

THE ACORN

SHERWOOD OAKS NEWSLETTER
100 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

December 2015 "For the residents, by the residents" Vol. XVI No. 10

"Here we come a-wassailing among the leaves so green."



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Connie Brandenberger

Tree Trimming

It's that wonderful time of the year! Our "Caps For Kids" tree went up on November 24, and both Sherwood Oaks Center Christmas Trees will be decorated on Tuesday, December 1. All are welcome to join in this holiday event. We'll meet in the lobby at 9 AM.

Gussie Dimmick

Approximately 25 residents participate in the Caps for Kids program. Some work alone but many are in the Sew and So group that meets weekly. In 2014, they made 682 caps or other items. This year they have reached a new high of 750. In May, 150 of these were sent to World Vision following the Nepal earthquakes. They have already started on the 2016 campaign! Donations of yarn are always appreciated.

**See 'Glimpses,' next page.*

Bobbie Cleland

Eggnog Party

**Friday, December 4, 4:30-6 PM
Card Room and Auditorium**

Friday, December 4, is almost here and the annual Eggnog Party will start the holiday season. The Committee has been busy with preparations and decorations and your hosts are looking forward to seeing all of you at 4:30 PM. Our thanks to Ed Alo for printing the invitations. The Eggnog Committee encourages more residents to join them next year as hosts; if you are interested, speak to any of the current hosts.

Pat Stephen

**SORA Quarterly Meeting
Tuesday, December 15, 7:15 PM
Auditorium**

**Sherwood Oaks Christmas Concert
"All Is Well"
Wednesday, December 9, 7:15 PM
Auditorium**

"All is Well" is only one of the lovely carols that the chorus and bell choir are preparing for our Annual Christmas Concert. The music groups, directed by Lyn Marsh, are hoping for a big audience to help us start the Christmas season with a Musical HO HO HO. Please join us for the concert at 7:15 PM, Wednesday, December 9 in the Auditorium. You'll be glad you did!

LaVonne McCandlish

**Employee Christmas Party
Thursday, December 10,
11 to 3:30 PM
Main Dining Room**

The Dining Room will be closed for lunch. The Café will remain open and takeout meals will be available at the counter during normal lunch hours. The Dining Room will be open for dinner.

Tabby Alford

**Residents Christmas Party
Thursday, December 17, 4:30-6 PM
Card Room and Auditorium**

The year's theme is "***I'll Be Home for Christmas.***" Please come and enjoy good music, great company and a scrumptious array of appetizers. The Dining Room and Café will be closed for dinner. Takeout meals will be available at the Café counter from 5:10 – 6 PM.

Bobbie Cleland

**New Year's Eve Party
Thursday, December 31
9 PM-12:30 AM in the Auditorium**

New Year's Eve tickets are \$10 per person. Purchase them at the front desk. The Jeanie Allen Trio will return to provide entertainment. They play many of our old favorites and take requests. There is room to dance!! Enjoy party food, snacks, drinks and champagne for the Midnight Toast. (You can also BYOB.) Games for all: Bingo, Blackjack, etc. – and ever popular door prizes.

Diane Neely

*See 'Glimpses,' next column



GLIMPSES FROM THE PAST

from the December 1995 ACORN...

*Invitations to all residents for the Sherwood Oaks New Year's Eve party will be in your boxes very soon. Please send in your reservation, along with a check for \$3.00 per person. Entertainment by the Daisy Dukes, mixers, the Grand March, delicious refreshments, balloon drop and New Year's toasts will be part of this evening of fun for all.

Also from 1995... Bake Sale Committee appreciates the efforts of all who baked, bought, made cash donations or worked to make the Autumn Bake Sale a success. We received a total of \$1,251 for our donation to the West Wing special project.

News Flash - 2015 Bake Sale proceeds total is \$1332.40.

And the January 1997 issue...

*Caps for Kids

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the caps for Kids campaign this year. Sherwood Oaks' total donation was 240 caps, 189 donated by employees and 51 handmade by residents.

scd

FIRST SNOW

First dust of winter on my neighbor's hill
Records small secrets with great
diligence until
The sun with thoughtfulness erases
The tiny tracks of beasts to their small
hiding places.

*Eleanor Bauer
"Bits & Pieces" © 1989*

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS TREE

Experiencing Christmas for the first time in our new home in Portland, Oregon, was certainly going to be special. We had stored the artificial Christmas tree that we had brought from Pittsburgh and opted to experience a true northwest holiday in the land of evergreens.

Our family went to one of the nearby tree farms and wandered throughout the property until we found our perfect, first live Christmas tree. As we walked around sizing the tree up, it truly was perfect! There wasn't a bad side to it and it was just the right height. With a few words of guidance from employees, they gave us a saw. First our two young sons tried their hand at sawing the trunk, and then Joe finished bringing down the tree. The employee took over the process of putting it on a machine to shake out any loose needles and then wrapped it tightly in twine for the trip home.

We placed the tree in its stand in our living room. When the twine was cut, we were thrilled to see the branches spring open and fill our room with the wonderful scent of evergreen. This was a memory in the making and we were excited!

First the lights and then the glittering silver garland went around the tree. We brought out the boxes of ornaments that I had made throughout the years. All of the different types which were sewn, knitted, crocheted and needlepointed were gingerly put on the branches. After finishing off the tree with a star, we brought out the Lionel Train that our sons enjoyed so

much. It was assembled under the tree and the display completed with a meticulously placed village.

One morning our sons were finishing their breakfast before going to school, when our eldest son looked up and asked, "What are those black dots moving on the ceiling?" Much to our horror, the ceiling was crawling with little tiny spiders that had hatched from the tree in the warmth of our lovely new home. Instant frenzy! We went into action.

Joe hurriedly took apart the village and train track. I found tiny spiders in the yarns and material of all of the ornaments. Yikes! The spiders were so small and plentiful that I couldn't pick them from the ornaments. We quickly removed the star, glittering garland and lights from the tree and hoisted it out of the tree stand. With no hesitation, we opened the patio door and heaved the tree into the yard! We'd had our northwest evergreen experience!

Now we turned to our reliable artificial Christmas tree. I had put the ornaments in the clothes dryer and the heat eliminated the pesky spiders without damaging the ornaments. We put on the lights, garland, ornaments and topped our artificial tree with the star. The train track was laid circling the tree and the village that started in the valley inside the track climbed up the white tree skirt like the towns on the snowy slopes of Mt. Hood. It was a memorable first Christmas in Oregon!

We're looking forward to celebrating our first Christmas at Sherwood Oaks and decorating our artificial tree!

Peg Rychcik

**CHRISTMAS 2015 -
ISIS IN IRAQ & SYRIA**

The message of the manger
Clothed in empty rhetoric
Rings in the deaf ears of those
Concerned with more important things
.... What to get for Uncle Ed
.... How long to cook the turkey
.... And who sent a Christmas card
But did not get one in return.

The merriment of the moment
Hides the dichotomies
That mar all time.
.... Peace on earth
.... When there is no peace
.... Good will toward men
When death is willed by those
Who weekly pray for guidance.

The chatter of a child
Discarding the bright wrappings
From a moment's pleasure
Drowns out the cries of pain
Of a thousand children
Whose only joy is to live
Until morning to see
If their loved ones have been spared.

Some say that He will come again
Some say that He is yet to come.
But there is no difference
For the message
Whether spoken and ignored
Or unspoken and unlearned
Is of little value
As long as the carnage continues.

And those awaiting the return
Join those awaiting still
To wonder
How many tons of bombs
And pounds of flesh
Must be spent
To buy honor
For Christmas 2015.

From THE ACORN December 1998

December is a special month -
Of that there is no doubt.
It's probably the only month
We couldn't do without.

Our Christmas month, December,
Inspires a special feeling,
Whether we shop for Christmas gifts
Or pray, devoutly kneeling.

For December is the birth-month
Of a holy baby boy -
A birth that since has given us
Two thousand years of joy.

Among the months that make the year -
Spring, summer, winter, fall -
The last month is the best month:
December tops them all.

James Holding
Sherwood Oaks resident in the 1990s



FOOTNOTE TO "CHRISTMAS 2015": *This poem was originally written in 1973 and was titled "Christmas 1973 - Vietnam". It was re-vived 30 years later (by simply changing the date and one word in the title) as "Christmas 2003 - Iraq" and again in 2008 as "Christmas 2008 - Afghanistan".*

Our "Holiday Wish" for 2015 is that this is the final version and that there will soon be "PEACE ON EARTH AND GOOD WILL TOWARD ALL MANKIND"

WHAT'S NEW WITH SORA?

Reports and actions at the November SORA Board meeting included:

Treasurers' Reports – Gary Brandenberger reported income of \$6,041 to the Memorial/Special Projects Fund bringing the balance to \$70,766. This included a donation of \$6,000 from Sherwood Gifts. The Employee Appreciation Fund received checks totaling \$75,986, bringing the balance to \$92,592. There were donations from 141 units (single residents and couples).

Liaison Reports:

Program Committee:

December 1 at 7:15 PM, the Seneca Valley High School Tri-M Honor Society will present a musical program as a gift in recognition of our long relationship.

Security and Transportation:

Mike Mills reported that two new 14-passenger, handicapped-accessible buses will be delivered in February or March and the present small buses will be traded in. Replacement of the large bus is at least two years away.

Finance Committee: The audit of financial entities of SORA will be completed by the December SORA Board meeting with auditors named as follows: Memorial/Special Projects Fund - Marilyn Brown; Employee Appreciation Fund - Jim Blum; Operating Treasurer - Joe Schewe. Sherwood Gifts (including Granny's Attic) is being audited professionally, as recommended.

Landscape Committee: Drainage improvements to the North Woods entry

path are complete; ten trees have been planted; the putting green has been aerated; the Wimbledon court has been top dressed.

Trips and Tours: Coming events include a trip to Oglebay Park for the Christmas light display on Wednesday, December 2, and a trip to dinner at the Wooden Angel on Saturday, December 14.

Management Report : Mark Bondi reported that occupancy rate and homes sold stand strong at 94%. The Resident Satisfaction Survey will be available in December for response on paper or by email. Mark will investigate the status of the Auction Barn and the rumors that it will be closing. Administration continues to work on recruitment of staff.

Health Affairs: The R&R six-week pilot program is completed. It was well received but there were not enough participants to continue the program. The Committee welcomed new members Ralph Peabody and Jean Anne Pelusi. They plan to invite staff members Bill Burtner (Fitness Director), Anna Mancini (Dining Services) and Meghan Szymanski (Rehabilitation) to attend future meetings.

Drama Club is looking for new members who enjoy reading (occasionally for the community) short plays. They meet at 1:30 PM on third Tuesdays in Oak Lodge.

Betty Eichler,
Recorder



NORMAL IS OVERATED

Have you ever received a Christmas letter like this?

“Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas. Ours has been a terrific year. John finished his PhD and was named “Man of the Year.” My latest book, “How to Raise the Perfect Family,” has been on the New York Times best seller list for ten weeks. Our children are superb. John Jr. and his wife are missionaries in Uganda. Fred, the nuclear scientist, has been asked to present a paper to the Scientific World and Joyce, our baby, is running for Congress this year. I know how difficult things have been for you; so as a Christmas gift, I am sending you a copy of my book. Merry Christmas, and hopefully next year will treat you better.”

I relate much better to letters that tell me they are grateful that no one flunked out of school or ran away with one of America's Most Wanted or got arrested.

Ours is an interesting family. Between us, my brother and I have produced children and grandchildren of Scots, Irish, English, Welsh, German, Japanese, Afro-American and Native American heritage.

In 2007, two of our grandchildren married, and therein lies my tale. In an average family there might be two lovely weddings in a cozy church, soft music playing and the beautifully gowned attendants waiting for their turn to walk down the aisle. I would look stunning in my grandmother of the bridegroom

dress, while Bob, resplendent in his tuxedo, accompanied me. This was not to be.

The first wedding was our grandson's. He was marrying a full-blooded Navajo young woman on the Reservation. The ceremony would take place in a teepee, considered a revered place. The problem was that we would all be sitting on the ground. I knew I could at least get down, but doubted I could ever rise again with any shred of dignity. However, the hosts of the wedding were very thoughtful and had chairs for those of us who were in the groom's family. It was a lovely ceremony. It was a new experience for us and we felt privileged to be part of it.

Six months later our granddaughter was married. There were no invitations. She called her parents from the local Burger King one evening and said, “I'm getting married here tonight.”

Yes, you heard me correctly. She got married at the Burger King. Her intended was the manager of the store and when a local pastor and some of his congregation came in after a Sunday night service, he offered to marry them that evening.

To sum up the year, two of our grandchildren got married, one in a teepee and one in a Burger King. I doubt that you can equal that.

Are we normal, whatever that is? I don't know but it sure is a fun family.

Ellen Brierly

CURIO CABINETS

The “Love ya, Pittsburgh” display was a success. Among the many items provided by Joe Schewe were two cans of Old Frothingslosh (empty, of course) and his key to the private Gaslight Club — Pittsburgh’s answer to Hugh Heffner’s Playboy Clubs. Everything in the Penguins display was courtesy of Barbara Rankin, an enthusiastic fan who claims to have a Penguins’ shrine in her home. Al Schartner’s violin, Debby Jacoby’s baby grand piano and Harriet Ritchie’s harp added a lot to the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra section. Ron Oullette provided everything in the Pittsburgh Concert Chorale display and Christiane Majeski loaned the Mendelssohn Choir items, including the medal she received for thirty years’ participation. Ellen and Bob Brierly loaned the picture of a ballerina - their lovely grand-daughter - for the Pittsburgh Ballet Company section. Thanks to the many residents who shared their treasures and made “Love ya, Pittsburgh” interesting and fun!

Tuesday, December 1

Pick up treasures

Thursday, December 3

Drop off Christmas & Hanukkah items.

Pick up and drop off times:
10 AM - noon and 4:30 - 5:30 PM

Fran Borrebach



Christmas cards on display in the Gift Shop

SHERWOOD GIFTS

December is here and the holidays are just around the corner. You may have noticed that Sherwood Gifts is bursting with lovely items to help you with your gift list. We also have a nice selection of Christmas cards. If you cannot find something, simply ask; we may have just what you are looking for.

In the Candy Department we try to keep the standard items on display. Bags of peppermints go fast, as do individual small chocolate bars. Remember the chocolates on the top shelf? They make lovely gifts. Since cold weather is here, we have cough drops and hard candies for scratchy throats. Have a "sweet tooth" and don't want to overindulge? Stop by the table in front of the desk and purchase a few pieces of your favorite small chocolates.

Among our five departments: Cards, Candy, Sundries, Jewelry and Granny's Attic, you never know what you might find. Stop in frequently as the displays change often.

Happy Holidays to all of you from all of us who volunteer in Sherwood Gifts.

Jean Gibson

The Acorn

Co-Editors

Ruth Becker

ruthbb@zoominternet.net

Sally Donnell

donnells@zoominternet.net

Reporter

Mike Rose

mike1005@zoominternet.net

Profile Coordinator

Marianne Davis

marianne.davis@zoominternet.net

Production Editor

Tabby Alford

alfordtl@sherwood-oaks.com

Photographer

Joe Asin

Bio Photographer

Ed Borrebach

Ex Officio

Mark Bondi

bondi@sherwood-oaks.com

January ACORN deadline:

Monday, December 14.

Please Note: The deadline date varies from month to month depending on the printer's schedule.

All submissions to the editors **preferably online**, at the above email addresses.

BAKE SALE COMMITTEE

A BIG "Thank You" goes out to everyone who made this year's sale such a success. Proceeds are used by SORA for campus programs and activities.

Linda Mamaux

GALLERY NEWS

From mid-November to mid-December, the Gallery is exhibiting the art work of Mina Aldoori. Welcome and enjoy the diversity of her work.

While growing up in Baghdad, Iraq, Mina Aldoori became interested in communicating and bridging differences through her art work.

Among other exhibits, Mina participated in the War-Dialogues project which brought together an Iraqi refugee and a U.S. veteran to share experiences and join in the process of healing through shared artistic expression.

Duquesne University's Christian-Muslim Dialogue Committee has shown her art. Twenty-year-old Mina studies art at Pittsburgh's Carlow University.

Dorothy Fitzpatrick
Gallery Chair

HELP WANTED

THE ACORN staff is seeking a computer savvy person who can decipher penmanship and enter articles that wind up in THE ACORN mail cubby. Must be able to work on deadline and email copy to several addresses.

Please reply to:

donnells@zoominternet.net

ruthbb@zoominternet.net

indicating interest, ability and availability. THANKS....we're desperate.

rbb and scd

Spotlight on New Books
The Book Selection Committee
Tom Fararo, chair

These books were recently purchased. They are on the new book shelf in our library. If a book you are seeking is not there, fill out a reserve slip.

***Pretty Girls* by Karin Slaughter.** The popular author "makes most of her high-wire competition look pallid, formulaic, or just plain fake" (quoting a Kirkus starred review).

***Falling in Love* by Donna Leon.** All is not well in Venice but Inspector Brunetti is on the job solving another mystery. The author's books have been very popular at Sherwood Oaks.

***Purity* by Jonathan Franzen.** This notable novelist writes about ordinary American families coping with social and cultural change. The Library Journal calls this "a book rich with characters searching for roots and meaning...." with "moments of absolute genius."

***After You* by JoJo Moyes.** This new family centered novel is a sequel to the popular author's *Me Before You*. One reviewer noted that the book is as good as the earlier one and that "like its predecessor, *After You* is a comic and breezy novel that also tackles bigger, more difficult subjects, in this case grief and moving on."

***Finale: A Novel of the Reagan Years* by Thomas Mallon.** Reviewers agree that this is exciting historical fiction at its best. The Post-Gazette reviewer wrote: "Mr. Mallon's vivid take on this period in American politics rings true."

***My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante.** Writes one reviewer: "A modern masterpiece

from one of Italy's most acclaimed authors, (the novel) is a rich, intense, and generous-hearted story about two women." This is the first of four books exploring their friendship.



LIGHT THE FESTIVE CANDLES

Light the first of eight tonight —
The farthest candle to the right

Light the first and second, too,
When tomorrow's day is through.

Then light three, and then light four —
Every dusk one candle more

Till all eight burn bright and high,
Honoring a day gone by

When the Temple was restored,
Rescued from the Syrian lord,

And an eight-day feast proclaimed —
The Festival of Lights — well named

To celebrate the joyous day
When we regained the right to pray
To our one God in our own way.

"Light the Festive Candles" from SKIP AROUND THE YEAR by Aileen Fisher. Copyright © 1967 Aileen Fisher, renewed 1995 Aileen Fisher. Used by permission of Marian Reiner on behalf of the Boulder Public Library Foundation, Inc.



*Worth the Time
by Ed Vidd*

The Last Empire

Srehii Plotkhy 947.086 Plo

This is a big history book, over 400 pages, fascinating, and yet in some parts quite difficult to read. It explores the period that begins in July of 1991 with the Bush/Gorbachev summit meeting to sign the START I treaty on nuclear weapon disarmament, and ends with Gorbachev's resignation on Christmas Day of that same year to dissolve the Soviet Union! The easiest discussions involve the Baltic States (Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia) that had been acquired by force by Russia in WWII and so were not recognized as part of the USSR by UN members. Not so for Ukraine! Russia strongly resisted Ukraine's desire for independence; many contentious discussions ensued. They continue even to this day over East Ukraine and the Crimean peninsula. While parts of this book are tiresome to read, one can read selectively. For me, things became especially interesting when Boris Yeltsin entered the proceedings. The book is a must for history buffs interested in how the USSR "Empire" was completely dismembered.

Girl Singer

Rosemary Clooney (B) LP Clo

Incredible! This mostly ghost written autobiography takes us with Rosemary, the "Come-a-my-house" girl, all through Hollywood's film industry (she is Jose "Joe" Ferrar's wife) at the time of Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra and Marlene Dietrich. Sex, drugs and turmoil are her companions. She perseveres through all of that to enjoy a fine old age.

The Great Times

Russell Baker (B) LP Bak

Baker is a superb writer; clear, wryly humorous and always interesting. This good to read book takes us through Baker's trials as a Police Reporter with the Baltimore Sun into his exciting years as a New York Times front page reporter. It is full of dramatic descriptions of how the stories came to be written.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

It is that time of year...Christmas books have been pulled and placed on a cart near the card catalogue for pleasant holiday reading. Do check them out.

Please be patient with us as we sort out the confusion with the shelving. We are grateful that our woodshop craftsmen have again done their magic and built additional shelves for our growing collection of library books. We thank Sofwat Habashi and Tom Risch for their workmanship and Mark Bondi for his generosity.

A thank you also goes to many of you who give magazines regularly to our collection. Several people give new subscriptions through their airline ticket rewards or through other reward systems. Sandra and David Moon and Ed and Frances Borrebach have given many magazines to the library over the past few years.

A reminder: slips are available on the check-out desk to RENEW or RESERVE a book. You can also call one of the library phones (8628 or 8624) in the morning hours when a volunteer is in the library.

Please join me in welcoming another librarian to our volunteer staff - Joan Howenstein has offered to help. She will be on hand to cover for me while I am enjoying the warm weather in Florida.

Betty J. Polley
Librarian

**COLETTA MCKENRY LIBRARY
ACCESSIONS**

**FICTION, INCLUDING LARGE TYPE:
1356**

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44 Cranberry Point
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50 Harbor Street
Debbie Macomber © 2005.F/MAC
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Louise Penny © 2015.F/PEN
The Nosy Neighbor
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Karin Slaughter © 2015.F/SLA
Purity
Jonathan Franzen © 2015.F/FRA
See Me
Nicholas Sparks © 2015.F/SPA
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Reader's Digest © 2015.F/REA/L.T.
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A Spool of Blue Thread
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The Valcourt Heiress
Catherine Coulter © 2010.F/COU
War of the Roses: Margaret of Anjou
Conn Iggulden © 2015.F/IGG

NON-FICTION INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES

At Dawn We Slept...Pearl Harbor
Gordon W. Prange © 1982. 940.54/PRA
**Beyond Words: What Animals Think
and Feel**
Carl Safina © 2015. 591.56/SAF
Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes
Kenneth E. Bailey © 2008. 232.9/BAI
Pittsburgh Born: Pittsburgh Bred
C. Prentiss Orr © 2008. 920/ORR
Profiles in Courage For Our Time
Caroline Kennedy © 2002.
973.09/KEN/L.T.
The Shift
Theresa Brown © 2015. 616.02/BRO



CHAPEL NOTES

IN MEMORIAM

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

*William Steele
October 26, 2015*

*Bernard Raymond
November 3, 2015*

*Adela Burns
November 9, 2015*

ACTIVITIES IN THE CHAPEL

Women's Bible Study
First and Third Mondays
10:45-11:45 AM

Men's Bible Study
Weekly, Wednesdays
10:00-11:00 AM

Holy Communion, Episcopal Rite
Second Monday of the month
11:00 AM

Quaker Meeting for Worship
Second and Fourth Sundays
10:30-11:30 AM

December always brings a mixture of feelings and emotions, a mixture of the secular and the sacred, a mixture of too much and too little. We hope that the chapel services this month will give you a time to reflect and a place for renewal. Advent, the four weeks preceding Christmas, offers that opportunity.

The following clergy will lead our Sunday 2:00 PM Advent services:

December 6

The Rev. James Moran, pastor of the Cranberry Community United Presbyterian Church.

December 13

The Rev. Ron Hoellein, retired pastor of St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

Members of the church's choir will participate in this service in honor of our resident musician, Mimi Fleming. This will be a special service; so plan to stay for more than our usual half hour of worship.

December 20

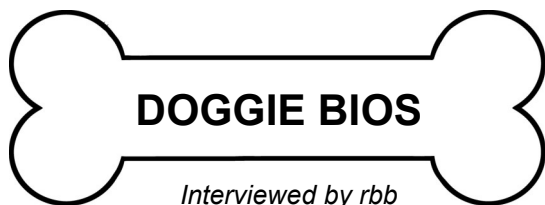
The Rev. William Dambach, North Hills United Presbyterian Church.

December 27

We will close the year with the traditional Service of Lessons and Carols, led by residents of Sherwood Oaks.

Come and sing carols with your friends and neighbors!

Agnes Peebles



*The Naming of cats (or dogs, in this case)
is a difficult matter,
It isn't just one of your holiday games...*

With apologies to T.S. Eliot

ARTIE

Artie came to the Schewe family from Animal Friends when he was just a year-old pup. The family had owned hounds, Beagles and Bassets, for years. The original intent was to call him King Arthur; but he was too young. For some reason Prince Arthur didn't suit. Artie certainly does.

ATTABOY

Ed Borrebach named Atta Boy in honor of the Boston Terrier he had as a kid... Never mind that he is cast of ceramic; his renowned "kennel?"... the Hallmark Gift Shop in Wexford. It is not that he is the runt of the litter, but he was marked down.

CHARLIE

With a registered name like "Woodley's Charlie of Camelot," that elegant Irish Terrier who, along with other worthies graces our cover, would seem to qualify as a member of First Families of Virginia. He IS a native son, but he left home at age two years to join the Rychciks. He seems to be happy here in western PA among the locals. "Charlie" is just fine by him.

DUSTY

Dusty, the Dachshund, and her late litter-mate Rusty, came into the Colangelo home about four years ago at age seven. LaVerne and her late husband had raised several Dachshunds and had their eyes out for another. Knowing a good match when she saw it, their niece who worked at the Indianapolis Humane Society "put a hold" on the brother and sister when they were turned in... before they could be remanded to a Dachshund Rescue program. She phoned the Colangelos who promptly drove three hours to pick them up. People and canines together behaved beautifully on the trip home. The rest is history.

GINGER

The first time Ginger was rescued, it was from a puppy mill. The second rescue involved a store owner and a customer who could not keep Ginger. So the store owner gave Ginger to his Dad. This was about nine years ago. Shirley Kappeler was the chauffeur who drove Dad, her neighbor, to meet his new family member. When Dad died, his kids asked Shirley to keep the Shih tzu "in the family." So she did.

LILI

In January, 2011, a friend offered to give Bette Cecil a puppy. The friend did not want to sell any of the litter. Bette named her Lili because it just seemed to fit, in sound and style, the tiny Japanese Chin baby. As she has grown up, the name still fits and her style is remarkable.



MUFFIE

You wouldn't know it to see her now, but Muffie was the victim of puppy abuse. She had been shipped from Charleston to a family in Ohio. But their other Yorkie did not like Muffie and bit her mercilessly. She was returned to South Carolina where Bev Schacht met her, scabs all over. Now she is a cute little furry muff with a bit of a lilt in her walk.

NUGGET

Her official AKC name is Season's Rosegold Nugget. "Season's" is the kennel where the Risches also got their two previous Golden Retrievers. (They have grown to love Goldens because they are beautiful dogs with a predictable and gentle temperament. They are friendly and trainable, and start out as the cutest puppies). The Rosegold Nugget part comes from another source. When Tom and Ruth were trying to come up with a name, they went to a hardware store and looked at paint color chips for a descriptive name that had not been used before. Rosegold and Nugget seemed to fit just right.

ROXY

Everyone at Sherwood Oaks seems to know Roxy. A Great Pyrenees is hard to miss. Roxy followed Marco onto the Neely farm. A good guard dog is hard to find, especially one who works well with others, llamas, that is. The Neelys found her on line at a shelter in eastern PA. She was dubbed Roxanne there, but living in more relaxed western PA, she now answers to Roxy. On her second day at the farm, Roxy made it clear that she preferred living with Terry and Diane rather than the llamas. So she stayed up at the house. She is a real house dog.

SUNSHINE

Her name, Sunshine, makes perfect sense. The moment Rabe and Diane Marsh saw her they knew she would be "a ray of sunshine in our lives!" Besides, her coat is the color of sunshine. Add the fact that Golden Doodles are hypoallergenic and everyone can see that the sun shines even more clearly. The Marshes were on the waiting list at the kennel in Avella, PA. But, behold, they moved to the top spot!

TOOTSIE

As Maryann Letterio will tell you, Tootsie, her Bichon Poo, had a college education. She was already trained when Maryann and her late husband were introduced to her in Kittanning. When their previous dog, a male, died, a friend intervened by organizing a trip to the kennel. Her name Tootsie is in remembrance of a dog Maryann had as a little girl. That puppy was Pootsie; but her grandmother told her "Tootsie is a better name."

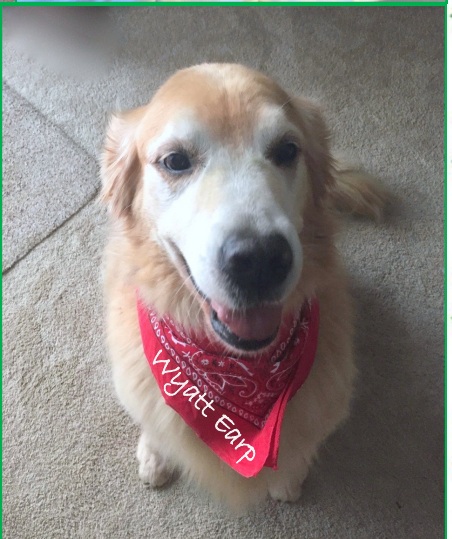
WYATT EARP

One of the nice things about Golden Retrievers is that they come back to you. Another attractive attribute: they are not territorial. After owning some Irish Setters, "who would run off to Chicago if the door were left open," the O'Tooles contacted a breeder of Retrievers. Wyatt Earp was born nine years ago in Phoenix; being part of the OK Corral litter, he arrived with his name.

*My sunshine doesn't come from the skies,
It comes from the love in my dog's eyes.*

Author Unknown

"We are not daily beggars that beg from door to door;
But we are neighbor's children whom you have seen before."



"Love and joy come to you, and to you your wassail, too
And God bless you and send you a Happy New Year.
And God send you a Happy New Year."

Ed Borrebach