

THE ACORN

SHERWOOD OAKS NEWSLETTER

100 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

www.sherwood-oaks.com

September 2023 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. 42, No. 7

Look! Up in the air – it's a bird, it's a plane, it's a Lockheed C130 Military Transport Aircraft ...



Photo by Bob Batykefer

... flying over Sherwood Oaks, July 4, 2023!

Gentle Readers:

So it is Fall once again – a season of beginnings, even as Summer ends; Children return to school; the Sherwood Oaks auditorium reopens; folks leave Chautauqua and other vacation spots; and issues of The ACORN re-appear in our cubbyholes!

Of course, some of the old problems remain unresolved and may even, as in the case of Covid-19, recur. In our community, a constant challenge is that of learning how to age gracefully, even as so much of what happens to us is beyond our control. Still, we are on this voyage together, supporting one another as opportunities arise.

The 40-plus committees that organize and run activities and programs here give us all chances to help in making decisions regarding how we live, think, thrive, and prosper. You will find many such opportunities mentioned in the pages that follow. Please consider working, learning, and growing, as you take part in the life of our community.

-- Rosemary Coffey

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Labor Day	Sept. 4
Grandparents Day	Sept. 10
Patriot Day	Sept. 11
Rosh Hashanah	Sept. 15-17
AIDS & Aging Awareness Day	Sept. 18
International Day of Peace	Sept. 21
Yom Kippur	Sept. 24

THE ACORN

Editor

Rosemary Coffey
rosemarycoffey@aol.com

Assistant Editor

Jan Wendt

Staff

Ruth Becker
Deborah Darnbrough
Rabe Marsh

Production Editor

Tabby Alford

Ex Officio

Annette McPeck

Submissions for the October issue must be sent to the Editor no later than
September 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.

Louise Hackett	May 30, 2023
Mary Dimmick	June 2, 2023
Ruth Jacoby	June 9, 2023
Ruth Hess	June 16, 2023
Betty Rinker	June 28, 2023
Janet Rine	July 1, 2023
Sheila Bridges	July 9, 2023
Beverly Sanker	July 13, 2023
Olive Tiller	July 23, 2023
Margaret Kuhn	July 26, 2023
Bernadette Briskar	August 5, 2023
Robert Hines	August 15, 2023
James Hollister	August 18, 2023
Anna Scigliano	August 20, 2023

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.

JIM AND MAGGIE BENNARDO - #211

By Jean Henderson - #346



Photo by Scott Vogel

“Life’s a journey, not a destination” – that quote from Aerosmith describes our new residents, Jim and Maggie Bennardo. Jim, born in Bradford, PA, and Maggie, born on a cattle ranch in Northern California, met in CA after Jim got out of the Navy. He’d been an air controller on the USS Coral Sea in the Tonkin Gulf during the Vietnam War, and they both were working at the Bank of America. They married in 1976.

Their educational journeys took Jim to Penn State and UC-Berkeley and Maggie to Cal State U at Chico and Westminster College in Salt Lake City.

Their careers in finance (Maggie) and finance and teaching (Jim) took them through Salt Lake City, Worcester, MA, Alexandria, VA, and Gibsonia, PA. They worked in academia, the federal government, and corporate America. Jim retired from the USDA as a budget analyst, and Maggie from the DOD as an auditor.

Their travel often includes trips to the Eastern Shore near St. Michael’s, MD, where they enjoy their cottage in Neavitt as often as they can. For 15 years they hosted dozens of their Neavitt friends every Christmas Eve.

They’re not alone on their journey. Rufus, their 3½-year-old beagle, completes the family – a sweet dog! Their three siblings reside in Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts.

But their travels have made that Aerosmith quote come alive, with trains and planes and boats galore! They’re Viking junkies – the Danube, the Rhine, the St. Lawrence River, and Cuba. And road trips – Maggie traveled for 5 weeks across the USA, alone, in 2009, in her Smart Car – from Pittsburgh to the Pacific Ocean and back. Route 66 called their names as well! They traveled 3500 miles around Italy and flew to Iceland on WOW airlines. And Maggie has been to Easter Island and Chile. Double WOW!

The journey continues. Maggie is cruising with Viking through the Panama Canal this autumn, while Jim dog-sits Rufus.

Jim’s love of music takes him on journeys through time, cataloguing his amazing record collection. Thanks to the Bennardos, their jukebox is now enjoyed here in the Skilled Nursing department!

For Jim and Maggie, SO might be their final destination, but their journeys will never end! Do take time to welcome them and hear their stories.

Truth often suffers more by the heat of its defenders than the arguments of its opposers. – William Penn

If you can’t stand the heat, get out of the kitchen. – Harry S. Truman

When you can’t make them see the light, make them feel the heat. – Ronald Reagan

Noble souls, through dust and heat, rise from disaster and defeat the stronger. -- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

BARBARA HARTLING - #230

By Connie Brandenberger - #602



Photo by Scott Vogel

Barbara grew up in Canada, but became an American citizen in 1966 after her marriage to Richard. She attended Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts, where she met her husband, who was a history teacher for 37 years. They were married for 58 years before he died, three years ago.

Barbara began her career in New Brunswick teaching French and English at the high school level. At that time, Canadians were not certified to teach in the USA. Therefore, when the Hartlings moved to Massachusetts, she was employed as a teacher's assistant, helping with special needs students.

Before coming to Sherwood Oaks, she made many moves. After the couple retired, they moved to Marietta, GA, on the recommendation of friends and a niece, who also lived there. After ten years, they moved to Waverly, OH, into the Bristol Village Retirement Community, where they lived for another ten years. When her husband died, her children encouraged her to move closer to one of them. The choices

were Canada, Massachusetts, or Pittsburgh. The son living in Pittsburgh did the research to decide what was best for her, and he selected Sherwood Oaks. She agrees he made the right choice. All of her children have dual citizenship, and most of her family lives in Canada. She has eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Barbara enjoys reading, crossword puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, and knitting and crocheting (when hands and fingers allow). Her favorite previous pastime was playing "Upwords" – a game not familiar to most people, but Barbara would like to hear from anyone who knows the game and would consider joining her. So, if anyone is interested in learning about it, please contact Barbara.

Traveling with her husband was a special joy in her life. They visited England, Hawai'i, New Mexico, Scotland, Wales, and British Columbia. They also drove the "Sea to Sky" Highway from Seattle to Whistler, BC. One of the highlights of their traveling was an Alaskan Tour conducted by Charles Stanley. Her husband loved to do the planning, and she was happy to go along for the ride.

Barbara is so thankful to her kind neighbor, Ruth Inkpen, who drives her to the Church of the Ascension in Pittsburgh, where her son and his wife are members. When the service is over, she spends the remainder of the day with them. Barbara is a born-again Christian and loves the Lord Jesus.

Anyone can get old. All you have to do is live long enough. - Groucho Marx

Life is a moderately good play with a badly written third act. - Truman Capote

Age is something that doesn't matter unless you are a cheese. - Luis Buñuel

DICK AND THEA STOVER - #606

By Jan Wendt - #158



Photos by Scott Vogel

I caught up with the Stovers 48 hours before they set off for a cruise in Alaska. This well-travelled duo arrived on campus in mid-June, after living busy lives in the North Hills – lives characterized by significant community service, careers, and some great travel.

Dick is a Pittsburgh native, raised on the upper Northside, while Thea's childhood was spent in northern New Jersey. The couple met at Penn State. After a stint in the Navy, Dick went on to a long and successful career in commercial banking and private equity investment.

Thea taught school at the elementary and pre-school levels. They are parents of a son (now in the Atlanta area) and a daughter who lives in the South Hills, and grandparents of six. Through church, community involvement, and work, they have known a number of other Sherwood residents, including Connie and Gary Brandenberger.

Though both remain involved in church groups, bridge clubs, and civic activities off campus, they chose to make the move sooner rather than later. Having cared for an elderly relative, they did not want to burden their children with a similar responsibility.

Thea's interests include golf, bridge, and biking. She has long been active in the Pittsburgh Symphony Association and ARCS (Achievement Rewards for College Scientists). ARCS is an all-female organization

that contributes \$5,000 annually for three years to Ph.D.-level science students at Carnegie Mellon and Pitt, to be used at the students' discretion in any way that smooths their pursuit of a career in science.

Thea was also instrumental in the creation of the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. She had seen a similar facility in Maine and brought the idea to the Junior League of Pittsburgh, when she was a member. She felt strongly that children would find it a great place to gather and learn by being involved in hands-on activities.

Dick, who served on several corporate boards, has chaired those at Central Blood Bank (now Vitalant) and WQED. He has also volunteered as President of the Homeowners' Associations at Treesdale and Treasurer in Florida, where they spend time each winter. For recreation, he enjoys golf and reading non-fiction.

Through Dick's time in the Navy and business-related travel, the couple developed a healthy wanderlust, leading to some memorable trips. Favorites include a cruise on the Elbe, from Berlin to Prague and then on to Krakow and Warsaw, as well as an excursion to Russia via Eastern Europe and Finland. While in Moscow, they attended a Military Tattoo in Red Square where, of all things, the U.S. Army Band serving in Germany performed!

Since moving here, Thea has sampled some pickleball, and both Thea and Dick have played golf with Sherwood neighbors. They look forward to making new friends and finding that balance between ongoing commitments and new opportunities in their new community. Welcome, Dick and Thea!

One cool judgment is worth a thousand hasty counsels. The thing to do is to supply light and not heat. – Woodrow Wilson

Heat cannot be separated from fire, or beauty from The Eternal. – Dante Alighieri

THREE TIMES A CHARM!

By Jean Henderson - #346

Did you know we have TRIPLETS working on our campus? They are 20 years old, born January 24, 2003. The three Kutchmas – Abigail (Abby), Aiden, and Gabrielle (Gabby) – have one other sibling, brother Zack, who is 24.



Gabby

Aiden

Abby

They live in Cranberry Twp., and all work here at Sherwood Oaks. Having graduated from Seneca Valley in 2021, they are now college students: *Abby* at Gannon University in the 5-year physician assistant program, hoping to become certified with interests in cardiology or women's health; *Aiden* at Gannon in the physician assistant master's program until 2026, hoping to work in orthopedics or emergency medicine; and *Gabby* at Clarion University in the field of nutrition and fitness. After college, she hopes to get a job and/or go to grad school.

Abby (first-born) has been a food service attendant in our dining room for three years; for five months she has also worked as a professional nursing assistant on the 2nd floor of Oak Grove. Aiden (middle-born) has also been a food server for three years. Gabby (last-born) is working her first summer with us as a food service liaison.

Each has special hobbies. Abby loves reading, Zumba, and baking. Aiden enjoys weightlifting, reading, traveling, trying out new things, and hanging out with his friends. Gabby's hobbies include running, lifting, and hiking. She is grateful to be at a high level of competition with Clarion's cross-country/track and field teams.

I asked them to share unique memories of growing up as triplets:

Abby cherishes “graduating from high school with my two best friends right by my side ... hearing the three Kutchma names one right after the other made me proud. After we threw our caps in the air, I vividly remember the hug with each of them. It would be the last time we all attended the same school ... those moments forever hold a special place in my heart.”

Aiden remembers getting ready for school in the mornings! “We were set like clockwork and almost never interfered with each other's schedules ... we worked really well together.”

Gabby remarks that “being a triplet is like being born with two built-in best friends ... while we are known as ‘the triplets,’ each of us has a very different personality and is our own unique person. Growing up, living, and being together all the time has brought to my attention how important and meaningful family is. Being able to work alongside my siblings really excites me, because I get to serve with two of the most kind, hardworking, and compassionate people who always put others before themselves.”

How fortunate we residents are to benefit from these three young adults!!

Now – a question for you residents! ARE ANY OF YOU A TRIPLET? We also have a member of another set of triplets on our housekeeping staff, whose sisters do not work here. More about them (and maybe others) in another *ACORN*!



Abby

Gabby

Aiden

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

By Jane Lohman - #717, Secretary

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 of the Aug. 8, 2023, monthly board meeting follow.

SORA Treasurers: The Memorial/Special Projects Fund balance is \$33,256.90. The Employee Appreciation Fund balance is \$19,139.75, for a total of \$52,396.65. Added to this is a \$20,000 investment in a 15-month CD. The SORA operating treasury balance is \$73,012.93, plus two 9-month CDs totaling \$25,000. Total Resident fees collected to-date are \$11,525, toward the approximately \$20,000 projected to be needed to fund committee activities.

Liaison Reports:

Security and Transportation: Committee met with Ken Davies, new Security and Transportation Manager. He asked that residents be reminded to call the Gate when visitors are expected, and to use their electronic card when leaving SO.

Trips and Tours: Check the bulletin board for available trips.

Continued Learning: Five speakers have been lined up for the fall series.

Landscaping: Lois Greer has left the committee, and Donna Artz has joined.

Recycling: Second TREX bench has been placed near the main entrance.

Dining Committee: Farmer's Market to be held August 16 and Ice Cream Social on August 18. Sunday noon hors d'oeuvres will return in mid-August.

Drama Club: Dinner Theatre performance may be scheduled in October, depending on state of Auditorium renovation completion.

Focus on the World: Video about International Peace Day will be shown on Channel 951 on September 21.

Crazy Crafters: Pottery classes scheduled to begin in August.

Technology Committee: New committee formed, combining AV Committee and Computer Ctr., with Jason Lyle as chair.

Executive Director: Census: IL 192/249 – 7 homes are under contract. Lunch and Learn events are scheduled in Sept., with an Open House in Oct. SN 34/43 (5-star CMS rating); PC: 28/42; OGC: 28/30. Auditorium project is on schedule for completion in mid-Sept. [Update - completion date is now early October.] Alzheimer's Walk on Oct. 14 is now recruiting for Team Sherwood Oaks. Resident cornhole league begins in September at the Cranberry Lake Fitness Center.

Old Business: Summerhouse will be renovated, with two ADA bathrooms and a new kitchen. A pavilion will be placed in the grass area outside, and plans are underway for a pickleball court.

Management is continuing to communicate with Meeder and Cranberry Township about resolving the Meeder property impact problem. The refrigeration plant noise problem is being addressed by the company involved.

New Business: Technology Committee mission statement was approved.

Next Monthly Board Meeting: Tues., Sept. 5, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. in the Card Room. All residents are welcome.

SORA Quarterly Meeting - date and location **TBD**.

From FOCUS ON THE WORLD

By Bruce Cooper - #715

The July collection for the Lighthouse Foundation Food Bank was again successful, with 8 boxes of food and \$1,435 in cash donations received. Thanks to all who contributed.

With completion of the Auditorium construction extending into September, FOTW will present a documentary, *"Peace One Day,"* on **Thurs., Sept. 21**, on Channel 951, with showings at 10:00 a.m., 3:30 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. It follows the efforts of Jeremy Gilley in 1999 to create an annual day of ceasefire and non-violence on a fixed calendar date, Peace Day, 21 September. The offering coincides with International Peace Day, 2023.

We are hoping to have Daniel Rossi-Keen, Executive Director of RiverWise, make a presentation in the newly renovated Auditorium on **Thurs., Oct. 19, at 7:00 p.m.** RiverWise is an organization whose mission "seeks to organize community power and voice so that all people, organizations, and communities in Beaver County can thrive. RiverWise envisions Beaver County as a place where individuals, organizations, and communities have the skills, relationships, and resources required to create the kinds of communities in which they wish to live. We value networks over individuals. We value the future over an idealized past. We value freedom over control. We value wisdom over experience. We value solutions over problems. And we value action over perfection."

With Sherwood Oaks being directly downwind of the Shell "cracker plant," the efforts of RiverWise may have a direct impact on the environment in which we live.



PLAYING PICKLEBALL



Residents Markie McCarthy, Denton Bond, and Bruce Cooper, with Edith McCandless's daughter Beth

FAMILY

*So many happenings, so many years,
Memories with laughter, memories with
tears.*

*The children are grown, their children too,
Our blessings are many, some old and
some new.*

*We treasure those years and pray for
more,*

*We know in our family that love is secure,
No matter the frailties, no matter the pride,
No matter the secrets one needs put
aside.*

*The love for each member must find us
like glue,*

*So our family is always faithful and true,
Its members secure in the place they be-
long,*

A part of a "FAMILY," loving and strong.

By Joan N. Moore
[sister of Jane Rittelmann]

EGGNOG PARTY: HELP WANTED!

By Jno L. Hunt - #308

We are starting to plan this year's Residents' Eggnog Party. Last year, Jason Lyle and Kate Donovan took the lead on organizing the event, with the assistance of Jno and Anne Hunt. This year, Jno and Anne, who are taking the lead, are looking for two more people to assist them, with the intent of passing on to them the leadership role for the party next year. We always have a number of volunteers to help with the arrangements, so the leadership responsibilities are not cumbersome. Please contact Jno or Anne by **Sept. 15** at 8308 if you are interested!

CONTINUED LEARNING

By Jno L. Hunt - #308

We have a strong, varied lineup of speakers scheduled for this fall. We are starting one week later than usual, due to the ongoing renovations to the auditorium:

Oct. 10: Jno Hunt—Rossini's *Barber of Seville* (might be presented in the Card Room)

Oct. 16: Dr. O'Malley—Joint Replacement

Oct. 23: Mark Williams—Status of Voting Rights

Oct. 30: Speaker from Frick Museum—1893 Chicago World's Fair

Nov. 6: Deb Miller—Teaching Deaf and Blind Children

In the meantime, we have scheduled a regular series of programs on Channel 951. Initial airings on Tuesdays are at 10:00 a.m., 3:30 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. Encore presentations are usually on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Tues., Sept. 5: The Unknown World of World Class Musicians. Encore on Thurs., Sept. 7

Tues., Sept. 12: Inventions (15 & 16). Encore on Thurs., Sept. 14

Tues., Sept. 19: The Grand Norwegian Road Trip. Encore on Wed., Sept. 20

Tues., Sept. 26: Comparative Religions (17 & 18). Encore on Thurs., Sept. 28

CHAPEL NOTES

By Gary Brandenberger - #602
For the Chapel Committee

Services begin at 2:00 p.m.
in the Card Room.

Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend.

Sunday, September 3

Rev. Jeffrey Sterling, Retired
St. Paul's UMC, Allison Park

Sunday, September 10

Rev. Donna Giver-Johnston
Community Presbyterian, Ben Avon

Sunday, September 17

Rev. Nathan Glover
Urban Impact, Pittsburgh

Sunday, September 24

Rev. Liddy Barlow, Exec. Minister
Christian Associates of SWPA

"Whatever you love most, be it sports, pleasure, business or God, that is your god." – Rev. Billy Graham

Those who cannot understand how to put their thoughts on ice should not enter into the heat of debate. – Friedrich Nietzsche

Write while the heat is in you. – Henry David Thoreau

PREPARING FOR WINTER

By Ann Ferguson - #269

As the Greenhouse manager, I need to know who would like to overwinter their plants this coming fall. New spaces may be assigned, unless there is a special request. Please call me at 8269 by **October 1** to let me know. Thank you!

CURIO CABINETS FOR SEPT/OCT.

By Janet Desko - #210

Summer has flown by, and I want to thank everyone who participated in supplying items for the Curio Cabinets for June, July, and August.

The Curio Cabinet theme for Sept./Oct. will be **“School Days.”** Peggy Meister and I look forward to displaying your mementos from grade school, high school, college, university, etc. These could include photographs, newspaper clippings, yearbooks, t-shirts, hats, or souvenirs from former students or roommates!

Please pick up your “Collections” on **Tues., Sept. 5**, from **10:30-noon** and **4:30-6:00 p.m.**

Then on **Thurs., Sept. 7**, bring in your **“School Days”** items from **10:30-noon** and **4:30-6:00 p.m.**

I can't wait to see what wonderful things everyone contributes for this “School Days” theme!

EMPLOYEE SCHOLARSHIP FUND 2023

By Charles Cullen, Chair - #313

The Scholarship Committee met in late June, awarding 48 tuition grants of \$2,400 each. Congratulations to the deserving awardees, and many thanks to

the residents for your generous support of this worthwhile project. This year's grants were entirely funded by your gifts, plus some memorial gifts. The average gift was \$648, with 38 grants of \$1,000 or more. We were glad that we did not have to draw from the Endowment Fund during the current market uncertainty.

I hope you took the time to sample the thank-you notes from the grateful recipients that were posted in the Mail Room!

Olive Tiller, who died in July, was a founding member of the Scholarship Committee, serving on it for many years. She was an inspiration. *[See Olive's biography on pp. 12-13.]*

CHORUS AND HANDBELLS TO RESUME SOON

By Jan Wendt - #158

Weekly rehearsals for Sherwood Oaks Chorus and Handbell Choir will begin **Wed., Sept. 20**. Both are in somewhat of a “rebuilding” mode after the Covid pandemic, and have open spots for interested residents.

The groups will rehearse in the Cranberry Lake Grill area (ground floor of the Oak Grove building), until the auditorium renovation is complete. Rehearsal time is 1:30-2:30 p.m. for Handbells, while the Chorus meets 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Auditions are not necessary for either group, but the ability to read music is necessary. The longtime director for both groups, Lyn Marsh, will return, and is excited to be making music with us again.

If you have questions about either choir, please call Jean Henderson (Bell Choir Liaison) at #8346 or Jan Wendt (Chorus Liaison) at #8158.

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE ADDS WHIMSY TO REDESIGNED GARDEN

By Rae Zuberbuhler - #604

The garden by the mailroom entrance has attracted new interest this summer. Six new oak leaf hydrangeas have set the background for the colorful addition of annuals planted in pots. Hostas have been transplanted and waning plants removed.

Whimsy has entered the new scheme, as the Blue Swallowtail mobile has flown in, (hoping for more wind power). Another fun detail is the charming "pot man" sitting on his garden bench. He will be changing his appearance with the seasons, and leaving timely messages on his note board.



Thank you to the many inspired residents who submitted name suggestions for the pot man. Most ideas included the word "clay" or "pot." His full name, therefore, is Mister Clay Potts, but he simply likes to be called "Mister Potts." Thank you, also, to a member of the Woodshop for creating him.

This garden is an ongoing project of the Landscaping Committee. Look for the addition of a dry river bed and some ground cover changes. More surprises to come!

TREX BENCH UPDATES

From the Recycling Committee

Thanks to all for continuing to put plastic bags and film in the blue bags hanging in each Trash Room, as well as in the TREX bins in the Center. **NOTE, especially to new residents** as you unpack all that BUBBLE WRAP – let's turn it into a TREX bench! See details of the TREX Recycling Programs at <recycle.trex.com>.

Our first two benches are out in front of the Center. The Committee invites your ideas of where another bench would be useful. We will receive one every 6 months that we collect 500 pounds (40,500 pieces!) of plastic bags and film. Put a note in a Committee member's cubbyhole if you have a suggestion. Committee members are: Ruth Inkpen, Chair (#225), Barbara Brock (#360), Betty Eichler (#355), Jan Kimball (#226), and Peggy Rubel (#258).

RESIDENTS SIT ON NEW BENCHES



Photo submitted by Mary & Tom Mion

Waiting to leave for the 4:00 p.m. mass at St. Ferdinand's, residents clearly appreciate having access to the new benches acquired by turning in the pounds of plastic we have recycled recently.

IN MEMORY OF OLIVE TILLER

By Lee Wierman - #110

An important part of the Sherwood Oaks welcome is an interview published in the *Acorn* to share information about our new residents. New neighbors, however, face many new people to learn about; frequently, some do not become known to us. My husband, Paul, and I moved into Sherwood Oaks on Dec. 28, 2016, and one of the names we heard often was that of Olive Tiller. Every mention was connected with some important service to our community life. On July 23, 2023, at the age of 102, as a resident in Skilled Nursing, Olive died.

Paul and I learned that Olive had initiated the Scholarship Fund, money gathered from our residents to provide financial support to employees at Sherwood who were pursuing further education. Olive was the first chairperson of Focus on the World, believing we should stay informed about and active in current events. She served our community as President of SORA, contributed to the Continued Learning Program, and, with her second husband, Ed Alo, established the Computer Room, giving access to, and tutoring in the use of, computers. Olive served on such committees as Civic Affairs, Chapel, Finance, Security, and Transportation; she also taught an ongoing class in Current Affairs. Following her attendance at Clown School in Wisconsin, she entertained us as Bubbles, the Clown, at Sherwood functions.

Olive's remarkable life is a litany of service. Born Dec. 13, 1920, Olive joined Dot, her older sister in the family. Dot was significant in Olive's story, for she taught Olive all she had learned in school, moving her into higher grades when Olive

began her formal education. That acceleration resulted in Olive graduating from the University of Minnesota just after her 19th birthday. She was dissuaded from following her choice of chemistry as a major by a professor who noted that previous women chemists had not been able to find employment. Olive's hero was Marie Curie, so her ambition had been to become a research chemist, but, with reluctance, she switched her major to education.

Attending and graduating from college required sacrifices: walking instead of riding the streetcar, and correcting papers for a math instructor for 35 cents an hour. Olive attended the First Baptist Church youth group, where she met Carl Tiller in her sophomore year of college. Just after she turned 18, Carl proposed, and she accepted. Over her parents' objections, the wedding date was set for June 21, 1940.

Early in the marriage, Olive and Carl focused their service, both through and around their church life, on peace and justice. Work required them to live in Minnesota, Chicago, Washington, DC, Maryland, and New Jersey.

Travels, mostly a part of their service to the church, took them to Cuba, Croatia (helping with refugees), Hong Kong, Hungary, and Russia. (They were there during the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, but they learned of it only after returning home, when their shoes were found to be radioactive.) They also traveled to Vietnam and Sierra Leone; in Malawi, she planted trees; in Tanzania, she helped build a girls' school, and then on to Kenya, where Olive helped establish a sewing company with local women. Other countries visited included Zaire, Germany,

Scotland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Austria, Switzerland, Trinidad, Thailand, Estonia, China (to study the results of the Cultural Revolution), Cambodia (with a peace team), Sweden (for a peace conference), Finland, Norway, and the Bahamas (for a Baptist Women's Council).

Equally important were trips within the United States, in particular in order to participate in civil rights gatherings and marches. The Tillers joined mourners passing the caskets of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert Kennedy. In their travels they met Desmond Tutu and other leaders of human rights groups.

The Tillers had two children: a son, Bob, and a daughter, Jeanne. At the request of a close friend who was dying, Olive agreed to be a mother to her friend's daughter, Carol, as well. A remarkable part of this story is that Carl and Olive Tiller reached the ages and physical conditions that motivated a move to a retirement community. This decision is familiar to us; for many it is determined by proximity to family or friends; to what is comfortable and familiar. For Carl and Olive, it was a more academic process: they studied publications by the American Association of Homes for the Aging to begin their search.

Selecting proximal places, they set up appointments and itineraries, eventually visiting 31 such facilities in 10 different states. As they narrowed their choice to three places, they created a rating system with different categories, and Sherwood Oaks came out first. Changing their rating system, they repeated the process, and again Sherwood Oaks was Number One. Never having lived in Pennsylvania, and with no family or

friends nearby, in December of 1989, Carl and Olive moved to Sherwood Oaks.

Olive wrote her life story and some memoirs, mentioning briefly the Dahlberg Award that she and Carl received for outstanding work in peace and justice. (Among other recipients of this award are Harold Stassen, Marian Wright Edelman, Jimmy Carter, and Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Much of what we appreciate about our home here is built on the Tillers' legacy. To the end of her being aware, Olive greeted everyone with beautiful smiles. In her, I saw a woman of varied experiences, a compassionate, peace-loving advocate for the marginalized and disenfranchised in our society, and a rich gift to our Sherwood Oaks community.

In the memoir Olive wrote, she listed her rules for living well:

"Have faith. Think well of everyone. Harm no one. Live peaceably, and be a peacemaker. Demonstrate love for all. Laugh a lot, but never at another person. Listen. Try new things, learn new skills." Olive listed her activities as devotion to four passions: "racial equality, peace and non-violence; ecumenism, and baseball." She named the things she had learned: "Don't sweat the small things; Keep an open mind; Enjoy life at whatever age you are; You're never too old to learn something new; Earth is a beautiful home; Life is Good."

Another longtime resident of Sherwood Oaks, and an associate of Olive's, is Ellie Castle, who has reflected on Olive's life, observing: "Olive was an encourager, expressing support to young people as well as to those of us who knew her. She was a champion of everything good, but did not think of herself as a champion."

WORTH A LOOK BOOKS NEW TO OUR LIBRARY

By Barbara Christy - #237

The Book of Charlie: Wisdom from the Remarkable American Life of a 109-Year-Old Man by David Von Drehle. Non-fiction. Charlie White was a 102-year-old retired medical doctor living in Kansas when Von Drehle moved in as his new neighbor. Born in 1905, Charlie lived through treating Al Capone's mobster friends in Chicago, cross-country travel in a Model T Ford, and WWII, where he taught the use of IV anesthesia to Army doctors. Charlie died, aged 109, sharp and alert to the end, sharing his life with his friend, the author. From train-hopping through the Colorado Rockies, earning a living by barter during the Depression, and living through three marriages, Charlie's captivating life and enduring resilience are explored in a most entertaining way. 305.26 VON

Saving Time: Discovering a Life Beyond the Clock by Jenny Odell. Non-fiction. Do you ever feel like your life is run "by the clock"? Even in retirement? This absorbing book will help you sort out the way you experience time, the influences on your experience, and the way our society has grown away from the more natural experience of pre-industrial time into a world organized around clocks and calendars. A fascinating read for the scientifically minded among us. 153.75 ODE

The Day the World Came to Town by Jim LeFede. Non-fiction. This is a truly inspirational book about the citizens of Gander, Newfoundland. On 9/11, thirty-eight jetliners landed at the local airport and unloaded 7,000 weary, travel-worn passengers and crew who had been caught in the maelstrom caused by the infamous terrorist attacks. Gander, a town of only 10,000 people, rose to the challenge of providing

shelter and showers, food and medicine, sympathy, support, communication, and distraction for four long days, while authorities figured out how to get them safely home. Some of the relationships from the experience have lasted to this day. In an era when a person might wonder what the world is coming to, this is an inspiring, heartwarming, true story of a community coming together to do whatever was needed. 971.8 DEF

The 23rd Midnight by James Patterson. Fiction. This is the latest in a series of murder mysteries in which members of the Women's Murder Club (informally created by a homicide detective, a medical examiner, a newspaper reporter, and a young assistant district attorney) work together to solve homicide investigations. Set in San Francisco, the series follows the women through their personal issues, including, among others, Lindsay Boxer's medical challenges, marriage, and pregnancy. In this episode, an obsessive maniac is using the account of a notorious murder to recreate gruesome copycat killings. Lindsay and her colleagues are endangered, as they work feverishly to capture the perpetrator before he kills again. This is the 23rd book in the series, 21 of which have been on the NYT bestseller list. F PAT

The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese (writer of the beloved book, *Cutting for Stone*). Fiction. This book is set in the southwestern Indian state of Kerala and follows three generations of a family afflicted with a strange medical condition that results in at least one person in each generation dying by drowning. The story begins with Mariamma, who is 12 years old when she enters into an arranged marriage with a 40-year-old man. The relationship is successful, and Mariamma becomes the matriarch of a wealthy clan of physicians, writers, and businessmen. With her

family, she endures personal hardships and triumphs during six decades of Indian history, tenderly narrated by an author who clearly loves his characters. F VER

Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano. Fiction. William's life is shattered before it truly begins. At six days old, his older sister dies. His parents never recover from the tragedy, and his childhood is stunted by their rejection until he goes to Northwestern University and meets the beautiful Julia Padavano and her all-embracing family. (The dynamics between Julia and her three sisters recall Louisa May Alcott's classic, *Little Women*.) Buoyed by his success as a college basketball star and the love of the Padavano family, William enjoys a contentment he has never known. But all lives have challenges, and William struggles through sports injuries, failures, and divorce, before finding solace in a new perspective. Told from several points of view, including that of his five-year-old daughter, the story takes the reader on a breathtaking journey that ends in redemption for William. F NAP

GERANIUMS IN WATERING CAN



Photo by Frank Weiss

ATTENTION!

Due to the excessive heat in Florida, many species are moving north. Please look out for our new resident, Al E. Gator. Notify Jan or Mike Desko at #210 of his whereabouts. He is constantly on the move!



UPDATES ON THE ARTS

By Joni Pun - #304

Resident Artists' Gallery: As announced before, our gallery (in the Scooter Room) has become united. There is now space to hang works done by participants in the Art Studio as well as by people who make things at home. It doesn't matter if you did the work years ago – if it is a painting, stitchery, photograph, weaving, or some other craft, we would love to see it! The only requirement is that it be ready to hang with a wire across the back. Please call me at #8304 if you have something. Instead of changing the whole exhibit at once, it will be changed one section at a time, starting with the wall near the recycling bins.

Pottery Classes: You may have heard that pottery classes with our able instructor, Noele Reynolds, have resumed. Noele has plenty of ideas to help people advance in their ability to work the clay, so we may anticipate that participants will soon be able to see their own fired and glazed pieces. The two classes are full at present, but eventually we hope to offer them on a rotating schedule, so that anyone who wants to can participate. The goal will be to become self-sufficient, learning to work the clay, glaze the work, and fire the kiln.

THE LITTLE SHOP AROUND THE CORNER...

By Beth Brown - #619

Have you ever wondered how Sherwood Gifts got its start?

Well, here's the 'scoop':

The shop opened on Nov. 4, 1982, on the opposite side of the lobby, where the receptionist desk is now, before the auditorium was added. It was very small, but offered a wide variety of items for sale. Custom-made Sherwood Oaks note cards, gifts such as teddy bears, jewelry boxes, and personal items like makeup, perfume, jewelry, and handbags were available. Residents also supplied handcrafted items that included paintings, handmade jewelry, silk-screened greeting cards, stained glass suncatchers, and needlepoint pillows. Some items were on consignment, while others were donated.



The Gift Shop in the 1980s

Sherwood Gifts was funded by a \$3,000 loan from Sherwood Oaks. In the first six months, the shop made around \$3,500, with expenses of \$1,300. Once the loan was repaid in October 1983, it was decided that future profits would be used within the community, as needed. In the first three months of 1984, for instance, the gift shop sales were around \$8,700,

inspiring the idea of supporting such projects as buying a piano. Gifting from Sherwood Gifts to other projects continues today through the Memorial Special Projects Fund.

Fun fact – The original cash register was a cigar box with handwritten sales slips.

Over the years, Sherwood Gifts evolved into what it is today. It is now made up of two stores. One, the Gift Shop, is located in the lobby and functions as a general store, selling items like greeting cards, candy, sundries such as personal care items, paper products, and limited office items. In addition, donated items such as glassware, small pictures, lamps, and home decorating pieces are available. It also sells new and donated jewelry, a big hit with the residents.

The other store, called *The Annex* or *Granny's Attic*, is our resale furniture shop located in Unit #156. As new residents arrive at Sherwood, they may find that they have ended up with extra items they no longer need; gifting to *The Annex* is a way to repurpose those items. These sales represent about 40% of the total sales for Sherwood Gifts.

Volunteer staff for the Gift Shop currently work 5 days a week, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Prior to the pandemic, the shop was open Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday the shop was open from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. *The Annex* staff currently work two Wednesdays a month, from noon to 2:30 p.m. Prior to the pandemic, *The Annex* was open every Wednesday from noon to 2:30 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month during the same hours. Since the pandemic, our numbers have dwindled, but we are hoping to resume our old schedules soon.

Currently, Sherwood Gifts has two Managers – Jane Paul and Kelly Noble; a Treasurer – Beth Brown; and four ‘Department’ heads for Jewelry (Joan Rychick), Candy (Carol Wheeler), Greeting Cards (Jane Paul), and Sundries (Laura Kopp). We also have a dedicated staff of cashiers – Jane Lohman, Linda Mamaux, Barb Neidhardt, Mary Mion, Laura Kopp, Jane Paul, and Kelly Noble, who keep things running smoothly on a daily basis. Monthly meetings are held to discuss the financials and opportunities to improve both shops.

In the spring of 2023, a complete refurbishment was done on the Gift Shop that included new carpet and paint. Furniture was repainted, and new shelving was added, as well as lighting.



The Gift Shop Today

Fun facts:

- Total revenue for the last 5 years was \$68,515.
- Total donation to the Memorial Special Projects Fund was \$45,000.
- Total Annex furniture sales came to \$20,646.
- Total “Department” sales were:

- Greeting Cards – \$9,663
- Jewelry – \$12,711
- Candy – \$2,740
- Sundries -- \$7,175
- Granny’s Attic – \$15,688

- Estimated volunteer hours came to 13,000.
- We averaged an 85% profit margin for these 5 years.
- This past fiscal year we made over \$11,000, of which we donated \$8,000 to the Memorial Special Projects Fund.

Other than being a nice convenience for residents who cannot go out to shop, the Gift Shop provides an opportunity for us to stop in and chat with each other or for staff to shop for items during a break in their working hours. Residents’ family members are also welcome in both shops; indeed, over time they have been some of our best customers. We always appreciate suggestions on additional items we could offer, and our hope is that we may continue to provide a premier service to our residents that makes their lives easier. We are grateful to all who support Sherwood Gifts. Stop by soon and check out what’s new!

[Note: Thanks to Peggy Rychick for supplying background information and photos from the Archives.]

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. – Aesop

Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible. – The 14th Dalai Lama

You cannot do kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late. – Ralph Waldo Emerson

IT TAKES A VILLAGE ... OR A COMMUNITY

By Kathie McCormick - #188

I cannot begin to express my gratitude and thankfulness for this “village” of ours here at Sherwood Oaks. It is truly a wonderful and amazing community. After my spectacular fall – a freak accident – resulting in two broken knees and two broken wrists, the village here went into high gear to help me out (residents & employees alike). Let me try to share with you some of the help I received: many personal visits, a temporary home for my cat (my dog went to her co-owner and breeder), a beautiful prayer shawl, a stand for my Kindle and phone so I could use them, my clothes being washed, flowers and cards presented, escorts to doctors’ appointments in the wheelchair van, a trickle charge to keep my car’s battery from dying, platforms for my arms and legs to make it easier to sit in the recliner, friends getting me to meetings or activities and breaking me out for a wheelchair spin outdoors; and, of course, all of the prayers!

After a month of total dependence, I was finally able to start to bend my knees and transition from the leg braces. Wrist braces didn’t come off until after almost 7 weeks. Then, exactly 8 weeks after entering Skilled Nursing, I returned home! Skilled Nursing lived up to its rating as a five-star facility!!!! The care and compassion were unsurpassed. I interacted with the whole medical staff, including all the nurses and all those wonderful aides during my stay, and can’t praise them highly enough. OT and PT worked with me from the very beginning and kept challenging and encouraging me

throughout my whole stay. They are miracle workers!!

Therapy would continue on an outpatient basis for many weeks – but the entire village of Sherwood Oaks has made my recovery possible! I am in awe. THANK YOU!

HIDDEN PLEASURES

By Robert Typanski - #190

Some have lives of toil and trouble,
Where only work and pain abound.
Yet to help us not to stumble,
There are pleasures to be found.

We’re not to indulge every day;
Our commitment’s to achieve.
But when all our days turn gray,
We are truly tempted to stray.

I say I’ll give in just this once,
And it was really, really nice.
But might it be even better
If I indulged at least twice?

People say that varied pleasures
Must be tried out as a sample,
But I have found that the measures
Must always be more than ample.

So pass the chocolate cake!
To resist it, I have no will.
Of its sweetness I’ll partake,
Until I get my fill.



THE COLETTA MCKENRY LIBRARY ACCESSIONS

FICTION, INCLUDING LARGE TYPE AND DVDs

The 23rd Midnight	Patterson, James	c. 2023	F PAT
Camp Zero	Sterling, Michelle Min	c. 2023	F STE
The Covenant of Water	Verghese, Abraham	c. 2023	F VER
Cross Down	Patterson, James	c. 2023	F PAT
The Guest List	Foley, Lucy	c. 2020	F FOL
Happy Place	Henry, Emily	c. 2023	F HEN
Hello Beautiful	Napolitano, Ann	c. 2023	F NAP
The Kennel Caper	Fields, Jan	c. 2013	F FIE
The Lie Maker	Barclay, Linwood	c. 2023	F BAR p.b. L.T.
Of Manners and Murder	Hastings, Anastasia	c. 2023	F HAS
The Postcard	Berest, Anne	c. 2023	F BER
The Secret Book of Flora Lea	Henry, Patti Callahan	c. 2023	F HEN
The Tuscan Child	Bowen, Rhys	c. 2018	F BOW L.T.
Wild Things	Kelly, Karen	c. 2013	F KEL
The Winners	Backman, Fredrik	c. 2022	F BAC

NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES

Hell and Other Destinations	Albright, Madeleine	c. 2020	BIO ALB
Life on Delay: Making Peace with a Stutter	Hendrickson, John	c. 2023	BIO HEN
So Help Me God	Pence, Mike	c. 2022	BIO PEN
And There was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle	Meacham, Jon	c. 2022	973.7 MEA
April 1945: The Hinge of History	Shirley, Craig	c. 2022	940.5 SHI
The Book of Charlie	Von Drehle, David	c. 2023	305.26 VON
The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland	DeFede, Jim	c. 2002	971.8 DEF
Knowing What We Know	Winchester, Simon	c. 2023	001.2 WIN
Rebels at Sea: Privateering in the American Revolution	Dolin, Eric Jay	c. 2022	973.35 DOL
The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams	Schiff, Stacy	c. 2023	973.3 SCH
Saving Time: Discovering a Life Beyond the Clock	Odell, Jenny	c. 2023	153.75 ODE
A Traveler's Guide to the Stars	Johnson, Les	c. 2022	629.45 JOH

THE LIBRARY LOWDOWN

By Barbara Christy - #237

We are looking for new members for the Book Selection Committee. Surprise! This is a committee that doesn't meet, and your once-a-month participation can be done from home in the comfort of your pajamas. Contact Mary Bouwkamp (412-443-5695) or Barb Christy (313-

802-7655) for details. We are eagerly waiting to hear from you!



Fall Sights at Sherwood Oaks



Photo by Rabe Marsh



Photo by Marta Peterson



Photo by Janice Wendt



Photo by Rabe Marsh