also notable, specifically in terms of delivering one full meal per day. By the time you read this, however, I trust I will be back to my normal routine of exercising and editing, along with attending concerts and plays in town. May we all be so fortunate.

Rosemary Coffey, Editor

It's paradoxical that the idea of living a long life appeals to everyone, but the idea of getting old doesn't appeal to anyone.
- Andy Rooney

My mother always used to say, "The older you get, the better you get. Unless you're a banana." - Betty White

I'm at an age when my back goes out more than I do. - Phyllis Diller

APRIL CALENDAR

April Fools' Day	Apr. 1
Palm Sunday	Apr. 2
Passover	Apr. 5-13
Good Friday	Apr. 7
Easter Sunday	Apr. 9
White House Easter Egg Roll	Apr. 10
Tax Day	Apr. 18
Earth Day	Apr. 22

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

April 15, 2023.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Wayne Smith February 25, 2023

Frank Fox March 4, 2023

Carolyn Core March 11, 2023

NELSON CHEN - #104

By Jan Wendt - #158



Photo by Jan Wendt

Following a 20-year career in project management at the University of Michigan, and, after losing his wife of more than 50 years, Nelson Chen was looking for a retirement home closer to his son in Pittsburgh and his daughter in Philadelphia. Enter Randy and Betty Plant, residents of Unit #344 at Sherwood Oaks, whose daughter is married to Mr. Chen's son.

So Nelson visited a couple of times and concluded that he needn't look elsewhere. He arrived here in January and is settling in nicely. Already, he is involved in four group exercise classes!

This native of Taiwan moved to the States in 1970, with his wife. Having obtained his college education on that island-nation, he set out to complete a master's degree. Actually, he earned

two: one in Accounting, and one in Computer Science, from SUNY Binghamton. He worked in New York City for several years, before taking his growing family to Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan. Both of Nelson's children were subsequently educated at Harvard, he notes proudly.

Nelson greatly enjoyed his work in that academic environment, where his dual degrees allowed him flexibility in managing a variety of projects in both finance and information technology; in addition, his family found Ann Arbor a good place to make a home and raise children.

Nelson is pleased with his unit here, located near the Community Center. He is now closer to his 11-year-old grandson in Philadelphia, and finds our campus to be "like a garden." (I assured him it is even more so in the Spring!)

An avid chess player, he will be looking for someone to challenge him in the game of strategy he enjoys so much. "In that game, you must stay three moves ahead, always," he notes.

When in grad school, Nelson says a new friend found his given Taiwanese first name impossible to pronounce and suggested he take a more American first name. "Well, I thought," says Nelson, "this is the land of freedom! I can do that." He asked his friend, "Should I go small or go big with the name?"

His friend said, "Go big. The biggest name in New York state is Nelson Rockefeller, the governor." So, Nelson it was.

When you see him out and about, welcome the "guvnor" with a tip of your hat. Then, perhaps, challenge him to a game of chess.

JOHN AND JAN PASUIT - #218

By Jan Wendt - #158



Photo by Jan Wendt

Their parents lived on the same street in Mount Lebanon, and both dads worked for US Steel. He's the first guy she ever dated, after she asked him to a Sadie Hawkins dance. She's a St. Louis Cardinals mega-fan and he is wild about classic cars. They both are World War II buffs. And then, there are the four cats.

But let's back up. John and Jennifer (she prefers "Jan") Pasuit (PAH-soo-it) moved here in January from Economy Borough, where they had lived for 45 years. Jan is a retired teacher/school administrator, with degrees from Ohio University, Slippery Rock, and Pitt. John worked in PR for Babcock and Wilcox, following graduation from Penn State. After the company folded, he did media work for a few other companies, then sold cars for ten years. His favorite part was driving into the wilds of north-central PA to deliver auto parts.

It was her choice to come here, but he is warming up to the idea. Their extended family includes Jan's sister in Bethel Park, along with two nieces, three grandnieces, and one grandnephew. Closer to home is "the herd": felines Maggie, Baby, Emily, and Aiden.

After retiring from education, Jan went to CompUSA to learn more about computers, got hooked, and was hired to teach. With a talent for sharing her computer knowledge with adults, she would enjoy helping others at Sherwood Oaks with photos and other online graphics. Jan has also taught adult Bible study at her church in Beaver.

John's ancestors are Polish and Ukrainian. He is an Air Force vet, having served state-side during Vietnam. Having played rugby in college, he recalls a particular match in Washington, D.C., in the Spring of 1963, when a line of limousines pulled up to the field, and JFK emerged to watch and chat with John for a bit.

He's a Steeler fan (the Pirates, not so much these days), but his passion is classic cars, especially MGs. In high school, he and a friend assembled, from parts, an MGTD in their Mt. Lebanon garage.

Jan has a great-grandfather who served in the Civil War, and she has carefully researched his time in the Union's First Missouri Light Artillery Battery G. Jan's Missouri roots are deep, her parents both having been born and raised there. For years, she returned to spend summers with family, describing that time as "the best in my life." Those years are likely also responsible for her St. Louis Cardinals fanaticism. Ask her about the time she returned to Busch Stadium to cheer on Mark McGwire in his homerun race, her ticket provided moments before the game by a perfect stranger!

You'll be certain to find a topic of mutual interest and other connections to this delightful couple. Welcome, John and Jan!

CHAPEL NOTES

By Gary Brandenberger - #602
For the Chapel Committee

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

Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend.

Sunday, April 2

Rev. David Paul
Calvin Presb. Ch., Zelienople

Maundy Thursday, April 6, at 4 p.m., Communion

Rev. Alick Kennedy
Sherwood Oaks

Friday, April 7 - Tenebrae Service 4 p.m.

Rev. Jean Henderson
Sherwood Oaks

Sunday, April 9 - Easter Service

Rev. James Gascoine
Dutilh UMC (Retired)

Sunday, April 16

To be determined

Sunday, April 23

Rev. Tom Parkinson
Dutilh UMC

Sunday, April 30

Rev. Beth Wierman
U.P. Zion/1st Lutheran, Ambridge

*"Avoid irreverent, empty speech, for this
will produce an even greater measure of
godlessness."*

2 Timothy 2:16

Pablo Picasso once said, "The purpose
of art is washing the dust of daily life off
of our souls."

from *Successful Farming*

WHEN PEOPLE ARE LIKE PRESENTS

By Jan Wendt - #158

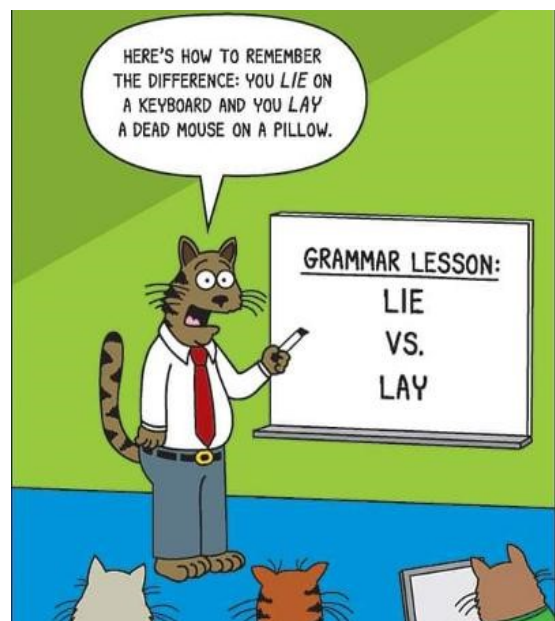
One of the joys of living at Sherwood Oaks is meeting a variety of new and interesting people, as folks join our community. *The Acorn* does its part to introduce newcomers to you through the profiles included in most issues.

To prepare the profiles, the staff and I meet with folks about one to two months after they move in and, in a low key interview, find out about their lives before Sherwood Oaks, explore why they chose to come here, and uncover interesting travels, unique hobbies, or experiences they'd like to share.

I have likened these interviews to unwrapping a gift! You may have seen the wrapping, but it's always a pleasure to uncover what's inside! It turns out that everyone at Sherwood Oaks has an interesting story.

So, if you find it stimulating to make new acquaintances, do consider joining *The Acorn* profiles crew. If writing isn't your greatest skill, do not let that dissuade you! Our editors can tighten that up!

If you are intrigued and want to know more, please get in touch with Rosemary Coffey at #8113 or Jan Wendt at #8158.



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

By Jane Lohman, Secretary - #717

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

Data from minutes for the March 7, 2023, monthly board meeting:

SORA Treasurers: Memorial/Special Projects Fund balance is \$50,953.52. The Employee Appreciation Fund balance is \$17,620.07. The SORA bank balance is \$87,763.48.

Liaison Reports:

Gift Shop renovation has been completed and it has reopened.

Maintenance: Roofing and painting contractors to begin in Spring.

Security and Transportation: New bus schedule is in effect. Mike Mills is leaving, so new head of security is being sought.

Farm Gardens: Several new raised beds are being added.

Civic Affairs: Voter registration tables to be set up in mid-March.

Trips and Tours: Two activities scheduled: Celtic Tenors and a restaurant visit.

Landscaping: Ann Ferguson and Rae Zuberbuhler were elected Co-chairs of the committee.

Recycling: Volunteers are needed to sort plastic in Unit 185 on Mondays at 1:00.

Dining Committee: Procedures are in place for hosting visitors in dining room.

Curio Cabinets: March/April theme is "Tea for Two."

Painting Class: Dorothy Fitzpatrick has resigned, and Barbara Dixon is interim chair.

Program: Gretchen van Hoesen, Principal harpist of the Pittsburgh Symphony, will present a program with several students on March 28.

Bible Study: Residents enjoyed a virtual tour of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

Focus on the World: Program scheduled in mid-March by Prime Stage Theatre. Lighthouse Foundation food drive in April. Larry Schweiger, past president of the National Wildlife Fed. and Western PA Conservancy, will speak on April 20 in connection with Earth Day.

Executive Director: Census: IL 187/242 — 4 homes are under contract; SN 31/43 (5-star CMS rating); PC: 29/42; OGC: 30/30. Auditorium project start date moved to May 30.

Representatives from Charter Homes and Cranberry Township met with Gary Whoric regarding drainage onto Sherwood Oaks property.

Oak Grove Center named winner of 2023 Ron Yount Compassionate Care Award. Ceremony to be live-streamed in the auditorium on **Mar. 29 at 4:00 p.m.**

Old Business: Frank Finley is upgrading Committee/Activities rosters. Jean Henderson is overseeing Artscape, a display of items handcrafted by residents to be held on April 13. Maintenance Committee is working on a plan to improve 3 miles of walkways on campus.

New Business: Board approved appointment of 5 residents to form Nominating Committee for upcoming election: Kathie McCormick (chair), Dan Cindric, Rosemary Coffey, Janet Desko, and Jason Lyle. Election will be held on May 23.

Visitors' Comments: Jeanne Hvidding expressed concerns about the condition of some of the walkways. Joanne Weiss addressed the issue of unwanted phone calls from electric companies: the simplest solution is, don't answer or hang up.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. All Residents are welcome.

ARTS, CRAFTS, SHOPWORK, AND HORTICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

By Gary Brandenberger - #602

One of the many reasons folks come to Sherwood Oaks is to enjoy the large variety of hobby activities that are possible here, and that are available to everyone. Practically every hobby or interest anyone can think of has been practiced and encouraged here at Sherwood Oaks.

Residents frequently donate their equipment and supplies to the Arts and Crafts Studios and the Workshops. In addition, SORA and Sherwood Oaks have purchased new equipment to facilitate the pursuit of new interests. (We even have a kiln!)

Over the years, interests in different activities "ebb and flow," and as a result a few of our hobby areas are underutilized. There are folks who have always considered trying something new when they retired. Those who do enjoy it tremendously and wonder why they waited so long. This is your home, and these resources are all

available to you. Give it a try! You will be impressed with all the facilities that are available to you.

In addition to almost every indoor hobby, we have a recently remodeled greenhouse, a conveniently raised garden area, and a myriad of opportunities to plant and maintain flower gardens. Sherwood Oaks is well known for its beauty, and residents play an important role.

We will schedule an Open House in the near future to guide all interested folks to various areas where you will see the facilities and meet residents who will help you get started. As a 'kickoff' to this effort, please read the article by Barbara Dixon, who is opening up the Art Studio for you to see the possibilities there (see p. 8).

SOAPP SPRING CLEANING

By Lynn Cox - #333

The Resident Directory is one of the handiest features on the Sherwood Oaks app (SOapp). It puts the names, permanent addresses, and contact details of Sherwood Oaks friends and neighbors at your fingertips via your phone or tablet. To help you stay in touch on the go, we've recently "cleaned up" the address information about every resident in the app to match that in the latest printed directory.

Remember that you can always edit your own information in the SOapp resident directory to update your address and contact info or to tell people more about yourself. You can get help anytime to download the app or update your profile by contacting Jason Lyle (8293). Also, Scott Desmond is available in the Computer Lab on Monday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until noon to help you download SOapp and get started.

COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #715

After years of sowing denial, doubt, and delay, in 1998 'Big Tobacco' agreed to an out-of-court settlement, in the minimum amount of \$206 billion over 25 years, with the attorneys general of 46 states. The payments have been used by the states primarily to recover medical costs associated with smoking. So that means \$206 billion for smoke-related illnesses to be given to 4.2% of the world's population.

Now, let's think about the damage that the climate crisis is causing to all 8 billion of us everywhere on the planet. Not only are we suffering from health-related issues because of fossil fuel emissions in the atmosphere, but the effects of drought, fire, flood, and wind damage from more powerful tornadoes and hurricanes are increasingly incurring immense costs. Moreover, let's not forget the mass extinction now happening all around us because of a warming planet. It's easy to see why Big Oil is using subterfuge to put off being held accountable for the disastrous effects of its fossil fuel emissions.

Delay, Part Three of *The Power of Big Oil*, investigates how, even as the warnings about climate change grew, the U.S. re-emerged as one of the world's biggest oil and gas producers, and the fossil fuel industry worked to delay the transition to renewable energy sources — including by promoting natural gas as a cleaner alternative. But as the country was entering a gas boom, a former Exxon Mobil engineer admits that the industry wasn't monitoring for methane leaks that could turbo-charge the climate crisis.

As it brings the Big Oil series to a close, *Delay* unpacks the Obama, Trump, and Biden administrations' actions on climate change; explores what may happen next; and examines what's at stake.

Watch *The Power of Big Oil – Part Three – Delay* on Channel 951 on Mon., April 10, at 10:00 am, 3:30 pm, or 7:00 pm.

THE NEW ART STUDIO

By Barbara Dixon - #335

The old Painting Studio, now the Art Studio, is embarking on a new and exciting venture free to all Sherwood Oaks residents. Come visit with me, Barbara Dixon, down in our studio to learn more about the various new and fun ways of self-expression on paper and/or canvas. Seasoned artists, as well as beginners, might be intrigued by art techniques new to the studio, such as acrylic pour painting, acrylic string painting, scratch-board art, and calligraphy.

Artists' camaraderie is a major plus factor in this "no criticism" studio, where helpful suggestions are offered only upon request. Talking with residents sharing similar interests is a great way to spend a few hours and potentially make some new friends.

The **ART STUDIO**, located on the Center's lower level off the Craft Room (follow the signs), has everything to get anyone started with most kinds of paper or canvas art. However, we do discourage oil painting in the studio due to the odor of the paints and cleaning solvents.

Stop down to one of the open houses to see the many techniques we have to offer. Let me know what looks interesting to you and I'll get things set up for you. Come try something one day – then come back and try something else another time. Feel free to experiment with whatever looks like fun. If you find a technique that you really like, you may eventually want to purchase your own tools and materials. I will help you to the best of my ability, although I'm not a trained artist and there will not be any official classes. I will also show you how to clean up so that the studio remains ready for everyone's use and enjoyment.

ART STUDIO OPEN HOUSES

Monday, April 17 – 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Monday, April 24 – 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Monday, May 1 – 1 to 3:30 p.m.

AN INVITATION TO OUR MISSING FRIENDS

From the Dining Committee

By Christiane Majeski - #191

It's another day, which means there's another chance to meet for dinner

AND SOCIALIZE!

But for some of us, it seems so easy just to relax at home, not to have to get dressed up, and be able to "eat in"!

As for those who do make the trip to the dining room, they find many empty chairs and are left to hope that the warmer spring weather will fill the tables again with everyone's chatter and laughter. There are just so many good reasons for joining in with this socialization:

Main purpose: Providing interaction with friends, a basic element to living with others and promoting emotional skills within our society.

How we socialize best: By expressing a motivation, starting a conversation, practicing listening, offering compliments, talking to strangers (i.e., newcomers), asking open-ended questions.

Other benefits: Staving off feelings of loneliness while increasing a sense of happiness, well-being, and belonging.

The impact: Providing the means by which we gradually become able to see ourselves through the eyes of others!



A commander walks into a bar and orders everyone around.

I lost my job as a stage designer. I left without making a scene.

Never buy flowers from a monk. Only you can prevent florist friars.

BASIC ELECTION INFORMATION 2023

By Dan Cindric - #107

Civic Affairs Committee Chair

The Primary Election this year is on May 16. It is called a *Municipal Election* because it involves Butler County and Cranberry Township positions. In addition, there may be questions on the ballot, but that has not yet been determined. Pennsylvania is a closed primary state, which means that you can vote only for candidates in the party in which you are registered.

You may have heard or read about special elections for three PA House seats and one PA Senate seat. None of these is in our districts. District 12 is our PA House District (Rep. Stephanie Scialabba - R), and District 47 is our PA Senate District (Sen. Elder Vogel, Jr. - R).

If you are already registered to vote, you do not have to register again in Pennsylvania unless you have changed your address or your name, or want to change your political party. If you do need to register, the last day to do so before the Primary Election is May 1. If you need to request a mail-in ballot, the last day to apply is May 9. Both registration and mail-in ballot application forms will be available from Civic Affairs Committee tables in the Community Center in March and April, dates to be determined.

You now have the option to request to be added to the annual mail-in ballot request list, where **you'll receive an application to renew your mail-in ballot request each year**. Once your request is approved, you will automatically receive ballots for the remainder of the year, and you **do not** need to submit an application for each election. This option is on the mail-in ballot application form.

SOME THOUGHTS ON READING BOOKS

By Richard J. Cox - #333

I have been a reader all my life. It is only in the last few years, as my eyesight has deteriorated, that my rate of reading has declined noticeably. Even with this problem, I still appreciate the feel of books, their shape, the color reproductions offered by art books, and other such attributes. I do prefer printed books, but I am not opposed to reading electronic books, or reading online, or listening to audiobooks as alternative approaches.

For me, the bigger question is the health of reading. Should we be worried that reading is on the decline in society? How can that be, one asks, with all those universities, publishers (print and virtual), and bookstores? There is, however, evidence all around those ivy-covered walls that reading is in trouble. Students seem uneasy, or hostile, when assigned a book as required reading for a course. Faculty sit huddled over their laptops and smartphones during meetings, trying to act as if what they are staring at is relevant (as, of course, sometimes it is).

Every field now indicates that its main contributions will come through brief research articles, packaged as if the findings of experiments, article quantity, and/or citation counts are the chief measures of one's worth (along with tuition and grant revenue generated). Short-term projects have become the norm, and long-term projects, such as writing books, often sit on the sidelines. What has caused this? More importantly, what are the implications for education, knowledge creation, and society?

Books and libraries are important repositories of knowledge and symbols of civilization. Books are burned and libraries bombed because of their symbolic and memory value. But reading books is what makes all this possible, something reaffirmed by the history of using books as propaganda in wartime. Books may be symbols, but for their greatest impact they must

be read. We must allow the words to wash over us in order to be pulled into the pages of a book, to escape the fast pace of our routine lives so that we can reflect on our lives and their meaning. Our personal libraries should reveal ourselves and our past.

What would we lose if we ceased reading? An increasing number of studies and reflections on re-reading amply underscores the importance of reading as a part of our lives.

David L. Ulin, a book critic, offers up many comments about what we might lose if we stopped reading. For example, "Reading ... [is] perhaps the only act in which we allow ourselves to merge with the consciousness of another human being." (*The Lost Art of Reading: Why Books Matter in a Distracted Time*, p. 16, Sasquatch Books, 2010). From reading books, new ideas emerge, and from these ideas comes new knowledge.

Academics, scholars, writers, and pundits enjoy, even if they deny it, complaining about the decline of reading and literacy. I like to imagine, during the cold winter nights, people huddled under blankets in their Sherwood Oaks homes, reading a good mystery, a volume of poetry, a superb history, or a favorite work read years before – and then discussing it with friends over lunch or dinner, describing its relevance to what is happening presently in their lives or in the world. Our homes may be much smaller here, but they can be jammed with books that reflect who we are, where we came from, and what our values are. Books are the evidence of our lives, evidence that is far more significant than bookmarked websites, text messages, or the flickering images of anything found in cyberspace.

Happy reading!

What do you say to comfort a friend who's struggling with grammar? There, their, they're.

Just so everyone's clear, I'm going to put my glasses on.

From **FOCUS ON THE WORLD**

By Bruce Cooper - #715

In January, over \$400 in cash and eight large boxes of food were donated to The Lighthouse Foundation.

The next food drive will occur **April 13-20**, with delivery to The Lighthouse Foundation on April 21. Please put food items in the boxes located on the bench in the scooter room. 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 small box marked for money donations or in Cubby 715.

The current list of preferred food items is as follows:

- Whole Wheat Pasta
- Cooking oil (any type, but olive oil is preferred)
- Condiments (ketchup, mustard, relish, light mayo, etc.)
- Packs of tuna, chicken, or salmon
- Can openers
- Box of instant or scalloped potatoes
- Peanut butter/Sunflower butter
- Canned fruit (especially pineapple)
- Shelf-stable milk
- Gluten-free items
- Pasta/spaghetti sauce
- Skillet meals (Hamburger Helper)
- Cereals
- Mac 'N' Cheese
- Jelly (any flavor)
- Broth (chicken, beef, vegetable)
- Soups/Chili/Stew
- Bottles of juice

This year, Earth Day will occur on Saturday, April 22. On **Thurs., Apr. 20**, Focus on the World will present Larry Schweiger, as he looks "For the Nature of Tomorrow." Larry Schweiger has an impressive résumé. He is the Past President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Wildlife Federation, PennFuture, and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. He is a board member of Climate Reality and One Green Thing. He is also the award-winning author of two books dealing with the climate crisis: *Last Chance: Preserving Life on Earth* (2009) and *Climate Crisis and Corrupt Politics* (2019).

Please plan to join Larry Schweiger in the auditorium on Thursday, April 20, at 7:00 pm.



My very first pure bread dog. He just loafs around the house all day. Maybe he has a yeast infection. I have no dough left to spend on him. At first I thought he was the greatest thing since sliced bread, but he's so kneady. I can't get him to rise in the morning. If he doesn't smarten up, he's toast.



JUST TO LET YOU KNOW:

HACK 'EM BACK

By Ann Ferguson - #269

Hi, Fellow Humans at Sherwood Oaks!

With at least 400 people here, there will be 400 opinions. Three of us (Tony, Amy, and Ann), with the same opinion, went to work recently on the yews. The deer had eaten the foliage as far back as they could reach, so we decided this was a good year to really cut the yews back, since they had not been pruned nearly enough or as often as needed. We are now working in about a three-year renewal growth time frame.

Moreover, there are other shrubs that will be severely cut back to push new growth for a more fully foliated plant. The fun in gardening is to see the change each year. Do join us as we watch the plants renew their green foliage. Please be patient, and remember, sometimes things don't grow the way the textbook says they will, due to variations in sunlight, water, temperature, and age. Just like us!

Catherine Wagner (#731) is proud to share the news that her 14-year-old granddaughter, Anastasia Ava Wagner, a classically trained pianist, received a Certificate of Excellence from Lincoln Center in New York City for her performance on its Steinway piano on December 3, 2002.



SHERWOOD OAKS GOLF GROUP

By Gary Brandenberger - #602



We expect to resume our golf group as soon as the weather permits. The Cranberry Highlands Golf Course is once again providing us Thursday morning tee times every week, except when the course is closed for events. When this happens, they will try to provide another day, which is usually Wednesday. Our tee times start about 9:30 a.m., and we usually reserve four times.

Any Sherwood Oaks resident is welcome to participate. Men and women golfers can play 9 or 18 holes. The course "programs" our golf carts to provide more convenient access. The only request they make is that we keep up with the pace of play. This has never been a problem in the past.

I will notify you by email over the preceding weekend of the tee times "Cranberry" is assigning to us. Please respond via (<gbrandenberger@webtv.net>) as soon as you decide whether you are playing **or not**. I will arrange the groups by Tuesday afternoon and let you know what they are, again by email. Unused tee times will be released back to the course. When we have Wednesday times, we back everything up by one day.

Please let me know by email if you expect to participate this year. This will allow me to ensure that I have your correct address. It would also be helpful to have your phone numbers for any last-minute changes.

WHAT'S UP WITH PICKLEBALL?

By Denton Bond - #736

Currently, we have 12 regular players who are laughing, exercising, and learning the game! We are hoping for more players to come and join in the fun. I tease about "cheating," but *almost* all the players are honest in keeping score. We remind each other that the game is not for money – relax and enjoy yourself. If you have good mobility, come and give the game a try.

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons are when we will be looking for you! Please find the sign-up sheet in the mail room, or just come. Some of the times are for novices, and some are for experienced players. We even have residents who come to watch, and we do welcome visitors. Join the action!

THE DESTINY OF MAN

By Robert Typanski - #190

I sit in contemplative solitude,
pondering the meaning of life,
Biding my time as it creeps by,
Waiting for the arrival of my wife.

In the past I'd become agitated,
being ready for an appointment,
Feeling restless as I waited,
The air filled with disappointment.

Then I pondered this situation,
while hoping to end this station,
Thinking of the time that is wasted
by man, as for woman he waited.

I soon realized, it's God's plan
that started in the Garden of Eden.
In order to have man be mated,
for woman to arrive ... he waited.

CURIO CABINETS FOR MAY

By Janet Desko - #210

I raise a cup to all the Sherwood Oaks residents who supported our Curio theme of "Tea For Two." As always, it is a pleasure to work with you, as you bring down your wonderful treasures!

Thinking ahead, I am hereby giving everyone the dates and theme for the May Curio Cabinets.

Peggy Meister and I will be ready for you, as our May idea will be a celebration of **"MOMS – PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE."**

You may want to think about photos, collectibles, handiwork, antique items, anything related to your mother, you as a mother, or your grandchildren's mother. Do you still have those refrigerator drawings? Maybe you have needlepoint, cross stitch, or doilies from Mom?

Please pick up your "Tea For Two" items currently in the cabinets on **May 2 from 10:30–noon and 4:30–6:00 p.m.**

Then, on **May 4**, please bring in your new items from **10:30–noon and 4:30–6:00** for the theme of **"MOMS – PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE."**

Thank you for all your help: we couldn't do it without you.

Scientists got together to study the effects of alcohol on a person's walk, and the result was staggering.

I'm trying to organize a hide-and-seek tournament, but good players are really hard to find.

I got over my addiction to chocolate, marshmallows, and nuts. I won't lie, it was a rocky road.

LIVING WITH LOSS LEARNINGS


by Jean Henderson - #346

[Adapted with Permission]

A recent article in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (Jan. 30, 2023) by Julian Gray and Frank Petrich, owners of Gray Elder Law, offered helpful suggestions of what to do immediately and what not to do when someone dies. They specify some common-sense steps to take:

- First, call your lawyer, who can assist you with necessary next steps.
- Don't close the decedent's bank account. If it is jointly owned or if death adjustment deposits need to be made, it should stay open.
- Don't immediately enter a bank safe deposit box. In PA, if the box is owned solely by the decedent, it must be opened by appointment by the executor and in the presence of a revenue officer.
- Don't access the decedent's IRA and transfer it to the beneficiaries. IRS tax planning options disappear if IRS rules applicable to the decedent and beneficiaries are ignored.
- Don't immediately probate the Will. Some of the decedent's assets may not need the appointment of an executor to pass title to the heir(s). Or the estate assets may be less than the outstanding debts owed, which means that the executor takes on the role of bill collector.

Indeed, all situations are different, so when the family is ready to meet with the lawyer, a thorough review of the decedent's affairs can begin.



GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

By Jean Henderson - #346

[Revised from last month]

The annual Good Friday Tenebrae Service, presented by the Chapel Committee, will be held on **Fri., Apr. 7, 2023, beginning at 4 p.m.**, in the Auditorium/Card Room. Leading the service will be resident Rev. Dr. Jean H. Henderson, pianist Jan Wendt, Acolyte Gary Brandenberger, and cantor Timothy Heavner.

The Office of Tenebrae (meaning darkness or shadows) dates back to the 7th century A.D. It is characterized by the extinguishing of candles as the service progresses with hymns, prayers, and Scripture readings, this year from the gospel of Matthew. Please join us for this somber devotion as we prepare for Easter Sunday.

WORTH A LOOK

BOOKS NEW TO OUR LIBRARY

By Barbara Christy - #237

South to America by Imani Perry. Non-fiction. Perry introduces her book by saying that she didn't make the rules but she is trying to tell them to us. Comparing life in the South to understanding a French Quadrille, she says you must focus on one part, one couple, to see how they interact, initiate, and follow. Thus she starts her exploration of the South she grew up in with the description of a ball held in New Orleans in 1804 to celebrate the purchase of Louisiana with Spanish, indigenous, Creole, and American attendees. In an effort to help the rest of us understand the South, she tells stories about specific elements – upper-crust Virginia, John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry, horse-

racing in Kentucky, etc. – with a wonderfully evocative prose that is absolutely captivating. 975 PER

Descent into Darkness by Cdr. Edward C. Raymer. Non-fiction. Despite being an “elderly” book (c. 1996), this is a gripping account of the Navy and civilian divers, engineers, and Naval Shipyard personnel who were assigned to save lives and salvage ships in the aftermath of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. It was written by retired Commander Raymer, who was one of the first Navy divers to arrive on the scene. The descriptions of the hellish underwater conditions, with unexploded ordinance, floating bodies, and twisted metal everywhere, the accounts of creating solutions for unimagined dangers, and the stories of after-hours hijinks with “babes” and others bring the war to life in vivid detail. 940.53 RAY

The Queen by Andrew Morton. Non-fiction. For royal lovers everywhere, this book covers the life of Queen Elizabeth from birth through the departure of the Sussexes from royal duties. Morton includes thoughtful analysis of the meaning of her reign and speculation about changes that may come under the new king, Charles III. 941.08 MOR

Maame by Jessica George. Fiction. Maddie has an unconventional family – her mother lives in Ghana, and care of her Parkinson’s afflicted father is Maddie’s responsibility – which is limiting her life and ability to become an independent adult. When the opportunity to move out and begin living for herself arrives, she takes it and starts having all kinds of new experiences, including a dating life. But being black and bicultural in London carries joys and burdens she will have to learn to manage. F GEO

Someone Else’s Shoes by JoJo Moyes. Fiction. Nisha, an unwanted wife of eighteen years, is suddenly tossed out of her wealthy, comfortable life on her ear. Denied access to her penthouse apartment and all the luxury and security it provided, she is now homeless, credit card-less, and even shoeless, since her gym bag at the fitness center has been taken mistakenly. Sam, a sales rep for a printing company, is struggling to provide for her out-of-work husband and irritable teen-age daughter. Then she ends up with the wrong gym bag and Nisha’s missing six-inch Christian Lamboutin red crocodile heels, and no shoes of her own. Forced to wear the fancy shoes, she discovers how differently she is perceived by her clients and her boss. Both women have their lives changed by the change in their clothes. F MOY

Signal Fires by Dani Shapiro. Fiction. Three drunken teenagers get into a car and their world changes forever. Also changed forever is Dr. Ben Wilf, who arrives on the scene to render aid to the passengers, two of whom are his children, Sarah and Theo. His daughter lies about who was driving and it is never questioned, but the family secret is buried deep and, though never talked about, it is always there. Twenty years later, the Schenkman family moves in next door and, before he officially meets them, Ben is called upon to deliver their baby in a precipitate birth. Ten years later still, Ben befriends this same child, now 10 years old, a wonky, lonely boy more comfortable naming the constellations than playing with other kids. The ways in which the lives of both families become entwined are evocative and haunting. F SHA

When the ghosts were getting ready to take over the residents' dining room...



By Jesse Komara, Service/Catering Manager

We couldn't say we weren't warned!