

THE ACORN

SHERWOOD OAKS NEWSLETTER

100 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

www.sherwood-oaks.com

May 2023 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. 42, No. 5

OAK GROVE CENTER STAFFERS WIN ...



Photo by Jan Wendt

Top row: Amy McNear, Pam Scott, Fen Hou, Karen Obringer, Jodi Botinovch, Lori Greer (Personal Care Administrator)

Bottom row: Cindi Beahm, Mary Baird, Bethany Martin, Traci McKinnis

... THE 2023 RON YOUNT COMPASSIONATE CARE AWARD

(See page 9 for details.)

Gentle Readers: *Recently, working with the Sherwood Oaks Chorus in preparation for the Spring concert, I've felt that the chorus is something of a metaphor for the Sherwood community as a whole.*

Since Covid, the number of singers has decreased noticeably. The remaining musicians, though, are a sturdy, if sometimes squeaky, bunch. One comes from the Oak Grove to offer his mellow baritone; another can't see well, but works hard on her own time to learn the words and the music. We've all lost a few notes from our range, as time and age take their toll. Our director, too, has had her share of illness and challenge, but faithfully appears every Wednesday, in good humor, to propel us along.

I am reminded daily that at Sherwood Oaks we're all giving it what we've got: sorting plastic to save the environment, showing up for drama club rehearsals, submitting articles to The Acorn, working in the Gift Shop, getting ourselves to Chorus practice on Wednesdays, and lots more.

Here's a verse from songwriter Leonard Cohen that seems relevant:

*Ring the bells you still can ring.
Forget your perfect offering.
There is a crack in everything;
That's how the light gets in.*

In this season of long light, ring your bells and relish it all.

- Jan Wendt, for the Editors

Memorial Donations and Remembrance Cards

Did you know? Donation envelopes and remembrance cards are located on the memorial table in the lobby. The donation envelope lists many options to choose from when contributing in memory of a resident or loved one. Remembrance cards can be filled out and placed in cubby #346; they will be collected and given to the spouse/family.

MAY CALENDAR

May Day	May 1
Cinco de Mayo	May 5
National Fitness Day	May 6
Mother's Day	May 14
Ascension Day	May 18
Shavuot	May 26
Pentecost	May 28
Memorial Day	May 29

THE ACORN

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

May 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.

Ernest Jones Jr.

March 29, 2023

JOHN and LIZ HAYTER - #111

By Jean Henderson - #611



Photos by Scott Vogel

To paraphrase: “You can take folks out the Midwest, but you can’t take the Midwest out of the folks!”

John was born in Manhattan, Kansas, but grew up in Missouri, attended college at South West Missouri State and Stephens College in Columbia (where he studied acting), worked at the College of the Ozarks in Branson as the assistant director of aviation, and later worked at the Silver Dollar City Theme Park in Branson. Furthermore, as a pilot, he flew commercially all over the Midwest!

Liz was born in Missouri, also attended SWMS, and worked for Montgomery Ward as a visual merchandiser in Springfield, the first female to hold that position for MW in the entire country.

Liz and John met at the Silver Dollar Amusement Park, where he was piloting a plane and she was the display coordinator for the 1880s marketplace and all the theme park festivals. They married in 1983 in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, at Thorncrown, the famous glass chapel designed by E. Fay Jones.

After a health scare at age 37, John began his career in aviation insurance in Dallas, which took the couple to Virginia and then to Pennsylvania in 1994. Their home was in Ohio Township near Ben Avon Heights, before they moved to Sherwood Oaks.

Their immediate family consists of their cat, Kenzie. They also have several siblings living in Kentucky, Ohio, and Missouri.

John enjoys history and the study of coins, tokens, and related items (numismatics), and has been active with the North Hills Coin Club. Currently, he is the fulltime caregiver for Liz, following her stroke in 2021, with resulting aphasia – a brain disorder where a person has trouble speaking or understanding other people speaking. Her recovery has been amazing. A special friend to the Hayters has been our own Dr. David Nace, with UPMC Senior Care.

Liz and John enjoy having dinner at the Community Center and look forward to meeting their new neighbors. Their lovely patio home is filled with interesting art and furniture. I anticipate spending time with them again soon, and I know you’ll enjoy them, too!

The happiest moments of my life have been the few which I have passed at home in the bosom of my family. – Thomas Jefferson

The most extraordinary thing in the world is two ordinary people and their ordinary children. – Gilbert K. Chesterton

VERNA KORADE - #714

By Connie Brandenberger – #602



Photo by Scott Vogel

Verna is a “home town” girl! She lived on the Northside until she graduated from Allegheny High School. Immediately following, her first job was as a file clerk at Pittsburgh Heat Treating plant in Lawrenceville, PA, where she worked until she and her husband, Al, began their family. She had known Al as a neighborhood friend for nine years before they married in 1962. Al died two years ago, after a marriage that lasted for 58 years.

Verna is a woman of many interests, hobbies, and anything else that keeps her hands and mind active. Since golfing is one of her favorite pastimes, she is a member of the Amity Traveling Ladies Golf League. (We hope she will join the group of golfers here at Sherwood Oaks who play at the Cranberry Highlands Golf Course.) She also enjoys crafts, cross stitch, crossword puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, and playing cards and games. Once she settles into her apartment, she intends to take advantage of some of these opportunities at Sherwood Oaks.

It was hard for Verna to move after living in their McCandless Township home for 55 years. However, she is glad she chose Sherwood Oaks so that she can be near her children and grandchildren. She is fortunate that her three daughters live in Wexford, Pine Township, and Robinson Township, the last being the one who “crossed the river.” Along with her seven grandchildren, the daughters have all been very supportive of the move and helpful with the transition.

Verna and Al enjoyed traveling during their 58 years together. They went on many cruises. Of particular interest was traveling to Alaska on a land and sea cruise and to the Panama Canal. They also cruised the Amazon and the Mediterranean. It was very special taking vacations with each of their three daughters and their children to Disney World, coupled with Disney Cruises.

Before Al’s retirement, they entered a joint venture business with a friend and his wife. They established Elegant Interiors by David, and the two wives did some of the sewing of draperies. That lasted 6 years. After “Elegant” closed, Verna worked at Hills Department store on Perry Highway, where the Community College is now located. She stayed with Hills when the store relocated to the North Hills Village Mall and retired after 15 years of service.

Verna finds all her neighbors quite helpful in “showing her the ropes” here at Sherwood Oaks, and observes that the staff is very responsive. She feels that this was the right move for her at the right time. Welcome, Verna!

The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved: loved for ourselves, or rather, loved in spite of ourselves. - Victor Hugo

ARTHUR and LINDA SOMMER - #115

By Harriet Burress - #112



Photos by Scott Vogel

Moving across the state or even across the country to be near family is something often heard here at Sherwood Oaks as an explanation of why people have come here. That is exactly what Linda and Arthur Sommer did when they left their home of 48 years in Lancaster, PA, to be near a son and his family. Their older son lives in Idaho, with his wife and son, on the Nez Percé Indian reservation, where he manages a salmon hatchery. "It was just too remote for us. He had to travel several hours by helicopter to reach a hospital for surgical needs," Linda said. Arthur added, "We knew we wanted to be in the Pittsburgh area and did internet searches of retirement communities. S. O. is a nice surprise. We did not expect it to be so great."

Linda and Arthur met on a triple blind date when she was 16 and he, 18. She said, "I was not allowed to date until I was 16." Sound familiar? They grew up in New York in separate boroughs – she in Queens, and he in Brooklyn. Arthur received his BA in biology from Queens College, his dental degree (DMD) from Tufts University, MA, and a certificate in Periodontology from the Boston University School of Graduate Dentistry. Before he practiced for 48 years in Lancaster, he served two years as a dentist for the

USAF. Arthur "wanted to do something useful," and his volunteer efforts have been extraordinary. He helped develop a clinic at a mission in Lancaster, and, after 9/11, joined a federal victim identification team under Homeland Security, on which he served until he retired.

He and Linda are members of a Reformed Jewish Congregation where he served on the board – 3 years as president – and played the flute in the "Chopped Liver River Band." (Ask Arthur about the background of this most unusual title!)

Being very modest in her biography notes, Linda admitted to her preparation for "many varied" occupations, most recently in nuclear medicine technology. "I used my Master's degree in counseling from Millersville University, as patients were given the radioactive injections by very smart doctors using special cameras." Her BA was from Stony Brook University in psychology and education.

Linda and Arthur are literally world travelers, having completed a 4½-month around-the-world cruise just before Covid. They have traveled extensively, as is exemplified in their two lovely curio cabinets containing many items from unusual places. When they were downsizing, a friend was asked why he kept all of his unique pieces from his travels. The friend answered, "Each one is a memory." That is how the Sommers feel. Of particular interest is a small replica of a nomad's home – "the first travel trailer." One of their tours took them through "the Stans" along the Silk Road, where spices and silk were brought from China into the West. This route was the economic, political, and cultural foundation of Eurasian trade centuries ago. "It was a little frightening with the armed Soviet guards at the borders," Arthur said. He and Linda have taken a grandson to Israel; they have gone to Machu Picchu; they went "trekking" in Nepal; and on and on.

Please join me in welcoming Arthur and Linda to their new home at Unit 115.

SORA OFFICER AND BOARD NOMINATIONS

**To be voted on at the
May 23, 2023, Annual Meeting**

Submitted by Kathie McCormick – #188

President: Gary Brandenberger, eligible
for 2nd 1-year term

Vice-President: Jean Henderson, eligible
for 2nd 1-year term

Secretary: Jane Lohman

Treasurer: Peter Broeren is in the 2nd
year of a 3-year term; no action needed

Operating Treasurer: Beth Brown is in
the 2nd year of a 3-year term; no action
needed

Directors: The Nominating Committee
has recommended the following resi-
dents to serve on the Board for their 1st
term of two years:

Lois Greer
Jno Hunt
Jim Hvidding
Jan Kimball

The committee recommends the follow-
ing for re-election to a 2nd two-year term:

Barbara Scruggs
Bruce Cooper

The following Board members have
served two 2-year terms and are NOT
eligible for re-election:

Al Brahm
Frank Weiss

The following Board members have cho-
sen NOT to run for re-election to a 2nd 2-
year term:

Diane Neely
Judy Pinyot

The following Board member will be
completing her 2nd year of a 2nd term and
thus no action is needed:

Nancy Marshall

The following Board members will be
completing the 2nd year of their 1st term
and thus no action is needed:

Dan Cindric
Kathie McCormick
Peggy Rubel

IN BLOOM



Photo by Jim Mauch

RESIDENTS' WALL

By Joni Pun - #304

On **Monday, May 8**, the current exhibi-
tion on the wall will come down. If you
have a work displayed, please arrange to
pick it up that morning.

For May, June, and July, we will repeat a
popular theme that we had last year,
which was the display of works done by
relatives of our residents – spouses, par-
ents, offspring, cousins, etc. As always,
they can be paintings, stitchery, or crafts,
provided that they have a way to be hung
on our wall. Please call me ahead of time
with the names of the creators and titles
of the works, and bring them down to the
Gallery Room **c. 11 a.m. on May 8**.

SORA ACCOUNTING HELP

By Beth Brown - #619
Operating Treasurer

The SORA Bylaws require that the Sherwood Gifts financial records be reviewed yearly by a professional auditor. This can be very expensive for such a relatively small operation.

We are hoping to find a retired CPA or Accountant among our residents who might perform this review and save SORA \$1,500. If you think you could help, please call me at 724-553-5057.



"DOWN MEMORY LANE"

By Jean Henderson - #346

YOU'RE INVITED to walk **DOWN MEMORY LANE** with your neighbors in the Bell Choir and the Chorus on **Wed., May 3, at 4 p.m.** in the Auditorium and Card Room.

Come to enjoy old familiar tunes, played by the ringers, sung by the singers, and led by our faithful director, Lyn Marsh.

We ringers and singers so appreciate your support! We have been working hard to present a concert you'll be tapping your toes to! See you May 3 at 4 p.m.

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

HAROLD: A teacher!

BE AN EMPOWERED VOTER

By Dan Cindric - #107, Civic Affairs
Committee Chair

You've probably heard the term "off-year election," referring to one that doesn't feature a midterm or presidential election, and usually is for local elected positions and often judicial seats. It may seem unimportant, but that couldn't be further from the truth.

This year we will choose a new PA Supreme Court Justice, and Judges in the Superior and Commonwealth Courts – appellate courts that often make highly consequential decisions about voting rules, school funding, redistricting, the criminal justice system, and more. We will also choose local officials in municipal, school board, and Common Pleas Court races.

Much of the news will be on the "horse race" – stories that focus on campaign stops, the latest candidate attacks on each other, or who is winning or losing in the polls. Horse race coverage has been shown to exacerbate the extreme partisanship we see today, and leads to distrust of news outlets and politicians. Regardless of your political affiliation, the bedrock of an informed electorate is an educated voter who seeks out trusted election reporting.

There are ways of empowering your vote: find trusted guides about candidates' biographies and professional careers; learn how elections in Pennsylvania are run, how to properly cast a ballot, how to get involved in the process; and learn how to protect yourself against misinformation and other purposeful efforts to peddle falsehoods or sow confusion.

WARMER WEATHER MEANS COURTYARD GATHERINGS!

From Living with Loss

Courtyard neighbors in Independent Living have been known to gather together for conversation, and maybe a libation, especially when the weather is lovely. A couple of intrepid neighborhoods even continue to meet regularly, in patio homes or even in laundry rooms, through the Fall and Winter months.

These informal get-togethers increase our sense of community and reduce the isolation that can plague us as we age. Several committees of SORA have become concerned about the threat to our health that prolonged isolation can pose.

So, as we delight in the coming of Spring and Summer, let's be intentional about such gatherings. If your courtyard hasn't made this a habit, it might be time to start. If there are empty units in your neighborhood, reach out to folks in an adjacent courtyard, who might also be short on neighbors, and invite them to join you.

Maybe your courtyard chooses to dine together monthly in the dining room. That counts, too, in the fight against loneliness and in building community spirit.

Use these occasions to enjoy sitting outside, sharing a snack, and catching up on the happenings in your friends' lives, immediate or remote. The Living with Loss team would like to track where and how often courtyard events are happening, so please let member Peggy Meister (#8377) know about the galas scheduled in your neck of the woods. Cheers!

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, May 7

Rev. Jeff Sterling

St. Paul's United Methodist, Allison Park

Sunday, May 14

Rev. Graham Standish

Samaritan Counseling Center, Sewickley

Sunday, May 21

Rev. Michael Arnold

Christ Church at Grove Farm

Sunday, May 28

Rev. Todd Allen

Park Presbyterian Church, Beaver

"A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit."

Proverbs 14:4



OAK GROVE STAFF AWARD DETAILS

2023 Ron Yount Compassionate Care Award

This award to the Oak Grove Center at Sherwood Oaks honors the memory of Ron Yount, described by his family as a quiet, kind, and humble man, and recognizes those who consistently demonstrate kind and genuine care through bedside conversations, honest communication, and shared decision-making that provides hope and a feeling of peace and safety to patients and their families during times of need. The inaugural award recognized the UPMC Shadyside healthcare team, which provided compassionate care beyond the call of duty during Ron Yount's final days in 2015.



Photo by Jan Wendt

The Wimbledon Garden in Early Spring



Photo by Rosemary Coffey

HELP NEEDED FOR SUMMER CAMPFIRES

By Barbara Rankin - #123

For over ten years, Campfires at the Summer House have been a Sherwood Oaks tradition. People enjoy an evening of Songs, Stories, and S'mores.

For many years, Dave Moon was in charge of this project. Now that he is no longer available, we are in need of folks who will take over some of the responsibilities involved.

There will be six Campfires, two each month in June, July, and August. Dates have not yet been set, so they can be flexible to suit our needs.

Needed are:

A person (or persons) to set up and run the CD player and the keyboard. (Someone will train you!)

A person (or persons) to set up and light the fire pit and then return the next day to put it away. (Again, someone will train you, and it's not a heavy job.)

If several people are willing to do these jobs, we can work out a schedule. We do need folks who are committed to being there on the scheduled evenings.

It would be sad to have to cancel this activity. Already people have been asking me about when the Campfires will resume. If you are willing to help, please contact Gary Brandenberger (Unit #602) of me (Unit #123).

SHERWOOD OAKS GIFT SHOP

By Jane Paul - #341

It took longer than we had expected, but the Gift Shop is finally open after its

remodeling. Choosing the carpet and paint colors was a team effort, so I hope you are pleased with the result. The space looks brighter and more spacious, according to comments we have received. A pesky electric outlet in the floor caused us to move the cabinets around several times before it was no longer a tripping hazard; also, we had to eliminate the round table that previously hosted items at half-price. Many thanks to Gary Whoric and the maintenance crew, who showed great patience and good humor in arranging the cabinets.

Nancy O'Leary cleaned the shop several times after the painters and carpet layers were done. I had not realized how many glass shelves we had that needed to be washed! It took us about three days to pack all the items in the shop to be stored during the remodeling, but it took a lot longer to unpack and reshelve everything. All the items were washed or wiped off, since we wanted everything to be sparkling clean upon the reopening. "Thank you" to all the volunteers who stepped up to pack and unpack. They're a great team, and new volunteers are always welcome!

EYES ON THE ROOF



Photo by Peg Rychcik

SENECA VALLEY BRASS QUINTET PLAYS JAZZ

By Jane Lavender - #253

The Program Committee brings you an evening of jazz on **May 25 at 7:00 p.m.** An elite group from the Seneca Valley Jazz Band will entertain us in the auditorium. The group is comprised of two trumpets, a French horn, a trombone, and a tuba. Come ready to tap your toes, wiggle your fingers, or just enjoy.

WHAT'S UP WITH PICKLEBALL?

By Denton Bond - #736

To be honest, there are times when the pickleball game does get competitive in the Cranberry Lake Fitness Center. There is also much laughter and much fun. If your balance is good, this is the game for you, because:

1. The game can lower your blood pressure.
2. Your muscles will get stronger.
3. You can improve your flexibility.
4. Your balance can be improved.
5. There is a good possibility of weight loss.
6. Your footwork likely will improve.
7. Your hand/eye coordination will be better.
8. You will likely feel better releasing your endorphins.

[From Men's Health Messages]

For those of you who don't want Alexa or Siri listening in on your conversation, they are making a male version: it doesn't listen to anything!

It's weird being the same age as old people, isn't it?

PAPERBACK PONDERINGS

By Jean Henderson - #346

Stop by and see our NEW paperbacks! Just take a book, put a checkmark in the back after you've read it, and return it to the return box in the main Library. Enjoy!

A Cowboy Never Quits – Madsen

Mozart's Starling – Haupt

Some Like It Wicked – Madeiros

Missing Witness – Penner

Presumption of Innocence – Penner

Whistling Season – Doig

Big Sky Secrets – Miller

In the Woods – French

The Alto Wore Tweed – Schweizer

The Tenor Wore Tap Shoes – Schweizer

Rogue Heroes: History of SAS – Macintyre

We do appreciate your donations! Thank you.

THE PERENNIAL GARDEN AT THE FOOT OF THE CROQUET COURT

By Jane Lavender - #253

We've known it as the Wimbledon Garden, but, now that we have a real croquet court, maybe we should rename it!

Initial clean-up and mulching are done, and it's time to start giving it all the TLC that needs to take place from now until next October. Any of you who like dirt under your fingernails please consider this a personal invitation to join the resident volunteers who keep the garden healthy and tidy and a treat to the eyes of all who pass by. This garden is maintained **by residents only**, so your help is truly needed. Give me a call at #8253 if you'd like to join us!

HEALTH COMMITTEE THANKS KATHLEEN SARVER

By Warren Howe - #337

At its most recent meeting, the Health Affairs Committee reluctantly accepted Kathleen Sarver's (#242) decision to step down from service after 9 faithful years. During that time she has been a pleasure to work with: dedicated in her efforts and fruitful with ideas. We are grateful for her long commitment to the health and well-being of the Sherwood Oaks Community and wish her well. Thanks, Kathleen!

Kathleen's leaving further thins the ranks of our team, which means we need and would welcome one or more new members to assure adequate representation of all Sherwood Oaks residents on this important committee. Members need not have a health, nursing, or medical background (although that would be welcome), but merely an interest in learning about health-related issues and helping make such knowledge widely available to the folks at Sherwood Oaks.

If you are at all interested, please contact me, the committee chair (ext. 8337), or plan to attend the next meeting of the group on **Friday, May 19, at 10:00 a.m.** in the Community Center Conference Room.

MY FAMILY

By Ellen Brierly - #734

I have lived at Sherwood Oaks for nearly ten years. I have loved every minute of it, but never have I known the love that I experienced in recent weeks after my fall. The cards, the promises of prayer, the visits were so appreciated. I thank each of you for your kindness. We are a family. We care for one another and reach out to those who need us.

FROM FOCUS ON THE WORLD

Courtesy of Bruce Cooper - #715

To celebrate International Museum Day on **Thursday, May 18**, Focus on the World will be showing two videos on Channel 951 at **10:00 a.m., 3:30 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.** *Riches, Rivals & Radicals: 100 Years of Museums in America* has a focus that says, "America is a land of museums. America's museums offer solitude, sanctuary and discovery. They reflect who we were, who we are, and who we hope to be. Visit some of America's museums coast-to-coast. Meet the characters whose fervor fueled the revolution that changed America's museums."

This video will be followed by *The History of the Carnegie International*. Established in 1896, the Carnegie International is the longest-running North American exhibition of international art.

Encore presentations of these videos will be shown on Channel 951 on **Friday, May 19, at 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.**

NOTICE: ITEMS FOR WOMEN'S SHELTER NO LONGER ACCEPTED

By Jane Lavender - #253

Although this privilege was bequeathed to me by Agnes Peebles, I will no longer be taking clothing and household items to the Women's Shelter (known as VOICE). The donation site has been moved to Butler, and the list of acceptable items has been limited.

In some months, we have filled up to three vehicles with bags and boxes and small appliances and ironing boards and brooms. But, with the new guidelines, the work has become too much to do well.

The Shelter and I thank the residents of Sherwood Oaks for well over 15 years of giving and caring.

ACES AWARD WINNER

By Lori Greer, Personal Care Admin.

The Award for Commitment and Excellence in Service (ACES) honors staff whose everyday actions and, in some instances, personal acts of courage and compassion exceed the high level of service that the community has come to expect at Sherwood Oaks. Each year, fewer than one percent of UPMC staff from across the Health System receive this honor.

Staff member Jodi Botinovch is a recipient of the 2022 ACES award. Jodi, who has worked at Sherwood Oaks for 27+ years, is a certified nursing assistant in the Oak Grove Center. She was recognized as an ACES award winner due to her commendable work ethic, her dedication to her role as a caregiver, and her activity as a tremendous advocate for residents. Jodi is famous for engaging residents in seasonal holidays. We always know when Jodi is working on the day of a Pittsburgh Steelers game, because residents are dressed in their black and gold! We are lucky to have her on our team and as a role model to new caregivers. Congratulations, Jodi!



Photo of Jodi Botinovch shared by Lori Greer

COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #715

As our planet continues to heat up, water resources and arable land are both dwindling to the point where large populations have to leave their homes in search of places where they can set down roots. And with the world population having just passed 8 billion, those places will become crowded and the natives will be restless. We have to look no further than the mass migration from the Middle East to Europe in the last few years. The rise of nationalism in parts of the EU was a direct response to the influx of migrants who didn't look like the natives.

The surge of migrants arriving at our southern border is the result of both violence and drought conditions in their homelands. And the American Southwest can hardly accommodate the influx, having sustained a megadrought over the last decade that makes water resources scarce to the point that some communities no longer have water in their taps and must purchase water to survive, while eating off paper plates to save what they've purchased. And this is in the United States. What will it be like in the poorer parts of the world?

This month's film offering will look at one of the hidden effects of climate change, specifically: How many millions of people will be forced to leave their homes by 2050 because of the climate crisis? Some estimates are as high as one-fifth of the world's population – 2-3 billion.

This film is about what happens when an overpopulated world with lack of resources and a changing climate all collide with each other – an intersection of humanity that many are calling the greatest challenge humankind will ever face.

Watch *Climate Refugees* on Channel 951 on Mon., May 8, at 10:00 am, 3:30 pm, or 7:00 pm. Encore presentation on Wed., May 10, at 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

JIGSAW PUZZLE NEWS

By Jean McBurney - #206 and
Barbara Rankin - #123

Because we have so many new residents, we thought we should update the information about our jigsaw lending library! It began almost four years ago and has been a big success among the many Sherwood Oaks puzzle lovers – especially during the colder months of fall and winter, and even more so during the Covid years, when many other activities were shut down.

The puzzles are free to borrow and enjoy, but PLEASE return them promptly after you have completed them.

The 300-piece puzzles have been the favorites, because they have larger pieces, fit on a card table, and can be completed easily in an evening or two. We have added a number of 500-piece puzzles for those who might like a bigger challenge.

SORA gave us \$150 to spend on new seasonal puzzles, resulting in the addition of ten new puzzles to our collection. Also, several residents and friends have donated their own puzzles to the table.

Recently, an SO friend gifted us with more than twenty 1000-piece puzzles! Not many of such size have been taken in the past, but you may change your mind when you see these new colorful and interesting options. Most 1000-piece puzzles will be kept in the library paperback room on the lower level, because we do not have enough space for them on the table in the lobby. For the time being, we will *not* be accepting any more puzzles of this size, as we now have as many as we can handle.

As the seasons change, we will feature seasonal and holiday puzzles and would welcome additional donations for our collection.

Here are the Basic Rules:

We operate on the Honor System – no need to sign the puzzles out.

Return your puzzle promptly when you have finished with it.

Feel free to explore the drawer of the puzzle table, which has a container of missing pieces and also provides scotch tape and post-it-notes to report additional missing pieces.

Do contact either of us with your comments or questions!

APACHE PRAYER

[Shared by Barbara Scruggs - #317]

May the sun
bring you new
energy by day.
May the moon
softly restore
you by night.

May the rain
wash away
your worries.

May the breeze
blow new strength
into your being.

May you walk
gently through the
world and know
its beauty all the
days of your life.

CLIMATE CHANGE CREDIBILITY

By Frank Conte - #106

In a previous article in *The ACORN*, I suggested that climate change was *not* a settled science. In a recent article in the newspaper *The Epoch Times*, information from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) “warns that unless carbon emissions are cut drastically and promptly, the planet will warm by an additional 1.1-2.4 degrees Celsius (1.8-2.4 degrees Fahrenheit) by the year 2100,” which would lead to a “high or very high” risk of wildfire damage, permafrost degradation, biodiversity loss, dry-land water scarcity, and tree mortality on land and loss of warm-water coral in the sea.”

The article also lists excerpts from a book by Bjorn Lomborg, *False Alarm – How Climate Change Panic Costs Us Trillions*. This author details at least 54 incidents from 1939 to 2023 when climate change advocates predicted various dire happenings, none of which came to pass. These 54 references came from statements listed in newspapers, journals, public talks, climate presentations, and the like. Here are some examples: “disastrous ice age,” “snowfalls are a thing of the past,” “The Arctic Ocean could be free of ice as soon as 2010 or 2015,” “we are close to the tipping point where global warming becomes irreversible.”

So ... as we look back, how credible are these climate change predictions, anyway? One last thought: If we are to deny or restrict the use of fossil fuels and nuclear power for the generation of electricity, is it morally defensible to deny ready power sources to those developing nations who desire to reach a higher standard of living, knowing that we are already much more prosperous than they are? Think about it!

LISTENING

By Jean Kabbert - #371

Sitting in Brueggers, I pass time.
Pencil in hand, I doodle,
pass time ‘til I must pick you up.
My pencil is short, the coffee cold.
Traffic outside sets a rhythm
my lines try to repeat.
I listen, I look, I scribble.
I waste time. I write.
Behind me a white-haired lady slurps,
Her table glistens, reflects her wet chin.
Outside, the fall sky darkens, turns gray.
A child stomps in. His mother follows.
Both add a new beat to the rhythm I
seek.

Chairs screech. A couple rise,
toss remnants of lunch aside
and glide outside, moving to a music
only they seem to hear.
The traffic picks up. Rain starts again.
Wheels on the avenue’s slick road sing,
play the tune I’ve been seeking.
I finish my coffee, pack up my scribbles,
step outside in the rain. Listen.
Time to pick up your man,
sing the wheels on the street.
Time to start our own music has come.

The biggest joke on humankind is that computers have begun asking people to prove they aren’t robots.


When a kid says, “Daddy, I want Mommy,” that’s the child version of “I’d like to speak to your supervisor.”

If I’m ever on life support, unplug me and plug me back in and see if that works.

ARTSCAPE 2023 – THANK YOU!

By Jean Henderson - #346, Organizer

The afternoon of April 13 found 26 resident and staff/employee artists, along with dozens of residents, enjoying ARTSCAPE 2023 in the card room and auditorium. It was a glorious time together! A special “thank you” to all the participants: the Woodshop (Ann Ferguson, Dick Zuberbuhler, Jim Seanor, and John Bridges), Joni Pun, Mary Bouwkamp, Dave Gieschen, Debra Zelenak, Jane Lavender, Bob Typanski, Frank Finley, Betty Eichler, Monika Dalrymple, Mackenzie Neff, Cas Ferren, Lori Greer, Jason Lyle, Jan Kimball, Karen Mentzer, Linda Wittebor, Jane Lohman, Richard Cox, Sally Saylor, Harriett Ritchie, Katherine Montgomery, Caitlin Brenner, Winnie Dietz, Judith Shifrin, Markie McCarthy, and Don Gowan. We appreciate the time and energy you all gave to make this a special day for all of us at Sherwood Oaks. SO MANY GIFTED PEOPLE! And we couldn’t have done it without the help of Nancy O’Leary and her staff and Tabby Alford. BRAVO!



WORTH A LOOK BOOKS NEW TO OUR LIBRARY

By Barbara Christy - #237

Midnight in Siberia by David Greene. Non-fiction. Russia is in the news every day now, but what this book gives us is insight into the everyday lives of the Russian people. David Greene took the 6,000-mile journey from Moscow to Vladivostok by train, talking to Russian travelers wherever he went. Whether it is tea with Alexei or Beatles songs with babushkas, the reader will get insights laced with humor, the haunted past, and human dreams. 914.704 GRE

One Hundred Saturdays by Michael Frank. Non-fiction. Stella Levi had lived nine decades without speaking about her life in a lively Jewish community on Rhodes. But when Michael Frank arrived at her New York apartment with esoteric questions about life there, it turned out to be the first of 100 Saturdays they would spend together, recalling and retelling the stories of her life on Rhodes and thereafter. 949.5 FRA

Perseverance by Melvin Goldman and Lee Goldman Kikel. Non-fiction. Squirrel Hill resident Melvin Goldman created a life for himself in the ethnic Jewish neighborhood. From designing jewelry to marketing it, he became successful and happy, with an enduring belief in the humanity of his neighbors. In the 1970’s – far earlier than most Holocaust remembrances – he used free moments in the jewelry store to record his memories of life in Lodz, Poland, before the war, his transport to and survival in a labor camp, and his life in Pittsburgh. After he died, and after a trip to Poland to visit family homesites, his daughter found the strength and endurance to compile his story – his whole story. Perhaps the most compelling part of it is his ability to both look back at the pain and look forward with hope to the future. “Dedicated to all the young children of the world, in hope for peace and harmony.” 940.5318 GOL

The Declassification Engine: What History Reveals about America’s Top Secrets by Matthew Connelly. Non-fiction. If you follow the struggle between transparency and secrets in our democracy, this is a good introduction to the issue. This well-researched volume delves into the exponential growth of our government’s classification program, the lack

of rationale or consistency of what gets classified, and the risks imposed on our democracy if we fail to control our bureaucratic obsession with keeping secrets. Beginning with Pearl Harbor and ending with documents at Mar-a-Lago, the contents of this book will make you ponder our government's huge dilemma. 352.379 CON

Twelve New Mysteries by Agatha Christie. Fiction. **Large print.** Jane Marple returns, courtesy of twelve new/well-known authors, each of whom has written a short story in the persona of one of the most beloved detectives of all time. F CHR

Bury your Dead by Louise Penny. Fiction. **Large print.** Chief Inspector Gamache is in Quebec City recovering from injuries, when he is sucked into the search for the long-lost body of Quebec founder Samuel Champlain. In for a Penny... F PEN

April in Spain by John Banville. Fiction. Terry Tice is a professional hit man who is not a "psycho," but merely someone who likes to have things tidy – as in getting rid of people who are in the way. Quirke is a cynical Dublin pathologist relaxing on a sun-filled beach in Spain with his lovely young wife, Evelyn, whom he is struggling to understand. When he cuts his hand opening oysters and ends up at the hospital, his doctor turns out to be an Irish lass he once knew, only she died in a café many years ago. F BAN

How not to Drown in a Glass of Water by Angie Cruz. Fiction. The Senior Workforce Program provides newly displaced senior workers with twelve weeks of extended unemployment benefits, if they participate in a weekly session of vocational training to improve communication and interviewing skills, etc. But,

when Cara arrives for her training session with her Hispanic counselor, what evolves is the story of her life, with her joys, disappointments, secrets, and hopes for the future. F CRU

Collateral Damage by J. A. Jance. Fiction. Revenge is a dish best eaten cold. Sixteen years after being sent to prison, corrupt cop Frank Munoz is released just before New Year's Day, 2020. Watching the parade, he lays plans for getting rid of the four people who put him there. When B. Simpson, owner of a cybersecurity tech company about to go big after resolving a ransomware attack, is seriously, and suspiciously, injured in an auto accident, his wife Ali must step in to hold the company together. It's a race to keep the company on track and figure out why her husband was targeted. F JAN

The Writing Retreat by Julia Bartz. Fiction. An invitation to a month-long writing retreat held by a famous author of horror stories arrives in the mail for Alex. Maybe it's the answer to a prayer for discouraged Alex. But when strange things begin happening and another guest disappears, it's as if the thrillers the novice writers are penning are becoming real. F BAR

Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver. Fiction. Even our superheroes have abandoned the rural poor. Copper-haired Damon, born to a drunken, unmarried, teenage mother survives the perils of his unattended birth, foster care, poor schools, and drug-dealing neighbors to tell his story with the caustic wit and unerring insight that author Kingsolver is known for. A modern-day version of David Copperfield, this story will keep you on the edge of your seat. F KIN

THE COLETTA MCKENRY LIBRARY ACCESSIONS (May 2023)

FICTION, INCLUDING LARGE TYPE

3 Days to Live	Patterson, James	c. 2023	F PAT p.b.
All the Broken Places	Boyne, James	c. 2022	F BOY
Bury Your Dead	Penny, Louise	c. 2010	F PEN L.T.
The Cloisters	Hays, Katy	c. 2023	F HAY
Code of Honor	Cameron, Marc	c. 2019	F CAM
Collateral Damage	Vance, J.A.	c. 2023	F VAN
Encore in Death	Robb, J. D.	c. 2023	F ROB
Exiles	Harper, Jane	c. 2022	F HAR
Finding Ashlyn	Stoker, Susan	c. 2023	F STO
How Not to Drown in a Glass of Water	Cruz, Angie	c. 2022	F CRU
It Starts with Us	Hoover, Coleen	c. 2022	F HOO L.T.
The Last Orphan	Hurwitz, Gregg	c. 2023	F HUR
Long Shadows	Baldacci, David	c. 2022	F BAL
Love in the Time of Bertie	Smith, Alexander McCall	c. 2021	F SMI L.T.
Maame	George, Jessica	c. 2023	F GEO
Picture in the Sand	Blauner, Peter	c. 2023	F BLA
The Prisoner	Paris, B.A.	c. 2022	F PAR
A Promise of Ankles	Smith, Alexander McCall	c. 2022	F SMI L.T.
Remarkably Bright Creatures	Van Pelt, Shelby	c. 2022	F VAN
Signal Fires	Shapiro, Dani	c. 2022	F SHA
Someone Else's Shoes	Moyes, Jojo	c. 2023	F MOY
Twelve New Mysteries	Christie, Agatha	c. 2022	F CHR L.T.
Unnatural History	Kellerman, Jonathan	c. 2023	F KEL
The White Lady	Winspear, Jacqueline	c. 2023	F WIN
Without a Trace	Steel, Danielle	c. 2023	F STE

NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES

The Light We Carry	Obama, Michelle	c. 2022	973.9 OBA
One Hundred Saturdays	Frank, Michael	c. 2022	949.5 FRA
Perseverance: One Holocaust Survivor's Journey from Poland to America	Goldman, Melvin	C. 2019	940.53 GOL p.b.
The Queen	Morton, Andrew	c. 2022	941.08 MOR L.T.
South to America	Perry, Imani	c. 2022	975 PER
The Untethered Soul	Singer, Michael A.	c. 2007	153 SIN p.b.
Zelensky: A Biography	Rudenko, Serhii	c. 2022	947.70 ZEL

ENCORE

By Bruce Cooper - #715

You may have noticed that video presentations from Continued Learning and Focus on the World on Channel 951 now include encore viewings two days after the initial showings, which played at 10:00 a.m., 3:30 p.m.,

and 7:00 p.m. In case you missed the original viewings or would like to watch something again that really interested you, encore presentations will be shown two days later at 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Look for dates and times on the posters in the Mail Room and on the slides showing on Channel 951.

TEATIME IN ENGLAND

By John Bridges - #122

The recent display in the Lobby, titled "Tea for Two," set my mind back to thinking about my mother's Tea Parties. Invitations were sent out in good time for An English Tea Party before World War II. Ladies would arrive at 4 p.m. in their finery, including hats. Households had nests of folding tables in those days, which would be separated and placed around the room, with the dining table pushed to one side. The hostess would preside at this table, pouring Chinese or Indian tea. Invitees would sit at separate tables or in pairs. Children or maids would take tea or food to the tables, as required. These afternoon teas were very different from the less formal and more boisterous High Teas served at 6 pm.

Sandwiches were made from bread cut in $\frac{1}{4}$ " thin slices, buttered and filled with jam, meat paste, or other delicacies. Mustard and cress was also a popular sandwich, with the seeds having been carefully sprouted in a dish on the window sill for days in advance. In summer, strawberries might be served (cut into smaller pieces), with Castor sugar available in a glass sifter with a perforated silver lid. This was different from the cube sugar provided with tongs for adding, as required, to the cups of tea. Whatever the filling, the resulting sandwich would be about 3" square, but never over $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick (so different from a hamburger!). Crusts would be cut off and probably toasted to feed the pet dog that evening. Tea was usually stored in a mahogany "Tea Caddy" with a domed lid and two metallic lined compartments with tightly fitting lids. This would normally be kept in a prominent pride of place, on the sideboard.

Cakes could be either individual or slices cut from a large one; in either case, they would never be touched by the fingers; instead, one used a serving tong to take them from an offered plate, and then used

cake forks with a cutting edge and two prongs to convey the delicacy to the mouth. Occasionally, *petits fours* might be produced, or biscuits (cookies), but on the whole it was expected that all food provided should be made by the hostess in her own kitchen.

Petits fours were small, iced cakes about $\frac{1}{2}$ " cube in size. They were originally produced by French bakers after taking bread out of the hot oven, taking advantage of the remaining heat and adding just a little fuel in what had become known as a *Little Oven*.

Each small table would be provided with an embroidered cloth and a similar serviette for each guest. Flowers would adorn the big table, but there was little space on the small tables for decoration. By this time, there was electric light, but the Victorian era saw gas lighting, and I presume that prior to that candles were dangerously used.

The strict rules and etiquette at English Tea Parties were emphasized for me at one that I attended when a worried eight-year-old embarrassed his mother in front of the guests, saying in a loud voice, "Mummy, these are coffee spoons, not tea spoons."

At the less formal family tea parties, home-made scones would usually be served, to be eaten with butter and jam. These are the nearest English equivalent to an American biscuit.

By 1970 my wife and I were living in Chile, where we found that the Anglo-Chileans and German descendants still held tea parties for their lady friends. Husbands were expected to arrive on their way home from work to collect their spouses; since they were always offered a slice of cake, little other inducement was needed. In Chilean Spanish, these events were referred to as "Las Onces," literally translated as "Elevenes," which were a morning break in England often serving cocoa and English Biscuits.

A Flowering Pear Tree ...



Photo by Rabe Marsh

*... and a sample of the many varieties of
flowers all over the campus!*



Photo by Kathie McCormick



Photo by Jan Wendt