

THE ACORN

SHERWOOD OAKS NEWSLETTER

100 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

www.sherwood-oaks.com

November 2024 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. 43, No. 9



Photo by Kathie McCormick

Heading into Winter....

Dear Readers –

These are the days when we sometimes have “summer in the sun and winter in the shade.” In other words, it’s a hodge-podge season, a mix of what was and what is to come.

As you open this edition of The Acorn, some will have already voted by mail and the rest will soon do so in person across Rochester Road. No matter your vote or political leaning, we all sense some trembling in the national mood as we await the results.

But here, on our campus, two things are true. First, whatever happens on November 5, our way of being together will remain because we are a community, not of like-minded souls, but of friends who value each other’s individual stories and contribution to the whole. Second, as seniors, we have learned the gift of gratitude, and will celebrate it joyfully four Thursdays hence. Count all your blessings as we forge ahead.

~Jan Wendt

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

All Saints Day	Nov. 1
Daylight Savings Ends	Nov. 3
Election Day	Nov. 5
Veterans Day	Nov. 11
Nat’l Take a Hike Day	Nov. 17
Thanksgiving	Nov. 28

THE ACORN

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Submissions for the December issue must be sent to the Editor no later than **November 15, 2024.**

Memorial Donations and Remembrance Cards

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

IN MEMORIAM

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

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Lois Hines</i> | <i>September 20, 2024</i> |
| <i>Betty Plant</i> | <i>October 2, 2024</i> |
| <i>Katalin Ketzan</i> | <i>October 4, 2024</i> |
| <i>Norma Dearfield</i> | <i>October 13, 2024</i> |
| <i>Joseph Rich</i> | <i>October 19, 2024</i> |

ROSS & DEBRA JACOBSEN-DEELEY - #136

By Jan Wendt - #158



Photo by Jan Wendt

This newly arrived couple come to Sherwood Oaks from Fergus Falls, MN, where Debra was born and raised. Ross has lived there since 2002, when he and Debra married, but he hails from New Zealand.

The impetus for his long-distance relocation was love, of course. The two met in early 2000 online, in a chat room devoted to those of the Baha'i faith, of which both are adherents. Debra was working along with her mom in the daycare center they managed. Across the world, Ross was employed in a computer shop and also did seasonal work in an apple packing plant.

Computers were less sophisticated then, so the couple could only "chat" by typing and, later, by speaking on the phone. The face-to-face meeting came in 2001, when Ross came to Minnesota to ask Debra's father for her hand in marriage. The wedding took place at her family's lake cottage on August 31, 2002.

They settled in Fergus Falls, where Ross worked as a certified nurse's assistant in a local nursing home and Debra

continued the career she loved, with children at the daycare center.

The Pittsburgh connection can be found in Debra's nephew, Elijah, a CMU grad who lives in Sewickley. After Debra's parents had died, Elijah encouraged the couple to move closer to his family. He felt Sherwood Oaks would suit them and provide the atmosphere and amenities they would like.

They are settling in and finding their way around Cranberry Twp. When it comes to interests and hobbies, Ross is a longtime computer user/aficionado. Debra says she enjoys being around children (no surprise) and visiting with, and getting to know, people.

Please welcome them warmly as you see them around campus.

I OPENED A BOOK

*I opened a book and in I strode
Now nobody can find me.
I've left my hair, my house, my road
My town and my world behind me.
I'm wearing the cloak, I've slipped on the
ring
I've swallowed the magic potion
I've fought with a dragon, dined with a
king
And dived in a bottomless ocean.
I opened a book and made some friends
I shared their tears and laughter,
And followed their road with its bumps
and bends
To the happily ever after.
I finished my book and out I came
The cloak no longer hides me.
My chair and my house are just the same
But I have a book inside me.*

~ Julia Donalson

JOAN PERONE - #116

By Connie Brandenberger - #602



Photo by Security

There is a song “Girls Just Want to Have Fun.” Joan Perone and four of her girlfriends spent a summer vacation in Virginia Beach “just for the fun of it.” The five met sailors who were stationed in the area. Joan was the lucky one who spent the next 60 years married to her sailor husband, Richard.

Joan came to Sherwood Oaks in August of this year; however, husband Richard has been here in Skilled Nursing for about a year following two separate hip and pelvis injuries. After a year of living alone at Traditions of America on Freedom Road, Joan knew it was time to leave their home to make it easier to spend more time with Richard at Sherwood Oaks.

In the Navy, Richard served on a nuclear sub, in three-month rotations, teaching algebra, calculus, and trigonometry. He remained in the Navy for eight years.

Following the couple’s wedding in 1964, they lived in Charleston, SC, for nearly 25 years. Even though Joan was a native Pittsburgher from Mt. Washington, she loved her adopted home in beautiful, Charleston. She enjoyed being near the ocean and spent

many vacations with the family on Kiawah Island. While living in the South, she also found time to volunteer at an Alzheimer’s Clinic in Charleston.

The Perones moved in 1970 to the Holiday Park area, near Monroeville, happy to be closer to family, including her two sisters. Richard and Joan are parents of two daughters, one in New York City, the other in Los Angeles, where she works in the film industry. Their son is closer to her, in New Castle.

After the Navy, Richard was employed at Carnegie Mellon University, developing software in the psychology laboratory. His specialty was industrial computer languages. He retired in 2000.

Joan looks forward to settling into her new patio home, and is thankful to her friendly neighbors, Linda and Arthur Sommer and Sheila Stepp. Her constant companion is her cat, appropriately named Sailor!

If God had intended us to fly, he would have made it easier to get to the airport.

I re-labeled all of the jars in my wife’s spice rack. I’m not in trouble yet, but the thyme is cumin.

HYDRANGEA



Photo by Jan Wendt

TO ALL RESIDENTS!!!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW
TO CELEBRATE THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN US AND
ARE KEEPING OUR FREEDOM.

**"A PATRIOTIC SALUTE TO SHERWOOD OAKS'
VETERANS"**

Monday, November 11, 2024

1:30 pm

AUDITORIUM and CARD ROOM

Patriotic Music begins at 1:15 P.M.

PROGRAM: "HONORING OUR VETERANS"
THE PROGRAM INCLUDES THE
PRESENTATION OF COLORS, GUEST SPEAKERS,
Tom Cindric (Retired Army LTC) AND Janie Cindric
(Perspective as military wife), SPECIAL MUSIC, AND
PATRIOTIC SING-ALONG

WE WILL ALSO RECOGNIZE ALL VETERANS:
Service songs and wreaths in memory of all who have served and are
serving.

REMEMBRANCE
There will be display tables for Veterans' Memorabilia
beginning at 10:00 am.

Grab and Go Refreshments will be served afterwards.

SAVING THE BOOKS

By Dan Cindric - #107



Photo by Dan Cindric

Our great Sherwood Oaks Library had a problem: due to the depth of the shelves, books would often get pushed to the back, and the need was to keep books at the front of the shelves so residents could read the titles. It was, of course, much too expensive to replace every bookshelf. In stepped the Wood Shop with the solution. Modify the shelves by inserting a barrier at the back of each shelf (see above photo). The Wood Shop volunteers could design the inserts, but a lot of material would be needed for the 236 shelves in the library. Joe Schulties was able to find a load of flooring material for the front of the barrier, so the costs would be limited to the 2x4 side support wood, nails, and a powered nail gun. Dick Zuberbuhler and Ann Ferguson cut the wood to size, the nail gun was rented, the table saw was set up for a production

line, and the volunteers went to work. The first stack of supports was delivered to Anne Hunt (shown below with Dick Zuberbuhler) at the library and installed into the shelves. As the Wood Shop crew continued its volunteer labor, the team determined it would be cost effective to purchase a nail gun instead of renting one, which also expanded the Wood Shop tool collection. They worked until all the inserts were finished. What a great example of the co-operation that makes Sherwood Oaks a wonderful community!

Many thanks to Dick, Ralph Smailer, and John Bridges for assembling the shelf barriers, and to the other volunteers at the Wood Shop including Safwat Habashi, Sandy Rubel, Jim Seanor, Gary Bleakley, Paul Agnew, John Lesjack, and Al Rizzo.



Photo by Dan Cindric

COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #735

As I write this column in early October, the coming elections at all levels of government in many cases are too close to call. Depending on the outcome, the struggle to combat climate change could take two very different paths. On one of those paths, the process of putting solutions in place for the problem of climate change will hopefully quicken. On the other path, if one is to believe the rhetoric, we'll put on the brakes and watch the pace of catastrophic weather events accelerate.

There aren't many problems that affect every single living entity on the planet. Climate change is one. In the U.S. this year, we have witnessed the devastation of wildfires, hurricanes, torrential rainstorms . . . the list goes on. Global warming is not only something that will affect future generations – it's here now, and it's getting worse.

The evidence for climate change is overwhelming, witness hurricanes Helene and Milton as two recent examples. And while we are being inundated through all forms of media about so many issues in the coming election, climate change is inexorably heading for tipping points in nature that humanity may not be able to overcome. We cannot let that happen!

As you complete your mail-in ballot or step into the voting booth on November 5, please keep the futures of your children and grandchildren in mind when you cast your ballot: vote FOR the planet.

Watch *The Scale of Hope* on Channel 951 on Monday, November 11, at 10:00 a.m., 3:30 p.m., or 7:00 p.m. Encore presentations are on Wednesday, November 13, at 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

CONTINUED LEARNING

By Jno Hunt - #308

We are excited about our series concluding in November, and we are actively scheduling speakers for next March and April. **Please note the dates and times for each presentation. Due to various scheduling restrictions, these vary from week to week.** All presentations are in the auditorium.

*Monday, Nov. 4, 1:30 p.m.: Miguel Sague — 3 Rivers Native American Community.

*Wednesday, Nov. 14, 1:30 p.m.: Monika Dalrymple — “Planes, Trains, & Automobiles.”

We will also continue our 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.

November:

Tues., Nov. 5: “PBS—Broadway.” Encore on Thurs., Nov. 7.

Tues., Nov. 12: “Connections—A Special Place.” Encore on Thurs., Nov. 14.

Tues., Nov. 19: “The Grand Icelandic Road Trip.” Encore on Thurs., Nov. 21.

Tues., Nov. 26: “Lost Christianities” (21 & 22). Encore on Thurs., Nov. 28.

You know you're getting old when you get the same sensation on a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.

DRIVING IN AFRICA

By John Bridges - #122

Many of you may remember driving in the winter before the days of snow tires and efficient snow clearance. Chains were then in common use during snowy days, which meant jacking up each rear wheel, one at a time, and then lying down in the cold and wet snow to carefully place the jack and chains.

In Africa, few roads were paved in 1952, so chains were needed after heavy rains. The jack had to be balanced on a wooden board to prevent it from sinking deep into the mud. I have never decided which I hated most: lying in the snow or in deep, dirty mud, to put chains on my vehicle. Luckily, I am now safe from these hazards, reclining lazily at Sherwood Oaks.

Modern tubeless tires give few problems, but back in Africa, I was used to carrying tire levers, self-vulcanizing patches, and a box of matches wherever I went. We would often travel for miles on open plains with scattered thorn trees. On the soft ground, these thorns gave few problems. But, when we neared home and reached paved roads, any thorn picked up in the tire treads would often be pressed through to puncture the inner tubes.

Going on to another story, there was an occasion when I saw an African driver having problems at a crossroads. I thought him drunk. But we then found the problem was with the vehicle and not the driver. The track rods were bent, and the vehicle could go straight or make left-hand turns. But, to go right, one had to go straight, reverse left, and repeat several times. Obviously, a vehicle in this

condition could never be allowed on U.S. roads, but in Africa, it was still a bus carrying passengers.

CURIO CABINETS FOR NOV./DEC.

By Janet Desko - #210

The "Fall Harvest" cabinets looked very Autumn-like, and thanks to all who contributed Fall and Halloween items. Everyone did a great job!

On **November 19**, please pick up your "Fall Harvest" items from **10:30 a.m. – noon** and from **4:30 – 6:00 p.m.**

In November/December we will be decorating with the theme of "**My Favorite Things.**" Please bring your favorite holiday ornament, photograph, winter decoration, Hanukkah decor, nativity scenes, or any other holiday tchotchke that you think will be merry. On **November 21**, drop off your "**Favorite Thing**" from **10:30 a.m. – noon** and **4:30 – 6:00 p.m.**

We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with you and thanks again for all your help. We couldn't do it without you!

Moonshot



Photo by Jim Mauch

Bee “Hotels”

By Ann Ferguson - #269 and
Cortlan Harrell

One of our dining room staff members, Cortlan Harrell, researched, designed, and installed bee hotels in the Summer House Garden area for his Eagle Scout project. His creation aims to provide habitats for solitary bees and wasps, bring awareness to native pollinator diversity, and enhance campus scenery.

Unlike social bee species, solitary bees and wasps do not have colonies to defend, so they will not sting. Habitat loss threatens native solitary bee and wasp species. However, these insects play a vital role in pollination, so their health is crucial.



Photo by Ann Ferguson

Like the insect equivalent to birdhouses, bee hotels give solitary pollinators a place to nest. In the spring, pollinators move into the hotels. Come summer, eggs, larvae, and cocoons will form in the

nesting material. Once fall rolls around, the adult bees leave, and the nesting material is moved to an emergence box. This box holds the larvae through the winter until early spring. Then, the larvae emerge as adults who soon will inhabit the bee hotels, restarting the cycle.



Photo by Ann Ferguson

**UNIQUE AND ANTIQUE, NEW AND
VINTAGE, FOR A DAY IN OR A NIGHT OUT**

By Joan Rycheck - #193

Granny's Attic Jewelry, in the Sherwood Gifts Shop, has all of the above for you! If you are looking for a Christmas gift for yourself, your daughter, granddaughter, friend, or wife, stop in and see our wonderful selection of necklaces, bracelets, earrings, pins, and rings. We even have a special group of holiday pins and earrings.

Our great prices will bring a holiday smile to your face. Shop early!

AN AUTUMN TABLEAU

By Monika Dalrymple - #200



Photo by Monika Dalrymple

In the fall, nature's brush strokes create colors of beautiful intensity! Berries shine as red as rubies and green as emeralds, the leaves display themselves in pallets of colors from deep red to bright orange and shiny yellow. Pods, nuts, and berries show off their most beautiful shapes and sizes. Saying goodbye to autumn may not always be welcomed, but Mother Nature does it in such sweet repose that we will not cry, but withstand the cold fury of winter, with a promise that She will be back next year. So, do not feel sad or fear, spring will be here again in all its beautiful splendor!

HEALTH AFFAIRS UPDATE

By Barbara Scruggs - #317

The Health Affairs Committee at Sherwood Oaks is charged with monitoring health trends on campus and educating residents on topics of interest that relate to health and wellness.

The Committee meets every other month, except during the summer. Any Sherwood Oaks resident is welcome to attend a meeting.

The results of a recent survey of resident health-related concerns were printed in the October issue of *The Acorn*.

Residents may be interested to know the Committee, along with Community Nursing, tracks falls that occur in Independent Living. A recent Falls Report, for the months of May-August showed there were 30 falls, 17 in the home and 13 elsewhere on campus. Of those, 18 resulted in injury. Six were admitted to the hospital or Skilled Nursing. Thirteen were repeat fallers.

DON'T GO INTO THE LIBRARY

By Alberto Rios (1952)

The library is dangerous –
Don't go in. If you do,
You know what will happen.
It's like a pet store or a bakery –
Every single time you'll come out of there
Holding something in your arms.

Those novels with their big eyes,
And those no-nonsense, all-muscle
Greyhounds and Dobermans,
All non-fiction and business,
Cuddly when they're young,
But then the first page is turned.

The doughnut scent of it all, *knowledge*,
The aroma of coffee being made
In all those books, something for everyone,
The deli offerings of civilization itself.

The library is the book of books,
Its concrete and wood and glass covers
Keeping within them the very big,
Very long story of everything.
The library is dangerous, full of answers.

If you go inside,
You may not come out
The same person who went in.

BLIND IN THE MUSEUM

By Dennis Lynch - #335

Back in 2022, I wrote a story about my time as docent for several years at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

Lately I have been thinking about those times and the tours I gave. Some were exciting and fruitful, some merely boring for me—and my tour group as well—and some were disasters.

I remember one which was such a mistake for all concerned that I told the superfluous chaperone I thought we should stop the tour and just let the “students” wander on their own. She agreed and that’s what we did.

But I must set that failed tour against my impromptu “tour” with a blind man.

I was working a cart on which were displayed objects which the visitors could handle. Carts were Sunday events, just show-touch-and-tells for random passers-by.

I noticed a man at my cart who looked confused. Looking more closely, he looked severely visually handicapped. So, I just asked him, “Sir, are you blind?” (Not PC, I know, but we were both of an age when we spoke simply.) He said he was.

So, I told him what he was standing in front of and asked if I could try to “show” stuff to him. He agreed. “May I take your hand?” “Yes.”

So, I took his hand and placed one of the touchables in it, guiding his fingers around, and telling him what he was touching.

I tried to speak clearly, simply, and graphically—and discovered how poorly

prepared I was to do that. Try it—it’s very hard!

He was a simpatico visitor and eager to participate, and together we handled several objects I thought he could “see” with his fingers. I was trying to teach him things that were easy for us sighted folk to grasp; he was trying to teach me how to communicate with him.

Then I made a gamble which didn’t turn out well. “May I try to ‘show’ you some of the exhibits?” (We were in Dinosaur Hall.) We were comfortable together, so, “Sure,” he said, “why not?”

I took his elbow and we moved off among the huge skeletons. I tried frantically to think: what can I say to make him “see” in this vast visual landscape? Will it make sense to him if I say, “We are standing beneath the head of a huge creature called an Apatosaurus. The end of his tail is all of 75 feet behind you. Stretch your hand up high: you are pointing at his head, which is not much bigger than yours. But his 19-foot-long neck is holding the head up about eight feet above the tip of your fingers.”

That really didn’t seem to do the trick; after a couple more tries, we gave it up.

But it was a wonderful experience. We both enjoyed our trusting relationship. I stretched to help him see, and he also, I think, stretched to help me help him. I learned how poorly designed this wonderful space, which I was proud to be able to “show” and describe to visitors, was so inadequate in his particular case—and how many other “differently abled” (PC!) people must not even bother to enter it.

It was a gratifying learning experience for me; I hope it was for him as well.

EGGNOG PARTY – THE TRADITION CONTINUES!

By Ruth Lasure - #306



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed
under CC BY-NC-ND

Mark your calendars. This year's Eggnog Party will be on Friday, December 6, from **5:00-6:30 p.m.** Please note that this time is different from past years.

For over 35 years, residents of Sherwood Oaks have hosted and sponsored this festive gathering for fellow residents. A special menu of delectable items and, of course, eggnog (both clean and spiked) plus other libations will be served.

This is a dress-up party to welcome the holiday season and is for residents only.

Your invitation, with a list of all the hosts, will arrive in your cubby mid-November. Please be sure to **return your RSVP** so staff can plan the appropriate dining arrangements for the evening.

All the hosts hope you will join us to celebrate the opening of the holiday season here at Sherwood Oaks!

If you would like to become a host and have your name printed in the invitation,

please call Ruth Lasure (#8306) or Barb DiDonato (#8261) no later than Nov. 10. Sponsorships will be accepted at any time but may not make the printing deadline for inclusion in the invitation.

POETRY OR PROSE?

By Robert Typanski - #190

When thoughts profound are written in
prose

I find that the length makes me doze.
When you need to express a thought
one shouldn't have to write a lot.

If you feel verbose and want to expound
using many words with syllables com-
pound

and lengthy paragraphs of it is or not,
Prose encourages one not to stop.

Prose puts me to sleep as I wait to find
The reason it is or isn't mine
To know that it could be just fine if
obscure actions we would combine.

If then it comes down to a big fat
paragraph of he said this, and she said
that.

We also find many words were used to
refute

a meaningless point of little dispute,
when a short poem would have made it
moot.

The thinning yellow light of November is more warming and exhilarating than any wine they tell of. The mite which November contributes becomes equal in value to the bounty of July.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KAREN OBRINGER

By Jean Henderson - #346

Karen Obringer, RN, has been awarded the Pennsylvania Assisted Living Association (PALA) Keystone Award for 2024 Outstanding Nurse Caregiver of the Year. She is a 21-year employee of SO and now serves as the Personal Care Manager. Her responsibilities include our 47- bed PC unit and our 30-bed dementia care building. Her office in the middle of the unit with its open door and candy stash finds many folks stopping in to chat with this great listener.

Karen (center) celebrates with residents and staff.



Photo by Lori Greer

Karen shares her clinical skills, professional guidance, and party planning creativity with patients, staff, and family members. She is the sole medication tech trainer for our staff because of her Medication Technician Training Certificate. Her mentorship of medical staff to help further their skills has been appreciated by dozens.

Karen is a role model within the PALA organization and Sherwood Oaks—a breath of fresh air we all enjoy! Congratulations, Karen! We're proud of you!

SEW, DID YOU KNOW?

By Joni Pun - #223

The Crazy Crafters section is much more than just crafts and pottery. We used to have a group that made quilts, but it dwindled to only two people to finish them and disbanded. However, we have so much leftover fabric that can be used for smaller projects - a whole closet of things — many of which are Fall-, Thanksgiving-, or Christmas - themed plus oodles of acrylic stuffing, batting, needles, beads, sequins, and other supplies and more thread than JoAnn's!

There are also projects that people started and never finished, which are just waiting for someone to complete them. I have hung two examples in the scooter room. Let me know if you would like to see what we have. Some projects that come to mind are placemats, potholders, cushions, and small quilts. And there are five sewing machines available for your use in doing any of these projects!

Remember, as always, we are looking for people to exhibit in the gallery in the Scooter Room — paintings, needlework, and any craft that can be hung.

WHAT'S NEW WITH SORA?

(SO Residents Association)

By Rosemary Coffey, Secretary - #113

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

Data from minutes for the **Oct. 8, 2024**, monthly board meeting:

SORA Treasurers: The balance in the checking account as of Sept. 30 was \$55,387, but the total SORA balance, reflecting the West View Bank checking account balance and the Huntington CD, came to \$95,387.

Liaison Reports:

Dining Room: The new CURA Manager is Amanda Anthony. Planning for the holiday parties has begun.

Curio Cabinets: The October theme was Fall Harvest, including pumpkins, scarecrows, skeletons, etc.

Resident Arts & Crafts Wall: Additional artwork is wanted for the Scooter Room exhibition walls, such as drawings, paintings, needlework, weavings, etc.

Crazy Crafters: Pottery classes are in full swing, for beginners and advanced potters.

Art Studio: It is open regularly on Mondays at 1 p.m. for painting and sketching.

Welcoming: Ten new residents were introduced at the last quarterly meeting.

Living with Loss: A grief support group was offered on the last two Tuesdays in Oct. and will be available on the 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays in Nov.

Sherwood Neighbors: Roberta Breninghouse can always use items we receive in the mail such as cards and calendars.

Candidates' Night: It featured the Republican and Democratic contenders for the position of Congressman for PA's 16th Congressional District.

Health Affairs: A vaccine clinic for Covid-19 and influenza was held on Sept. 24. Health videos were to be shown on Channel 951, starting on Thurs., Oct. 10.

Bells and Chorus: The group is considering presenting a holiday concert on Wed., Dec. 4. Stay tuned for the final decision!

Continued Learning: The names of speakers for the Fall were announced.

Maintenance Committee: A new company, R. C. Elite, has replaced UPMC crews. Numerous repairs have been completed or are in progress. The projector problems in the Auditorium have not yet been fully resolved.

Security & Transportation: Pricing and sources are being pursued to acquire a 3rd small (14-passenger) bus to replace the large bus, which would be sold. An issue with false smoke alarms in the Lakeside Apartments has been attributed to dirty smoke detectors, all of which have now been cleaned.

Pool, Spa, & Locker Room: A slide on Channel 950 is promoting the pool for general exercise.

Administrator's Report: Census: We have a total of 341 residents, occupying 74% of the units in Independent Living and Skilled Nursing, and 81% in Personal Care. A new resident satisfaction survey is being developed.

Old Business: The Summer House Committee has been dissolved, although the dedication celebration has been postponed until next spring. The dog park has been opened to dogs and their humans.

Future Board Meetings: The next Monthly Board Meeting will be held on **Tues., Nov. 5, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Card Room. The next Quarterly Board Meeting will take place on **Tues., Dec. 10, at 7 p.m.** in the Auditorium. There will be a holiday concert on **Dec. 4**, an Eggnog Party on **Dec. 6**, and a Residents' Party on **Dec. 19**. Mark your calendars!

WORTH A LOOK Books New to Our Library

By Barbara Christy # 237

Other Birds by Sarah Addison Allen. Fiction. "There are birds and then there are other birds." So says Frasier, the manager of the Dellawisp condo building, speaking of the tiny turquoise birds for whom the condo building is named. Zoey has inherited her mother's studio apartment, which has been vacant since her mother died 12 years ago. Located on a coastal island not far from Charleston, the Dellawisp has only five apartments, inhabited by Mac, a teddy bear of a man and an aspiring chef, two estranged sisters, and a hippy-type aspiring artist – and three ghosts. When one of the sisters, hoarder Lizbeth, is found dead under an overturned bookcase, Zoey is given the job of clearing out the mess. Charged with examining it all for a missing draft manuscript wanted by the island's famous but non-productive author, Zoey learns that Lizbeth's death was in fact murder and the missing manuscript is not the only mystery in her new home. "Drama does not need to be chased. It knows exactly where you live." FALL

You Are Here by David Nicholls. Fiction. Marnie is a 38-year-old copyeditor/proofreader, successful and in demand by her authors. But she lives and works alone in a London flat and hasn't taken a vacation in three years. One day she realizes that her many friends from years past are no longer around and she is not just alone but lonely. Over Christmas she refuses to accept an invitation from her friend Cleo, faking illness which turns out to be real. Shivering on the

couch on New Year's Day, she resolves to revive friendships and make new ones. When Cleo calls with an invitation to a three-day hike with strangers, she says yes. Maybe this potentially awful experience is just what she needs.

Michael is a recently divorced high school geology teacher in northern England. He's avoiding being alone at home by being alone on long hikes, all day every weekend. When Cleo asks him to plot a path for a three-day walk for a group of friends, he instead becomes obsessed with the idea of a 190-mile trek from the Irish Sea to the North Sea in the east. Not to be deterred by Michael's over-the-top, two-week plan, Cleo invites Marnie and two other single people to join her, Michael, and her family for the first three days of the adventure. Amid rain, complaints, and impassable rockslides, Michael and Marnie find they have much in common. F NIC

A Line to Kill by Anthony Horowitz. Fiction. Author Anthony Horowitz narrates this murder mystery in which he and co-author Hawthorne are thrown together on a Channel Island to do publicity at an island festival. Hawthorne is a former detective, private investigator, and current police consultant whose ideas were used in the book. But he has not contributed a word for the book and Horowitz is not thrilled with sharing the glory or the profits of it. Horowitz is also not pleased with the idea of promoting a book not yet in print and at a tiny event but is convinced to go along. Once there, he meets his fellow writers: an unhealthy chef, a blind psychic, a war historian, a children's author, and his enthusiasm for the event drops even lower.

the festival's receptions. Charles le Mesurier is a public-school snob, rich and repulsive. In addition to his many other commercial activities, he is bringing a power line to the island that will traverse several sacred mass graves where WWII labor camp internees were buried. The islanders are split in their acceptance of it and between the invited writers and the islanders there are many people who might want him dead. Suddenly Hawthorne and Horowitz are in their element – there's a murder to solve. F HOR

Hiroshima: The Last Witnesses by M.G. Sheftall. Non-fiction. This is an absolutely absorbing account of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki – before, during and after. It starts with a radio operator on the missions that dropped the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki who says he always wondered what those thousands of people were doing when they died. This book, as much as anyone can, answers that question.

It starts with the crew of the Enola Gay (did you know that all the crew members were offered cyanide tablets to be used in the event of capture by the Japanese?) and two other B-29s on that mission – who dropped telemetry, video and photographic equipment to document the bomb's effect.

Described next are the Japanese warriors who were charged with the defense of the homeland which was to be coordinated from Hiroshima. Among the most gripping parts of the book are the accounts of the individuals going about their daily lives despite constant night-time air raids, daytime bombing runs, and required trips to the bomb shelters. Among them are: Chieko, with her guilt about being from an affluent family, her disdain for her hick

Hiroshima classmates, and her lack of belief in the war propaganda; Kotani, who was charged with building firebreaks despite the lack of available manpower to do the job; Chai, a Taiwanese student in the exclusive Kōryō Junior High School striving to become a doctor; and Mi Cha, a Korean 12-year-old, whose father was induced to leave his successful farm in Korea to serve the Japanese homeland in a military production factory. This book is exceptional in its ability to cover the huge global impact of the first atomic bomb and simultaneously its impact on thousands of individual lives. 940.542 SHE

The Great Divide by Cristina Henriquez. Fiction. The portrayal of the building of the Panama Canal is historically accurate but occurs only as the setting for this account of disparate lives inadvertently intertwined by a unique feat of human engineering. Omar is a young fisherman eager to find a more interesting life but angry about the outsider takeover of his country. Marian and John Oswald are a young couple from Tennessee lured to Panama to fight malaria, and Ada is a 16-year-old penniless stowaway from Barbados who wants to earn enough money to pay for her sister's desperately needed medical care. These intriguing characters interact, sometimes tangentially with each other and with many others, as the author explores themes of cultural, marital, and family divisions; ambition, hope, and resolve; and national identity. Filled with examples of loving kindness against a background of indifference and cruelty as practiced by the white overlords, Henriquez's novel is about the intimate lives of people who are often forgotten, dismissed, and willing to sacrifice body and soul to provide a better life for their loved ones. F HEN

America's Deadliest Election: The Cautionary Tale of the Most Violent Election in American History by Dana Bash and David Fisher. Non-fiction. If you are expecting to have election-withdrawal issues, this is the book for you.

The 1872 election between Ulysses S. Grant and Horace Greeley was fiercely fought throughout the U.S., but nowhere more violently than in Louisiana. Local power broker Henry Warmoth had already established himself as the primary political force in the Bayou state during the chaos, violence, and fraud of Reconstruction and its aftermath. But in 1872 he was threatened by new challengers. The issues would be familiar to readers today: crime, the southern border, food shortages, and economic distress, but also calls to eliminate the electoral college and the Department of Justice. States rights versus the federal responsibility to protect citizens was a very hot issue. But, in this election, one person, Henry Warmoth, was able to manipulate the levers of power in Louisiana to unleash lethal forces that resulted in the massacre of at least 150 black men. But the conflict did not end there. A pitched battle through the streets and levees of New Orleans occurred in September 1874 and the newly organized Ku Klux Klan led many attacks on black men and their families. Eventually one of the cases ended up in the Supreme Court as a test of whether the Federal government was responsible for protecting citizens from other citizens or from official entities only. The decision in this case, *US vs Cruikshank*, made Jim Crow completely legal.

Political junkies will find this book totally absorbing as the authors recount all the maneuvering and back-room deal making that nearly ended our democracy. And the corollaries with the election of 2024 are astounding. 324 973 BAS



White Phase Heron – Nancy Smith

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, November 3

Rev. Dean Ziegler
Coraopolis United Methodist Church
Coraopolis

Sunday, November 10

Rev. Liddy Barlow
Christian Associates SW PA

Sunday, November 17

Rev. Donna Giver-Johnston
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Pittsburgh

Sunday, November 24

Rev. Stan Keehlwetter
Heritage Presbyterian Church
McCandless Township

"I sought the Lord, and He heard me and delivered me from all my fears. Psalm 34:4

CANINE PALS PARTY HARDY

By Jan Wendt - #158

(See photo, back cover)

Ann Ferguson is well-known on campus for her energy and her devotion to her canine companions, Talley and Fergy. The “boys” have doggie friends who romp with them often on playdates and at obedience and agility classes.

So, with canine birthdays looming, of course Ann planned a celebratory gathering in her backyard for Talley, who turned four on October 11; Fergy, whose third birthday is December 27; and friends Ciro (four on October 10) and Tallie Rose (four on October 1).

The occasion came with good weather, playtime, cake and other dog treats, and hats, as you can see on the back cover. The partygoers, L to R, are Talley, Fergy, Ciro, and Tallie Rose.

After celebrating, the group adjourned to our new dog park for some good old-fashioned running and jumping.

ISSUES OF OLDER AGE

Just once, I want a username and password prompt to say, “Close enough.”

Do you ever wake up in the morning and look in the mirror and think, “That can’t be right”?

Last night the Internet stopped working, so I spent a few hours with my family. They seemed like good people! We celebrated with a few adult beverages, Ensure and Metamucil.

A thief broke into my house last night. He started searching for money, so I got up and searched with him.

OUTDOOR GAMES MOVE INDOORS

By Gary Brandenberger - #602

The weather will now end the Outdoor Games season for this year. We had a small, but faithful, group of 5-10 folks at our eleven events. We started the games late in the season, and the construction at the Summer House area complicated setting up the games.

We do have ‘indoor game’ facilities at the Cranberry Lake Fitness Center. Pickleball will soon shift inside. Their playing times are posted on the 950 channel and the activity sheet. We have a complete Cornhole Set available. Cornhole was our most popular game at our recent games, so we can continue that “spirited competition” inside. We also have a ping pong table for those who want to perfect those skills.

Plan on meeting Wednesday afternoons at 2:30 in the Cranberry Lake Fitness Center, starting on November 6th. Watch for announcements on channel 950. Reminder slips will be distributed until we have the ‘system’ working. Everyone is welcome; bring a friend or neighbor!



Photo by Kathie McCormick

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT CONCERT, NOVEMBER 26

MODERN MUSIC
AND ART
A CHRISTMAS
CANDLELIGHT
CELEBRATION



JOIN US FOR A
MAGICAL
EVENING



**CHRISTMAS
CANDLELIGHT
CONCERT
WITH
ROBERTA, PIANO**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26
7:00 PM
AUDITORIUM



MODERN
MUSIC AND
ART FUSED
WITH
CHRISTMAS
SONGS

HOSTED BY
SORA
PROGRAM
COMMITTEE

THE COLETTA MCKENRY LIBRARY ACCESSIONS FICTION, INCLUDING LARGE TYPE

The Antique Hunter's Guide to Murder	Miller, C. L.	c. 2024	F MIL
By Any Other Name	Picoult, Jodi	c. 2024	F PIC
The Last Hope	MacNeal, Susan Elia	c. 2024	F MAC
A Line to Kill*	Horowitz, Anthony	c. 2021	F HOR
Murder Road	St. James, Simone	c. 2024	F ST.J
Of Hoaxes and Homicide	Hastings, Anastasia	c. 2024	F HAS
Other Birds*	Allen, Sarah Addison	c. 2022	F ALL
Passions in Death	Robb, J. D.	c. 2024	F ROB
Robert B. Parker's Buzz Kill	Gaylin, Alison	c. 2024	F GAY
Spirit Crossing	Krueger, William Kent	c. 2024	F KRU
Trust Her	Berry, Flynn	c. 2024	F BER

*Reviewed in "Worth a Look," page 15.

A good time was had by all!



(See story, page 18)