

THE ACORN

SHERWOOD OAKS NEWSLETTER

February 2015 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. XVI No. 2



Have hope...even the desert blooms, if only once in one hundred years.



Joshua Tree National Park

Photos by Joe Asin

Anniversary Ode to THE ACORN

THE ACORN began in January, 1982, originally as a "supplement" to THE OAK LOG. Beginning in 1979, THE LOG tracked progress of the construction (buildings, roads, utilities) on the Sherwood Oaks property as well as marketing the Retirement Community to prospective residents.

You might want to look up one-time editor, Leslie Crawford's, article on the history of THE ACORN in the February 2013 issue in the library.

In the meantime, we look forward to publishing a look-back at our early years with snippets from THE LOG and THE ACORN.

Our names as editors first appeared on THE ACORN masthead in the February 2013 issue. In celebration we offer the following:

Two years ago we took the reins
of these auspicious pages,
'twas a task immense, took hearts courageous
To continue success of previous ages.

Could we two, yoked as sisters,
Avoid falling on our respective keisters,
find outlets for our gifts and humor,
while still being relevant to our intelligent consumers?

It's not the Sherwood Oaks Times—
We're happy with photos and rhymes,
reviews, introductions and postings of functions.
We steer clear of scandal and crimes.

We're glad for your feedback, critiques and complaints,
(thin-skinned editors we certainly ain't)
But we're most often happy with your stories, submissions,
and implore you to send them without restraint.

To our readers, we laud you, appreciate and applaud you,
you make our job a delight,
except when we hound you, abuse and confound you
to submit news when the deadline's in sight.

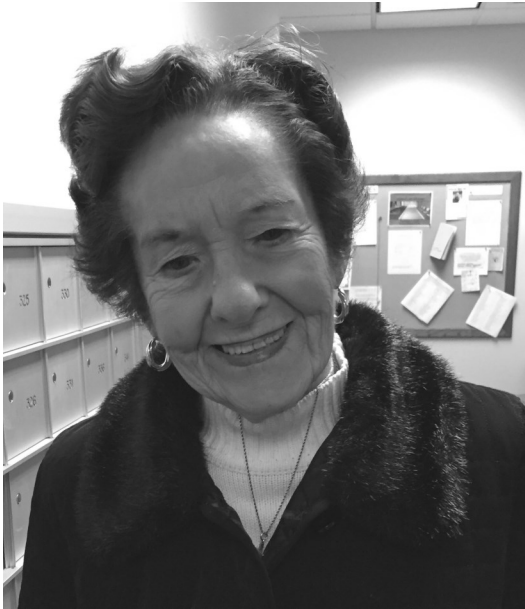
So thanks for the memories, the joys and the angst
we'll hang on as long as we're able,
but make no mistake, it'd sure give us a break
to have more staff at the table!

rbb and scd

CATHERINE BOHN

310

Interviewed by Harriet Burress



Ed Borrebach

There certainly could be a Retired Nurses' Club at Sherwood Oaks. Through their Alumnae News from Pittsburgh Hospital in East Liberty, Catherine Bohn and Ginny Lott connected before Catherine moved into 310. "Ginny was in school years after I, but Pittsburgh Hospital was 'folksy'. There were only 40 in my class and everyone knew everyone." Catherine later completed her BSN at LaRoche College and served as supervisor of Obstetrics/Pediatrics at Forbes Regional Hospital for 30 years. She retired in 1999.

"I enjoyed every day that I worked. From my office down the hall from delivery, I could hear the first cry of new babies. Thinking of that still gives me chill bumps. One of the doctors on staff once said, 'Every time a baby is born, it's a miracle.' She had her own way of expressing the same belief. Have you ever thought about how we're all born with different fingerprints?"

Catherine is a native of Pittsburgh. She and her husband Donald lived in

Monroeville for 52 years where they raised their family of three. For 20 of those years they were "snow birds" to Brandon, Florida. In 2010, Donald finally persuaded her to move to the Sunshine State permanently; they enjoyed 3 1/2 years there together. Although Catherine does not have a particular hobby, she volunteered in the ER at the Brandon Hospital and in the food pantry of the Nativity Roman Catholic Church. She hopes to take part in a fitness program here and to attend St. Ferdinand's.

Sitting on an end table is a wedding picture of a very handsome couple. It was the happy result of a correspondence between Pittsburgh and Korea. "It was almost like a blind date. One of the students in my psychiatry class asked me to write to her cousin who was in the US Marines in Korea. I did, and when he returned to Pittsburgh, we dated, and then were married for 61 years. Donald loved the Marines and was very proud of his service. After he was discharged, he was active in the American Legion."

Catherine's 10 grandchildren span the ages of 12 to 33. Five of them came to visit her at Sherwood Oaks over Christmas. "They wanted to see where Grandmama is now living." (Isn't that the reversal of how we have all felt about wanting to see where our children live when they move?) One granddaughter is from Pusan, Korea, where her granddad landed so many years ago." It is a very small world," Catherine commented.

While visiting Sherwood Oaks for a weekend in August, Catherine experienced "kindness, friendliness, and compassion from the residents and staff. I can see why being here enables older people to live longer."

Let's welcome Catherine Bohn.

WHAT'S NEW WITH SORA?

January SORA Board report:

Treasurers' Reports

The Memorial/Special Projects Account had a balance of \$72,748 as of December 31, 2014. The Employee Appreciation Fund received \$7,210 in December. Checks totaling \$132,992 have been cashed, leaving a balance of \$23,458, with some checks still outstanding. The Contingency Fund received \$721.40 and had expenses of \$343.20, for a balance of \$4,061.07.

Liaison Reports

Maintenance Committee:

1) Water temperature problems in Personal Care have been resolved. 2) Windbreak panels for the covered walkways are being installed; four panels have not yet arrived. 3) The permit for the lake project has been approved by the Butler County Conservation District. 4) Water leaks in five patio homes have been repaired; two more are to be completed. 5) The wood shop is making a box with 42 mail slots for Personal Care residents; a large box for **THE ACORN** and various announcements is also being constructed. 6) TV pillow speakers for seven semi-private rooms in Skilled Nursing have been approved as a project to be submitted to the Memorial/Special Projects Committee.

Management:

Mark Bondi reported

- Occupancy and percent of homes sold is strong. Both Personal Care and Skilled Nursing Units are full; a number of residents have or have had the flu.

- A new Grounds Supervisor has been hired, but the person's name was not made public at the meeting for reasons of confidentiality.
- The resident satisfaction survey was not distributed in December as planned. The survey will be revised to contain fewer questions and there may be opportunity to respond electronically. It will be distributed as soon as it is completed and tested.

Old Business: An interim report was given by the Granny's Attic Task Force. Two meetings were held in December and at least one more meeting is scheduled.

The next meeting of the SORA Board: 1:30 PM on Tuesday, February 3, in the Auditorium. Residents are always welcome to attend the meeting as observers.

Betty Eichler
Reporter

SHERWOOD GIFTS

There was a lot of action in the shop the month before Christmas! There were lovely things to buy. Many of our customers were visitors who appreciated the gifts which were displayed so attractively. Thank you residents for introducing your visitors to the shop!

New items will be appearing on the shelves. Meanwhile our very popular notions are always handy and candy items are always available.

If you need an item which is not displayed on our shelves, please write a request and we will try to purchase it for you.

Jean Gibson

FEBRUARY AFTERNOON MUSIC PROGRAMS

Friday, February 13 at 2:00 PM in the Auditorium:

The Tuesday Musical Club String Ensemble

This group was organized in 1928. It is the only string ensemble in the Pittsburgh area and the only group with daytime rehearsals and performances. In previous years, it included occasional woodwinds and was called the Instrumental Ensemble. It currently has 30 members, rehearses weekly and is directed by Paul Critser. The Ensemble presents two public concerts each year, as well as programs at nursing homes and retirement centers. One member of this group is our own Al Schartner.

Saturday, February 14 at 3:00 PM in the Auditorium:

The North Star Kids (NSK)

*A unique occasion deserves a unique
musical celebration.*

Pittsburgh's own North Star Kids (who have entertained us before) are under the direction of Annie Snyder. They have been singing and dancing throughout Pittsburgh and the Tri-State area for the past three decades. This award-winning group, whose members range in age from 8 to 14 years old, performs for all occasions and for groups of any size. The NSK have been featured on the live stage as well as on television, in recordings and in commercials. These include

performances with Celine Dion, Christina Aguilera, Kelly Clarkson, Barry Manilow, the New York Broadway Touring Company, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and many others.

Let's give these two wonderful groups a BIG SHERWOOD OAKS WELCOME and enjoy great musical experiences at the same time.

Charlie Brown
Program Committee

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**The next deadline is
NOON, Thursday, February 12.**

Continued Learning March

SAVE THOSE DATES!

Do we have a deal for you! Twelve morning presentations by entertaining, thought-provoking individuals will begin on Tuesday, March 3, and continue every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday through March 26 in the Sherwood Oaks Auditorium.

To whet your appetite, here are a few of the treats in store for you. The ever-popular Dr. Jno Hunt will return to lift our spirits with his film clips and music of the cinema and stage. Pittsburgh historian and tour guide, Woody Cunningham, who wowed us on his last visit, will fill us in on more little-known facts about Pittsburgh ... and every Wednesday, two of our fellow residents will tell us about their careers on Resident Career Day.

Don't miss out! Mark your calendars for 10:30 AM Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, March 3 through March 26.

Nancy Paul
Continued Learning



HELP WANTED!

This year, 2015, may be an “off year” in terms of any big national election, but it is already shaping-up as a very busy year for “gearing up,” as more than a dozen potential candidates have already thrown their hats into the ring for the presidency. So if you have an interest in politics, whether local, state or national, this may be a good time to become involved right here at Sherwood Oaks.

Last year, in the absence of a Civic Affairs Committee, Focus on the World undertook to sponsor Candidates Night, with the assumption that other leadership would take over that responsibility in 2015. That other leadership is still being sought. Those who worked on our two successful Candidates Nights in 2014 are willing to provide training and resources to new volunteers for this interesting (and fun) job. If you are interested in bringing current news issues of civic importance to the attention of Sherwood Oaks residents, please consider coming to an introductory meeting:

Thursday, February 12, at 1:30 PM
First floor Conference Room
(behind the receptionist's desk)

This will be a time for sharing ideas and information; no strings attached.

Olive Tiller
Focus On The World



Original art by Jane Vidt

A LOVE MATCH *by Charles Partee*

The fact is a woman hitting a forehand shot down the line cannot avoid producing a fascinating jiggle, which can be thoroughly enjoyed by the disgusting man on the other side of the net. When Margaret and I were first dating, we played a lot of tennis. Since I was better than she was, I could make her run back and forth across the court — bouncing alluringly all the way. It did not take long for her to figure out that I was “outing her figure,” but, of course, as a lady she could not give voice to her suspicions. Moreover, her competitive instinct kicked in and she chased every ball with great energy --- all to my natural and intense delight.

The summer we were married (and after Margaret had forgiven me for stepping on her veil during the wedding recessional and ripping it off her head), I entered the Louisiana Open Tennis Tournament. I won my first match against a guy three times my age, but then caught

the number one seed. He was so superior to me that during the warm-up he hit the ball back with the handle(!) of the racquet. Obviously, this demonstration of contempt is completely contrary to all the canons of the game. Somehow I got the first serve, and having absolutely nothing to lose, I hit the ball as hard as I could and “aced” him. The little crowd which had come to watch him applauded me! I did not win another point.

Our first married Christmas, Margaret knit me a beautiful tennis sweater, which I wish I had been able to wear at the Louisiana Open. Sadly, we were too poor to afford decent yarn and, while the sweater looked nice, it stretched like crazy. Thus, swinging at the ball caused the sleeve to slide down my arm and swallow the racquet. An eight-foot arm is a fearful sight.

When we moved to Sherwood Oaks, I thought its only drawback was the absence of a tennis court — a view I generously shared with the powers-that-be. I am certain that this suggestion went immediately to the top of the Great Idea List. However, a few months later, I had the good fortune to be chosen for a total knee replacement (a circumstance I explained to Margaret as the inevitable result of carrying around this heavily-muscled body for so many years).

This knee-thing deflated all my erstwhile enthusiasm for the tennis racquet, and I suspect our prescient administration saves a lot of money by benevolent delay, being well aware that, as residents grow long in the tooth, their ancient good becomes, forsooth, uncouth.

COMPUTER ROOM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Sherwood Oaks Computer Center is usually staffed by resident volunteers Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM to noon, and 1:00 to 3:00 PM. During the cold-and-flu season, we were forced to close a few afternoons because some of our volunteers were sick and others were away. Two volunteers serve several times a week. Late in 2014, when John Davis died, we lost one of our most faithful and long-serving volunteers. Now, we could really use more help.

We are always looking for new volunteers. You don't have to be a "Geek-Squad" member or a real hot techie to volunteer. The job requires you to be able to answer people's questions and help them when they have problems. If you know how to operate a home computer, you are probably qualified.

If you can spare two hours a week, come in and talk to us about it. We'll find a convenient time to fit your schedule, and you'll find that it's fun helping people. Or, just give us a call at 8283. Thanks!

Ed Alo
Computer Room Center



*Worth the Time
by Ed Vidt*

James Herriot's Dog Stories (636.7 Her Large type)

Charming and fascinating. Charming by how well it is written and fascinating, at least to some extent, because dogs, as mammals, are very much like us! Herriot is a pen name for Dr. Wight, whose veterinarian practice in the Yorkshire village of Thirsk was the basis for these stories. My engineering work in Yorkshire took me to the village of Grimethorpe, just next door to Thirsk, and so I am most familiar with the crusty and stubborn Yorkshiremen who owned the dogs written of in this really good book; a great pleasure to read!

Schulz and Peanuts David Michaelis (B Mic)

A biography of the creator of the comic strip that fascinated millions of us Americans, and also indeed millions of folks in the rest of the civilized world. It is not an easy read. Charles Schulz put his life and thoughts into Peanuts and the characters that lived in the comic strip of that name. Nearly all of us can relate to Charlie Brown with his frustrations and his needs. And then there is Snoopy! Schulz made a fortune from Snoopy, selling things such as Ford cars and Met Life insurance. But his life was often in turmoil while and after he became wealthy. Read all about it in this big and well-written book.

**COLETTA MCKENRY LIBRARY
ACCESSIONS**

FICTION INCLUDING LARGE TYPE:

Bad Intentions

Karin Fossum ©2008. F/FOS (1.0):

The Brethren

John Grisham ©2000.F/GRI/L.T.

Crazy For You

Jennifer Crusie ©1999. F/CRU

The Daring Ladies of Lowell

Kate Alcott ©2014.F/ALC

Flesh and Blood

Patricia Cornwell ©2014. F/COR

The Golem of Hollywood

Jonathan & Jesse Kellerman

©2014.F/KEL/L.T.

The Handsome Man's De Luxe Cafe

Alexander McCall Smith ©2014. F/SMI

The Hypnotist's Love Story

Liane Moriarty ©2011.F/MOR

Invisible

James Patterson ©2014. F/PAT/L.T.

Jackdaws

Ken Follett ©2001. F/FOL

The Kennedy Connection

R. G. Belsky ©2014.F/BEL

A Map of Betrayal

Ha Jin ©2014. F/JIN

The Marco Effect

Jussi Adler-Olsen ©2014. F/ADL

Nora Webster

Colm Toibin ©2014. F/TOI

The Pact

Jodi Picoult ©1998. F/PIC

Poland

James A. Michener ©1983. F/MIC

Revival

Stephen King ©2014. F/KIN

Scandalmonger

William Safire ©2000. F/SAF

Someone

Alice McDermott ©2013. F/McD

The Song is You

Arthur Phillips ©2009. F/PHI

The Sun Also Rises

Ernest Hemingway ©1926.F/HEM

The Valley of Decision

Marcia Davenport ©1989.F/DAV

Winter Street

Elin Hilderbrand ©2014. F/HIL

NON-FICTION INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES:

The Admirals

Walter R. Borneman ©2012. 359.092/BOR

Agent Storm: My Life Inside Al Qaeda...

Morten Storm ©2014. 327.12/STO

America the Beautiful

Ben and Candy Carson ©2012. 973/CAR

**Ben Franklin's Almanac of Wit, Wisdom
and Practical Advice**

©2003. 640/BEN

The Blue Moment: Miles Davis's...

Remaking of Modern Music

Richard Williams ©2010. 785.3/WIL

The Case of Abraham Lincoln

Julie M. Fenster ©2007. Bio/LIN

Daredevils Over Niagara

George Bailey ©2005. 797/BAI

Deep Down Dark

Hector Tobar ©2014. 363.11/TOB

Fall Guy

Joe Renckly ©2000. 508.2/REN

Guide to Better Vision

Clinic Mayo ©2007. 573.8/MAY

In My Time

Dick & Liz Cheney ©2011. 973.9/CHE

The Jesus Papers

Michael Baigent ©2006. 232.9/BAI

The Kennedys at War 1937-1945

Edward J. Renehan ©2002. 973.9/REN

The Lost Continent

Bill Bryson ©2001. 917.3/BRY

Loud and Clear

Anna Quindlen ©2004. 814.54/QUI

**The Love Story Behind Gone With the
Wind**

Marianne Walker ©1993. 813.52/WAL

More Than A Wish

William N. Jackson ©2004. 252/JAC

Mothers & Daughters

Carol Saline ©1997. 306.847/SAL

Music For the Eyes

Wayne J. Andrews, Editor ©2004. 770/AND

Steve Blass: A Pirate for Life

Steve Blass ©2013. Bio/BLA

The Human Age: The World Shaped by Us

Diane Ackerman ©2014. 302/ACK

THE LANGUAGE OF GOD

by Francis S. Collins

Fourteen years ago, in the East Room of the White House, a profoundly significant scientific accomplishment was announced and beamed around the world. Scientists had finally assembled the first draft of the human genome — the human instruction book, the hereditary code of life. Three billion letters long and written in a cryptographic code, it reveals all the information within each human cell.

In his speech acknowledging this landmark accomplishment, President Clinton claimed that *“without a doubt, this is the most important, most wondrous map ever produced by humankind.”* This is how Francis S. Collins’ book: The Language of God, begins. Collins, one of the world’s leading scientists, was the head of the Human Genome Project. Widely respected for his work in science, he is also a person of *“unshakable faith in God and scripture.”* So, if you happen to be a scientist, or scientifically oriented, and skeptical of religion, this might be a book for you. It provides a description of Collins’ long personal journey from atheism to faith. Having faced virtually every argument against religious faith from his scientific colleagues, Collins argues that mature faith does not contradict true science.

Or if you are a person of religious faith and skeptical of the findings of science, it also might just be a book for you. Why? Because Collins has also heard the arguments that some people of religious faith have used to deny scientific truths. For example, how many centuries did it take for the church to acknowledge that the earth wasn’t at the center of our solar system much less the universe?

For Collins, truth does not contradict truth. Scientific discoveries do not contradict genuine and well-placed faith. Physics, biology and chemistry can be consistent with religious faith and scripture. Even more, scientific truth helps to reveal how the Creator created and continues to create the earth where we live as well as the other planets, stars and galaxies.

Collins first addresses the chasm between science and faith. It is in chapter one that he documents his life journey from atheism to faith. The second section of the book addresses the great questions of human existence: the origins of the universe and life on earth, deciphering God’s instruction book, lessons of the human genome. Part three deals with Genesis, Galileo and Darwin’s theory of evolution. The last section of the book provides the possible options for people when it comes to the science versus faith controversy. For Collins there are four: 1. Atheism and Agnosticism – when science trumps faith; 2. Creationism – when faith trumps science; 3. Intelligent Design – when science needs divine help; and 4. BioLogos – when science and faith work in harmony.

Collins convincingly concludes there needs to be no battle between scientific and religious truth when both are based on the evidence available to us.

Tony Campolo says it well: *“Francis S. Collins proves that there is a place for apologetics. He presents, in a surprisingly easy-to-read manner, scientific validation for a world view in which God is not only present, but actively at work.”*

Bill Paul

CHAPEL NOTES

A little more than six weeks after we celebrated Christmas, we enter the season of Lent. On February 18, Ash Wednesday will be observed at Sherwood Oaks. Between 1:00 and 2:00 PM, Eucharistic Ministers from St. Ferdinand's Roman Catholic Church will impose ashes in the small chapel on the lower level of the Center. At 4:00 PM, the Rev. Deane Lavender will lead an Ash Wednesday service in the auditorium. All residents are welcome to participate in these special services.

The following Pastors will lead the 2:00 PM Sunday services in the auditorium during the next five weeks:

February 1: The Rev. Connie Frierson,
Calvin Presbyterian Church, Zelienople

February 8: The Rev. Jimmy Caraway,
Christ Bible Church, Cranberry Twp.

February 15: The Rev. Dan Corll,
Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church,
Wexford

February 22: The Rev. Derek Marotta,
Plains Presbyterian Church,
Cranberry Twp.

March 1: The Rev. James Moran,
Cranberry Community United
Presbyterian Church, Cranberry Twp.

Agnes Peebles

IN MEMORIAM

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

*Donald Gross
January 7, 2015*

*Charles Schaper
January 12, 2015*

*Janet Dally
January 14, 2015*

*Stephen Bruno
January 15, 2015*

*Raymond Sarver
January 16, 2015*

HE SLIPPED AWAY

*Peter slipped away ----
and God was there.*

*I stroked his arm
and he made a fist
in mine, as if to say
"I love you."*

*I pressed a sign of the cross
with my finger on his forehead.
Did he know?
I did it again.*

*Peter slipped away ----
And God was there.*

*Bea Bercovitz
September, 2008*

WHAT DO YOU DO TO SURVIVE THE HARSH COLD PITTSBURGH WINTER?

Ralph Peabody – Cold...what cold?
I moved to Personal Care.

Ellie Castle – Snow is pretty when you
don't have to shovel it. I light a candle,
work a puzzle, read a thick novel and
drink hot chocolate.

Betty Eichler – I dream of Spring! I
warm myself by eating soup made from
veggies grown in my garden and then
start new seedlings in the greenhouse
for the coming growing season.

Tom Horan – Whenever Jack Frost
predicts frigid air, I smugly don my
reliable thermal underwear.

Ann Tomlinson – Keep moving to stay
warm and helping those who are less
fortunate will give you a different kind of
warm.

Sarah Tokash – I love the beauty of
the new-fallen snow and I appreciate
the warmth of my home. I like the
diversity of the seasons.

Safwat Habashi – I dream of sitting on
the sunny warm beach of my native
Alexandria, Egypt, with the hot sun
shining down on my bald head.

Terry Neely – Since I no longer need
to plow, shovel or salt, winter is a
chance to have fun, especially romping
in the snow with my four footed friend,
Roxy.

Kim Good – I don't go out. I just love to
sit in front of the fireplace!

Dave Moon – I enjoy playing the outdoor
games (bocce, shuffleboard and corn
hole) indoors in the sunny warm space
by the Cranberry Grill. Come join us on
Thursdays at 1 PM.

Pat Stephen – Our bird feeder provides
hours of entertainment along with sports
on TV like tennis and figure skating and I
always have a pile of interesting books
waiting to be read.

Me – A heavy down coat and flannel
sheets!

Linda Mamaux
Our intrepid reporter-at-large



Joe Asin

*Button up your overcoat.
Take a nap till three.
Take good care of yourself.
Sip a cup of tea.*

Happy Valentine's Day!