





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

October 2015 "For the residents, by the residents" Vol. XVI No. 8



Joe Asin

"October gave a party; The leaves by hundreds came — The Chestnuts, Oaks and Maples, And leaves of every name. The Sunshine spread a carpet, And everything was grand, Miss Weather led the dancing, Professor Wind the band."

George Cooper

# JANET GORMAN 215 Interviewed by Marianne Davis



Janet came to Sherwood Oaks from Myrtle Beach, SC, but her roots are in Western PA. She was born and lived in Wilkinsburg while her father was working for the Mellons on Fifth Avenue in Shadyside. In 1938, R.K. Mellon encouraged him to move to Rolling Rock, the Mellon country home near Ligonier, to be the gardener and caretaker. Janet remembers several exciting years living on the estate. "Mrs. Mellon arranged for my piano lessons. I practiced on their baby grand piano in the spacious main house and played in the third floor playroom accessed by an amazing elevator."

Later the family returned to the city where Janet graduated from Wilkinsburg High School, attended Pinkerton Business School and worked for Equitable Gas.

During this time she met her husband Bill, who was attending Carnegie Tech on the G.I. Bill. When the linograph program was discontinued, he went to work for Mine Safety Appliance Company. When their two sons were school age, Janet returned to the workforce. "I felt so fortunate to have both our mothers living with us to help with our boys," Janet said. She was employed by Mellon Bank for 23 years in various positions until finally retiring in 1995 as a Banking Officer.

After spending the first few winters of their retirement at Myrtle Beach, they decided to make it their permanent home. Bill, a skilled craftsman, helped a friend remodel resale properties until his sudden death in 2007. Janet remained in SC until her sons convinced her to move closer to them and their families.

Determined to live independently from her children, Janet visited several retirement communities. "I liked the friendliness of Sherwood Oaks. Besides, when I passed that Gift Shop, I knew it was a place where I wanted to work."

Her son, who is also a banker, and his family live nearby. Providing transportation for her granddaughter to school and to soccer practice has given Janet much pleasure. "It's such fun watching them grow up. I missed a lot of that for my grandson because his family lived in Arkansas." Now that he has graduated from college, she is excited about attending his wedding in October.

Janet likes to be involved. She was a Eucharistic Minister for the sick, a food pantry volunteer and a member of the quilting group at her former church. Here she is volunteering at Sherwood Gifts, is enrolled in the "Life Story" and Bible study groups and looks forward to being trained as a Yellow Jacket.

A hearty welcome, Janet.

#### JOAN AND NORMAN HOWENSTEIN 330

Interviewed by Connie Brandenberger



When you welcome the Howensteins to our community, you will be entertained with stories of their diverse and interesting hobbies and accomplishments.

Norm was from Aspinwall and Joan was raised in Amity, PA. After Norm's two years in the Navy, they met while attending Waynesburg University. (They celebrated their 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary in September.) Joan began her career in elementary education and Norm earned a degree in political science. Joan received a Library Science degree from the University of Pittsburgh and retired from teaching in the North Hills School District after 33 years. Joan enjoyed volunteering at the library of St. Paul's United Methodist Church where they have been members for over 30 years. Early in Norm's career he was involved in geophysics, searching for oil in the West. His patient wife agreed to this adventure. They bought a pickup truck and off they went - Norm, Joan, their first daughter and their dog - traveling through Wyoming, Montana and Oklahoma.

They lived in Minnesota for two years where Norm served on the governor's staff as an urban planner. He retired from Southwestern PA Corporation where he was involved in metropolitan planning. Their most recent home was at The Arbors in Hampton where they first became acquainted with Sherwood Oaks because John and Jean McLaughlin were their neighbors. And at their church they were acquainted with the Brandenbergers, Tom Gregory and Madelin Clements, all SO residents.

Upon their arrival here, the Howensteins were pleasantly surprised to be greeted by a longtime friend and former co-worker, Joe Widmer. Norm was also surprised to see a friend from graduate school, Harold Huckestein.

Joan has a fantastic collection of antique buttons which has been her hobby for 50 years. The buttons are made of gold, silver, plastic and some gems which reflect historic events and biblical stories and are both opulent and simple. She belongs to the National Button Society and Button Clubs and is always excited to show her collection of over 500 buttons. Joan also enjoys collecting rocks, coins and stamps.

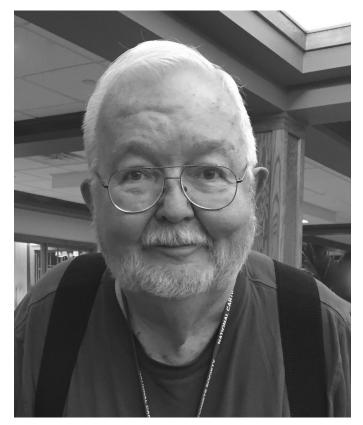
Norm designs and fabricates silver jewelry. He has collected fossils, shells and stones, producing beautiful pendants, rings and various objects to give as gifts. He is pleased to have his own working area in the SO wood shop and spends hours there enjoying his hobby. Norm also has a passion for auto racing. With the understanding approval of Joan, Norm began auto racing at the age of 73! After one year of training he participated in 40 amateur events before retiring at 80. He raced mostly at Beaver Run Motor Sports Complex near Beaver Falls and at Nelson Ledges Track near Cleveland, Ohio. He drove a Mini Cooper with a boosted, supercharged engine.

The Howensteins have two daughters, one in Chicago and the other nearby who is married to the son of resident Tom Gregory. Makes for convenient visiting!

Welcome, Joan and Norm!

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#### DENNIS LYNCH 335 Interviewed by Mike Rose



Dennis was born in Brooklyn, NY, but never got a chance to develop a distinctive Brooklyn accent. Very shortly after his birth, his parents moved to the Los Angeles area where Dennis grew up. He attended high school in South Pasadena where he developed an interest in various aspects of theater technology. Upon graduation, he enrolled in Stanford College where he majored in theater but, since he was more interested in doing and dealing with the technical aspects of theater productions...sound, lighting, filmmaking, etc. ...than in studying, he flunked out. So he moved to the Pasadena Playhouse to study Theater Technology.

After one year at the Playhouse, Dennis accepted a job at the Community Theater in Kalamazoo, MI, prior to becoming Technical Director at a theater in Grand Rapids where he met and married his first wife, Barbara. Shortly after their marriage, Dennis and Barbara decided that it would be best for him to return to college and complete his education. Dennis was accepted by, and received his BA degree with high honors from Michigan State and his MA and PhD degrees from the University of Iowa where he specialized in Television and Film Production. While working there, he assisted other members of the faculty to produce a number of educational and documentary films.

Dennis began a life-long, successful and satisfying college teaching career in Minnesota where he taught filmmaking, photography and speech.

Over the years, Dennis taught at colleges in Memphis, Kansas, Cleveland and Akron before becoming Assistant Dean at Ithaca College in upstate New York where he worked until he retired. During this period, he and Barbara divorced and, later he met and married Linda Klena.

Linda had family ties in the Pittsburgh area so when Dennis retired they settled in Glenshaw in "a great neighborhood with friendly and supportive neighbors." Sadly, Linda died last year.

Dennis' interests include reading (mysteries, history and science) travel, theater and lunching with friends. In addition, he volunteers at the Carnegie Science Center, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and several libraries.

Dennis has two children; a daughter, a veterinary tech, in Cleveland and a son, a cartoonist, in New Hampshire.

Dennis discovered Sherwood Oaks when he attended a marketing open house and is very glad he did.

Welcome, Dennis, to the SO family.

KEN AND ALICE MEYER 258 Interviewed by Jean Henderson



Travel the world with Ken and Alice! Our extensive trip begins with Ken, growing up in Chicago, attending Northwestern University and the University's Medical School, specializing in general surgery and treatment of breast cancer.

We shuffle off to Buffalo where Alice was born, but raised by great aunts who owned a farmhouse (Jeanne d'Arc era) outside Paris. There Alice spent her summers from age 6. In her diary she wrote on September 3, 1939, "Today my cat had 3 kittens and Hitler invaded Poland." We move to the Atlantic Ocean where she and other stranded Americans were brought home on the SS Manhattan which stopped in England to pick up US citizens, including the Kennedy children, except for John. Alice helped Teddy walk their dog twice a day on board.

We travel back to Chicago where Ken and Alice met at Northwestern...then back to Paris where Alice, with her fluent French, was hired to work at International News Service. After their marriage in 1952, we move to Iceland where Ken did his Air Force service and marveled at the stunning Northern Lights; then on to New Orleans with Alice, where Ken completed his medical training and the last 5 of their 6 children were born. After 12 years in New Orleans, Ken began practicing at the Guthrie Clinic in Sayre, PA, their home for 47 years...a perfect town in which to raise their family.

In Sayre, Alice and her daughter owned the Albro House, an upscale decorative gift shop, for 8 years. Ken and Alice are both collectors of art and enjoy art appreciation. Ken was active in the Sayre Historical Society and the Spalding Library, and Alice was a trustee for the Arnot Art Museum.

Travel now with Ken (and sometimes Alice) to medical meetings in 27 states and 14 countries where Ken was invited to present his ground-breaking research on the effect of radiation on the lymphocyte count. Alice's favorite meeting site was Bruges, Belgium.

Alice enjoyed Paris not only in the springtime but in every season and would love to return to France.

Travel with them in the United States with children living in Arizona, Maryland, Virginia, Texas, Lancaster, PA, and here in Shadyside. Their family now includes 9 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

And now our trip with Ken and Alice is over and we're all here at Sherwood Oaks where we can make new memories with the Meyers!

# PATSY MCSWAIN 292 Interviewed by Peggy Meister



Patsy McSwain moved to Sherwood Oaks in June of 2015. A native of North Carolina, she still has a delightful accent although she has lived in the Pittsburgh area for the last forty years.

She has three grown children and five grandchildren. After being widowed, she sold her house and moved to Jeannette where she has a married daughter and son-in-law.

For a large part of her life she has been involved with children. Even when her own three were growing up, Patsy became a nanny for other families. She cared for infants, toddlers and grade school children along with her own kids and cooked and sewed for them all. Patsy and her husband moved to Pittsburgh when her husband was transferred here by Exxon. She continued doing her nanny jobs. Her love of children brought her to Sherwood because two of her five grandchildren live in Mars. The other three are in North Carolina.

She volunteered with the Pittsburgh Make-A-Wish Foundation where she contacted the children and helped to organize the fulfillment of their wishes. Knowing that many of them would not survive to adulthood was the hardest part of her work.

Enjoyment for Patsy these days includes reading, surfing the internet and doing crossword puzzles.

Her two local grandchildren visit often and keep in touch by texting when they are not with her. Phone calls are probably too slow for them.

Welcome Patsy when you see her, and introduce yourselves to two delightful grandchildren when they are with her.



#### DAN AND JOAN REYNOLDS 613 Interviewed by Harriet Burress



What a delight it is to meet new residents at Sherwood Oaks who are excited to be natives of Pittsburgh. "We grew up around the corner from each other in Regent Square, Wilkinsburg, and Dan's sister was my best friend. One day he was going to a social event without a date, and she asked 'Why don't you invite Joan'?" The rest is history, and Dan and Joan Reynolds will soon celebrate their 50th anniversary. They have lived in Pittsburgh all of their lives.

Dan graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a Bachelor of Business Administration. His father thought law school would be a good fit for him. After one year at Duquesne he became "1/3 attorney," as his Mom called him. He joined the family business, Highway Equipment Co., which his Dad had founded, and retired as CEO.

Although he is semi-retired, he still goes in to work three days a week. Their son now manages the company. "Work was my hobby; I grew our business and helped to raise our children. Then about 10 years ago we started to make time for ourselves."

Joan attended Grove City College and Robert Morris University and retired after working as a secretary for Westinghouse and US Steel. She volunteered for the Ross/West View EMS for 10 years. Joan is an accomplished designer and maker of many hooked rugs. Proud husband Dan showed me a large one which was exquisite. When asked how long it took to complete this work of art, she said "approximately 2 years." Patience!! Joan admits that she likes to create. "I also used to do counted cross-stitch."

The Reynolds enjoy traveling, have been on many cruises and especially enjoy Italy. "Tuscany is our favorite destination." Dan commented that he wanted to see Israel. Joan added they are so glad they went to Egypt and Israel before the conflicts of recent years. They had quite an experience going into one of the pyramids. The passageway to the inner rooms was very hot and narrow and so low that they had to stoop. "I did it because Dan wanted to, but it was so hot that he even gave up going higher into the king's room." They both enjoy golfing, bridge and reading.

Dan and Joan have two children and seven grandchildren. Their son and his family live nearby. Recently mom and the three children came to a bonfire at the Summer House. "Our daughter and her family live near Orlando and Dan and I visit for a couple of weeks in the winter, but we stay relatively close to my Mom here who is 101."

A warm welcome to Joan and Dan!

# WHAT'S NEW WITH SORA?

Reports and actions at the September SORA Board meeting included:

**Treasurers' Reports –** Activities fees were paid in the amount of \$210.00 in August. The Memorial/Special Projects Fund balance is \$64,664.

## Liaison Reports:

<u>Program Committee</u>: There will be a program on October 15, 7:15 PM, featuring the Pittsburgh Symphony Woodwind Trio performing a Concerto in honor of Bill and Katherine Rinehart, who endowed the second oboe chair.

Maintenance Committee: 1) The Library lighting project is complete; 2) Six patio homes are being renovated; 3) Painting of walkway windbreaks is in progress; 4) The boat dock has been repaired and procedure for access to the key is being reviewed; 5) Lights for the fountain are being replaced.

<u>Health Affairs Committee</u>: The R&R Club has received excellent reviews; however, with the low participation, it is not cost-effective. An offer of a free week has been announced to encourage greater participation.

Line Dancing: Activity has resumed and they would love to have more participants -- Wednesday evenings, 7:15 PM in the Auditorium.

<u>Library</u>: A task force has been formed to determine the best way to computerize the Library's operations. Members: Cochairs Betty Polley and Bob Hines, Bill Paul, Ed Alo, Jeannette Lawrence and CFO Annette McPeek. <u>Continued Learning</u>: A complete schedule of the October program appeared in the September <u>ACORN</u>. Programs occur each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in October,10:30 AM in the Auditorium.

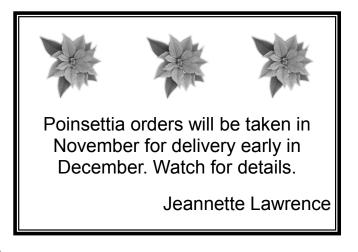
<u>Management Report</u> : Mark Bondi reported the following: We are exploring construction of some additional patio homes with garages as our current thirteen homes with garages are 100% occupied and we have a waiting list. You may notice some sub-surface investigation work beginning in September. This does not mark the beginning of construction; rather it is necessary to gather information to see if construction is feasible.

An initial meeting was held with the Township, County and School District to renegotiate our PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) Agreement.

The Cranberry Lake Fitness Center will be opening in the next few weeks.

Mark discussed the challenges in recruitment of qualified staff for the campus. This is a big challenge facing most employers today.

# Betty Eichler, Reporter





It's October and time for the "Continued Learning" fall events.

A Sherwood Oaks favorite, political scientist, **Bill Markus**, will be here each Wednesday of October (7, 14, 21 and 28), discussing Iran, Russia and issues of the day.

Tuesday, October 6, **Clifford Brown,** graduate of Memorial University of Newfoundland, will speak about Newfoundland.

Thursday, October 8, **Linda Jagerski**, Sherwood Oaks Resident, will tell us about her experience teaching in a Juvenile Detention Facility.

Tuesday, October 13, **Thomas White**, author of, "Ghosts of Southwestern Pennsylvania" will speak of the Strange Creatures and Tales of the Supernatural that thrive in Pennsylvania.

Thursday, October 15, **Stewart O'Nan**, Pittsburgh author known for "Emily Alone," will read from and discuss his latest book, "West of Sunset," about F. Scott Fitzgerald's final years in Hollywood.

Tuesday, October 20, **Todd DiPastino**, Historian and Ex-Director of "The Veterans Breakfast Club," will discuss the Great Depression. Thursday, October 22, **Jno Hunt**, PhD in Musicology, will talk on the Golden Age of Film Music and discuss film music from the 60s.

Tuesday, October 27, **Ellen Baxter,** Chief Conservator at the Carnegie Museum of Art, will speak.

Thursday, October 29, **Louise Sturgess**, Executive Director of the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, will tell us about the treasures to be found along "Incredible Penn Avenue."

Look for more information in your Sherwood Oaks mail boxes. Mark your calendars for 10:30 AM each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning beginning October 6.

Jim Miller



#### "I'M PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN" VETERANS' DAY PROGRAM

Wednesday, November 11, 1:15 PM in the Auditorium.

Speakers: Residents Wally and Barbara Christy who served in Vietnam as one of the first married couples to be deployed together.

Brass Quartet, Chorus, Color Guard! Mark your calendars now!

# FALL

Now falls the golden summer's sun In leaf-shaped pieces, and each one Announces to the cooling sphere That end of summer's ease is near.

Now trees in barren bones display The calm assurance that come May The earth will warm as years before And bring the trees to leaf once more.

But end of ease and warmth to me Gives less assurance than to tree And all my bones and joints display Some doubts that they will last till May.

> Eleanor Bauer "Striptease" © 1994

# **MY LOVE FOR YOU**

I want so much to share with you A love that's soft and sweet and new. Like the sunlit smile on a baby's face, Like the thoughtful pattern of a piece of lace.

Like the wind blowing slow on a summer day.

Like the rolling brook at its hour of play. So refreshing, so alive, what is this thing I must describe? My Love For You.

The kind of love that finds you in every living thing.

Flowers, grass, the birds that sing. Oh how wise God was above To send you down for me to love.

Catherine Wagner 1957

# PUPPY LOVE

Perhaps you haven't met her yet, her name is Maggie Mae Her tongue is pink and her nose is wet she has really changed my days A little ball of fuzz, just frolicking on the rug all she wants is a big warm hug

My heart was feeling empty and life a little dull

until a little puppy, so soft and sweet and warm

Came into my life and made my heart feel full

She has turned that life around and lets me know that love abounds.

Carol Caum





# SAVE THE DATE!

The annual Eggnog Party Friday, Dec. 4, 2015 at 4:30 PM

For all our newcomers, this is a holiday tradition which began with the original Sherwood Oaks Community. A group of residents hosted a party for all residents. Early on, it was held in homes but grew in size till now we fill the auditorium. In order to continue this fun tradition, we need to add more hosts to the planning group. If you - couples or individuals are willing and able to help, contact me for details.

> Norm Stephen #605 724-591-5143

# **CURIO CABINETS**

Residents can continue to enjoy the candle/candelabra display until Tuesday, October 13. On Thursday, October 15, the curio cabinets will feature "Love Ya, Pittsburgh" with displays that demonstrate why Pittsburgh is such a great and exciting city.

This will be followed by our annual holiday display celebrating Christmas, Hanukah and the undeniable magic of the season.

Pick up Candles and Candelabra: Tuesday, Oct.13 10:00 AM -12 Noon 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

> Please bring in items for "Love Ya, Pittsburgh" Thursday, Oct.15 10:00 AM-Noon 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

> > Gussie Dimmick

#### SHERWOOD GIFTS

In a corner of Sherwood Gifts, the sundries section is filled with all manner of practical things. There are over 30 different items in stock. You can find envelopes in five different sizes. There are two brands of toothpaste with four different formulas. Various tablets and capsules are found as both brand names and generic equivalents. There are emery boards, nail clippers, shaving supplies, hand soap and laundry detergent. Please come in and browse. Find something you actually need! The jewelry department is planning a Granny's Attic Jewelry Sale in November. Check that seldom used drawer, jewelry box or shoe box for gems you haven't worn in a long time and donate them to the shop in support of this sale. You may also find just the piece of jewelry to complement a new outfit at the sale...don't miss it!

Thank you for your support.

Sonja DeGray

#### BAKE SALE Wednesday, November 18, 2015 Save the Date

New this year will be a table of new-toyou baking and cooking accessories. So, if you have kitchen items like loaf pans, muffin tins, measuring spoons or cups, jelly jars or canning jars to donate, we would be happy to have them. Tea towels and pot holders are always welcome.

It is not too soon to plan what you will contribute. We ask that you package your homemade items in clear or seethrough containers. The Dollar Store has a large selection of them.

Remember, Tuesday, November 17 from 3:30 to 6 PM is the time to bring your contributions to the Auditorium. Sale opens at 8 AM Wednesday. If you need help delivering your goods to the Center, we can arrange for pick-up; call me.

> Linda Mamaux, Chair 8284

#### **ON WRITING**



We live in a community of diverse and talented people. We are in awe of our fellow residents, their backgrounds, their talents, their experience. Last month we featured our "keepers of knowledge" librarians which led us to think about writing and writers. So, this month we asked several residents to share thoughts on their particular areas of writing. We loved the responses and hope that you, too, enjoy their reflections.

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#### On the philosophy of...

"Writing is easy," one author said. "All you have to do is stare at a blank piece of paper until great drops of blood appear on your forehead." The first sentence is the hard one. Garrison Keillor said he begins every story the same way ("It's been a quiet week in Lake Woebegone") because then he never has to agonize over getting the first sentence right.

I have written hundreds of lectures and sermons, and a dozen books, and have found that once the first sentence and paragraph are written the words usually flow. But there are two essentials to keep them flowing. Students and congregations don't pay attention; so the lecturer and preacher must have the material so clearly organized that the sleepiest one can tell where you are and where you are going. And if the organization is that good, it helps the writer's words to flow.

But the writer has to keep at it; so the second essential is discipline. When younger faculty members have asked me how I have managed to write books in the midst of all that the faculty has to do, I told them that I drive myself (not an answer they wanted to hear). I couldn't wait until I felt like working, because I never feel like working. So I would set a series of deadlines; each section had to be completed within a certain number of weeks. and I forced myself to do it. One doesn't wait for inspiration. Write something, and if it is no good you can fix it later--unless it is a sermon, for then there is no "later." Sunday mornings have been coming around inevitably every seven days since the mind of man runneth not to the contrary; so you have to go ahead and preach it, such as it is, hoping that the Holy Spirit will make up for your inadequacies. But first, you have to do the work.

Don Gowan

#### On the procedure of...

Back in the days (the '60s and '70s) when I was writing a sermon almost every week, my preparation required three steps. I explored the following:

--- What was the scripture passage upon which the sermon would be based?

--- What was the meaning of the passage upon which the sermon was to be based?

---What were the practical and relevant implications for us today?

Then each Monday, following that outline, I would begin to write, aiming to complete the sermon by Wednesday. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday I would edit, rehearse, and memorize it.

When the sermon was proclaimed from the pulpit on Sunday, it usually followed this pattern: A brief introduction that informed the congregation what the sermon was about;

A longer period when the meaning and implications of the passage were proclaimed;

A brief conclusion summarizing what I hope they had heard and received.

Bill Paul

#### On writing poetry...

A paucity of poetry makes this petty poet pout. 'Though words are swimming in my head I cannot get them out.

My meter broke. My rhymes don't rhyme. My iambic won't pentameter. I know what I would like to say, but can't find a parameter.

My poetic pipe is plugged. I can't get it to drain. I wish there was a small blue pill that increased blood flow to the brain.

Mike Rose

#### On capturing memories...

Kentucky historian Dr. Thomas D. Clark says, "One of the best things you can do for posterity is to write your life history. It is the only true way for future generations to know what your life style was really like."

The first step in writing a memoir is to accept the fact that we have something to share. Each of us is a unique being. Many of us have lived from the era of Model A Fords to flights to the moon. We have seen wars, depressions and recessions. We know life before antibiotics and the wonders of modern medicine. Our lives are a precious piece of time that should be remembered as a treasure for generations to come.

At first the endeavor seems overwhelming. The solution to such a huge project is one step at a time. Break your life story down to separate the eras. Write your memories from each of those periods, rather than trying to tackle your entire life at once. Writing one's memoirs differs from writing a novel or an historic piece. We are recalling memories. Ernest Hemingway, when asked why he rewrote the ending to A Farewell to Arms thirty-nine times said he was "getting the words right." Our most important ingredient is not grammar, spelling, punctuation or even getting the words just right, although that certainly is an eventual goal. Our aim is to get the story down on paper.

There are many books available to help you get started. If you are fortunate to have siblings or others who share some of your story, they are a valuable source. Perhaps you have inherited letters or other paraphernalia that feeds you information. A class of fellow writers is very helpful. Hearing others share their memoirs sparks memories you didn't even remember you had.

To future generations, your memoir is a bridge between the mind-boggling past and the present. Frank Thomas, author of the book, <u>How to Write the Story of Your Life</u>, said, "You are history and history disappears if you don't record it."

Ellen Brierly



Photo of Jonathon Varner with his mother and aide.

#### **BOOKMARKS DONATED TO LIBRARY**

On Wednesday, September 9, teenager Jonathan Varner stopped by to visit our Library. He donated a few dozen bookmarks that he and his healthcare aides, Mary Anne & Roberta created. These bookmarks are made from recycled greeting cards. They are very special... so stop by and pick one up.

Jonathan attends the Agora Cyber School and chose this project to meet his Community Service requirements. Janine, Jonathan's mother, stated that she was thankful we could fulfill his academic needs with such a worthwhile project.

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

November ACORN deadline: Thursday, October 15.

All submissions to Ruth Becker, online, please, at the above email address.

Thank you Jonathan!

*Laura Childress* Director of Recreational Therapy

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# CANDIDATES NIGHT October 20 - 7:15 PM in the Auditorium

# CAMPUS REMINDER:



# SPOTLIGHT ON NEW BOOKS

Disclaimer by Renée Knight. 2015. A New York Times reviewer wrote that this thriller "is an outstandingly clever and twisty tale that's been perfectly engineered to make heads spin." That's not an exaggeration! In the opening scene there is a married woman living with her husband and a 25-year old son who finds a book on her bedside table one evening. She has no idea where it came from and her husband denies knowing anything about it. Curious, she skims the book and soon notices that the disclaimer -- a statement in a work of fiction that any similarity between its characters and real persons is a coincidence -- has been crossed out in red ink! Reading it with growing anxiety and then panic, she recognizes herself as the main character in a story that relates to a terrible secret from her past that she has not shared with anyone, not even her husband. What is that secret? Who is doing this to her and why? Thus begins a gripping psychological suspense story punctuated by surprising twists and revelations including a final shocking disclosure. Highly recommended.

# *The Storm Murders: A Thriller. By* John Farrow. 2015.

As this novel opens, it is the aftermath of a snow storm in the Montreal area. Two police officers in their patrol car are responding to an urgent phone call from a rural location. They soon arrive at an isolated farm house surrounded by a clear blanket of snow with no tracks of any kind approaching it. They are properly cautious as they enter the eerily silent home, soon finding two murdered occupants, presumably husband and wife. And then as they search further...what then occurs propels the reader into the next chapter! The author is a prominent Canadian mystery writer whose creation, retired police detective Emile Cinq-Mars, first appears in the second chapter when he is called upon to apply his renowned investigative skills to the storm murders. Not long after, an FBI agent arrives to request that Cinq-Mars help in solving a series of similarly perpetrated crimes in the USA that occur after natural disasters. The most recent was just after Katrina and so Cing-Mars is soon in New Orleans with his wife. hoping to combine a postponed vacation with the intriguing assignment. This leads to some unexpected and suspenseful complications. Suspects and suspicions abound as more murders occur. Although these subsequent events never match in shock value of those in the stunning opening chapter, the author has produced a very high quality mystery that will be appreciated by fans of the genre.



#### COLETTA MCKENRY LIBRARY ACCESSIONS

#### FICTION, INCLUDING LARGE TYPE:

America America Ethan Canin © 2008.F/CAN/L.T. **Blossom Street Bride** Debbie Macomber © 2014.F/MAC/L.T. China Rich Girlfriend Kevin Kwan © 2015.F/KWA The Curious Kids and The Sioux River **Bandits** Chuck Gourley © 2009.F/GOU **Deep Dish** Mary Kay Andrews © 2008.F/AND The Fall John Lescroart © 2015.F/LES A Fine Summer's Day Charles Todd © 2015.F/TOD The Girl You Left Behind JoJo Moyes © 2012.F/MOY/L.T. The Golden Age Gore Vidal © 2000.F/VID/L.T. Islands Anne Rivers Siddons © 2004.F/SID The Johnstown Girls Kathleen George © 2014.F/GEO Letters from Home Kristina McMorris © 2011.F/McM The Little Paris Bookshop Nina George © 2015.F/GEO McNally's Trial Lawrence Sanders © 1995.F/SAN Memory Man by David Baldacci © 2015. F/BAL/L.T. The Ophelia Cut John Lescroart © 2013.F/LES Orient Christopher Bollen © 2015.F/BOL **Our Souls at Night** Kent Haruf © 2015.F/HAR Outrage Robert K. Tanenbaum © 2011.F/TAN The Perks of Being a Wallflower Stephen Chbosky © 1999.F/CHB The President's Shadow Brad Meltzer © 2015.F/MEL/L.T.

Speaking in Bones Kathy Reichs © 2015.F/REI There's No Place Like Home Jen Calonita © 2011.F/CAL The Tiger's Wife Tea Obreht © 2011.F/OBR Too Bad to Die Francine Mathews © 2015.F/MAT The Traitor's Wife Allison Pataki © 2014.F/PAT The Watchmaker of Filigree Street Natasha Pulley © 2015.F/PUL Wolf Hall Hilary Mantel © 2009.F/MAN/L.T.

#### NON-FICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES:

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#### NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

There are some changes in the Audio-Visual collection which is housed in the paperback room. All of the CASSETTE TAPES are now available on the Honor System---Just borrow one and return it to the Book Return Box near the front desk. No need to sign it out. All boxes have yellow stickers.

Also, we need your help with the CDs and DVDs. If you find that the one you borrowed does not work properly, please let us know by attaching a note to the box when you return it. We have no way of checking them in the library.

Also, a word of thanks goes to Louise Hackett who has been volunteering as a librarian for several years. She is leaving to spend more time with her husband. All of us have benefited from her work and we have appreciated her help.



**Betty Polley** 

Worth the Time by Ed Vidt

#### Where GOD Was Born Bruce Feiler 200.956 Fei

This is a travelogue of an unusual kind, but for a usual purpose. Mr. Feiler takes us through much of the Middle East that is not ordinarily ventured into by us ordinary USA type adults. For example, the territory ruled over by Cyrus II, King of Persia, is briefly mentioned in our Christian Bible, but not in any sense is it explained in the Bible as a territory so vital to the return of the Israelites from their exile in Babylonia. But Mr. Feiler uses the tour of Persian land to show us how Cyrus II developed his views that persuaded him to set the Israelites free to go home. Similarly, other locations in Eastern Iraq and in modern day Israel are investigated for their archeological significance, and for their sources of purpose, for our present beliefs in God and also for how He is worshiped.

# **Charlie Chaplin**

Peter Ackroyd B (Cha)

Starting in London, UK, in 1889, the mysterious family origin of Chaplin begins. No birth certificate or other document marks the start of a long, sometimes sad, but usually very, very bountiful life! Chaplin grows up as a scruffy kid in a scruffy environment, but talent will out. He scrambles his way into a London company of music hall performers, and soon, with his inborn talent for comic behavior as the little tramp, he is signed on full time. The troop of performers then signs on to a stint in the U.S. in 1910, and the rest is history. His road to millions of dollars, and to hundreds of lovely women, is wonderfully well told in this small book.



IN MEMORIAM Memories are precious possessions that time can never destroy. For it is in happy remembrance that the heart finds its greatest joy. Dotty Stebler August 28, 2015

#### **ACTIVITIES IN THE CHAPEL**

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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

# **CHAPEL NOTES**

Every year, on the first Sunday of October, churches around the world observe World Communion Sunday. We will be participating in that observance on October 4 under the leadership of the Rev. Jean Henderson.

This is a memorable month for another reason: three of the four clergy leading worship are residents of Sherwood Oaks. The fourth is a new worship leader, the Rev. Donna Giver-Johnston, pastor of the Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon. She will be with us on October 11. On October 18, the service will be led by the Rev. Deane Lavender and on October 25 by the Rev. Dr. John Rodgers.

We welcome you to the auditorium on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 PM for these times of worship. Our musicians (Joan Treleaven, Peggy Meister, Nancy Baker, Pearl Habashi) begin playing at 1:45; so come early to enjoy the prelude. Mimi Fleming is retiring as a chapel pianist. Join us in thanking her for her faithful and beautiful contribution to the worship services at Sherwood Oaks.

Agnes Peebles

# FOCUS ON THE WORLD

The quarterly food bank collection will be <u>October 11-17</u> in the scooter/gallery room. Thank you for your generous contributions. Keep up the good work!

Ellie Castle





Joe Asin

left to right: Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered "It needs a touch more eye of newt... and see if Fred has a fresh frog to toss in..."

Newts and frogs, toads galore are all a part of what's in store. Oh, where is Fred to save our souls from tasting things like newts and voles?

