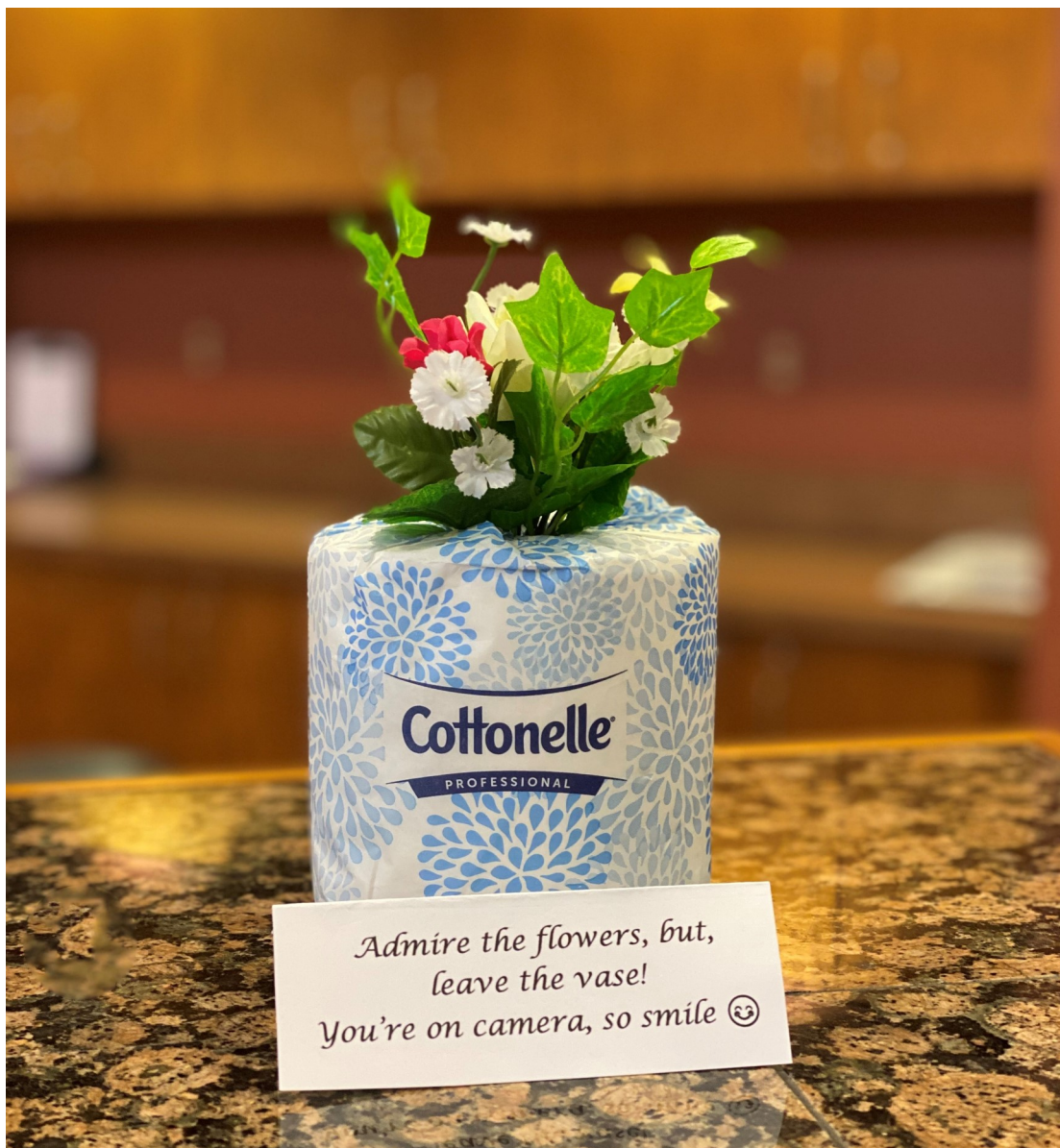


# THE ACORN

SHERWOOD OAKS NEWSLETTER  
100 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066  
[www.sherwood-oaks.com](http://www.sherwood-oaks.com)

April 2020 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. 21, No. 4

## *Humor Helps!*



Arrangement by Nancy O'Leary

Photo by Tabby Alford

### **From the ACORN Editorial Staff:**

So, here we are. A pandemic. The epidemiologists flood the airwaves with sobering predictions about the numbers of victims, along with shortages of ICU beds, masks, and ventilators. Economists argue about whether recession is already here or will come. Our daily routines have been remarkably altered. We know we are vulnerable and part of a "high-risk" group. What to do? There is reason for sleepless nights and hand wringing.

In truth, though, we live in a community of caring here at Sherwood Oaks. Medical experts at UPMC Senior Communities have access to the latest data about what will keep us safe. Maybe we can't break bread together for a while, but nutritious meals will be brought to us, and grocery staples can be delivered, too. Our campus is most beautiful in Springtime; we can still walk about and look for signs of the arriving season. We can phone friends, or meet carefully with one or two others, to say hello.

Perhaps this forced sequestration is given to us to enjoy a sort of Sabbath. How about those books sitting on your bedside table? Or the closet that needs to be cleaned? Do you have a collection of old family photos in a shoebox waiting to be sorted? Maybe it's time to start some seeds indoors for the summer garden.

The alternative is to rail against the restrictions, give in to loneliness, and worry ourselves sick about our stock portfolios. If, however, we follow the guidelines and maintain an upbeat mentality, maybe we can "flatten the curve" of the viral spread and thus shorten the crisis. Think of it as planting your own little Victory Garden.

In the end, we are all in this together. After years of ugly political and civil discourse, there is comfort in knowing we are now in a common effort to survive. This is, it seems, a matter of life or death. So, take care. Eat well, breathe fresh air, listen to the birds, reach out to others often by phone or e-mail, and be hopeful. We will gather together again soon.

— Jan Wendt

### ***IN MEMORIAM***

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

*Elizabeth Ann Baker*

*March 6, 2020*

*Edward Alo*

*March 7, 2020*

*Leslie Crawford*

*March 9, 2020*

*Edwin Borrebach*

*March 14, 2020*

*William Matlack*

*March 17, 2020*

### **Ed Borrebach and *The Acorn***

Soon after moving to Sherwood Oaks, Ed Borrebach began contributing photos to *The Acorn*: covers, community scenes, and, most significantly, pictures of new residents. By September 2012, he and Joe Asin were listed as Staff Photographers. Two years later, he was named Bio Photographer. Many of us recall his work introducing us to the community. He also produced a hilarious and charming series on SO dogs and their owners.

In September 2019, Ed, because of illness, went on leave. In January 2020, he was named Photographer Emeritus. We remain grateful for his insights, skills, and humor.



Photo by Mike Mills

## **SARAH JANE NAYLOR #139**

By Connie Brandenberger - #602

Our new resident, who likes to be called “Janie,” has a friendly attitude and is very happy to be at Sherwood Oaks. A “Janie of all trades,” she has mastered quite a few. Having begun her career as a nurse at Allegheny General Hospital after attending the Pennsylvania College for Women (now Chatham University) and Allegheny General School of Nursing, she has worked at North Hills Passavant and was a nursing instructor at CCAC North.

Janie did take a break from nursing for 13 years to raise her three children before they went off to school. Her son now lives in California; one daughter lives in Titusville; and a second daughter is nearby in Cranberry Twp.

Born in York, PA, Janie lived most of her life in Shaler Township. Her family operated an orchard farm on Route 8 in Cooperstown, where they raised fruits and vegetables. Known as the “Apple Lady,” she used apples any way possible, including making a “few”

apple pies. She jokes that she needed 5 years of college to end up working in an apple orchard! When asked how she found time for nursing and working on the farm, she replied that it was a family affair. Everyone had to work, and they loved it. Janie also was active at the Elfinwild Presbyterian Church with Meals on Wheels and Caring Hands.

Along with these activities, Janie still found time to travel with her late husband, Geff, who was a native of Canada. They met on a blind date and were married within 4 months. He retired from Bell Telephone at the early age of 57, stayed busy on the farm, and was a beekeeper along with their son. Besides raising bees, they worked at removing bees from homes when needed. Janie and Geff traveled to Scotland, England, New Zealand, Canada, the Netherlands, and many states here in the US. They made sure they were always home at planting and picking times.

Janie’s many interests include crocheting, doing crossword and jigsaw puzzles, gardening, and reading. She is already a member of our Sew and So group and has enjoyed playing games at the Community Center. She is eager to stay busy, just as she has been all her life. We are fortunate that Janie has become a part of our Community. Welcome!

## **APRIL CALENDAR**

Palm Sunday	April 5
Passover (start)	April 8
Good Friday	April 10
Easter Sunday	April 12
Orthodox Easter	April 19
Earth Day	April 22
Arbor Day	April 24

## EDITORIAL NOTICE!

***Because of the coronavirus, the activities listed in this issue may or may not take place as scheduled. Please check with Channel 900, the Touchtown app, or the receptionist at the front desk as the date approaches. Protecting the health and safety of residents is always our priority.***

## DEALING WITH GRIEF CLASS

Beginning Thursday, April 16, for six Thursdays through May 21, the group will meet in the Sherwood Meeting Room from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Leaders are resident Jan Wendt, RN, and Rev. Sam Blair, a Chaplain with Bridges Hospice. Please notify Jean Henderson (8611) if you would like to attend.

## GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

By Jean Henderson - #611

The Chapel Committee will present the annual Good Friday Tenebrae Service on April 10 at 4 p.m. in the Auditorium. The Office of Tenebrae, meaning darkness or shadows, is a Holy Week devotion dating back to the 7<sup>th</sup> century A.D. It is characterized by the extinguishing of candles as the service progresses with hymns, prayers, and scripture readings, this year from the Gospel of Mark. The lights will also be dimmed, allowing the worship service to end in complete darkness for several seconds. Leading the hour-long service will be the Rev. Dr. Jean H. Henderson (resident), cantor Timothy Heavner, and pianist Lynn Miller. Please join us for this somber Good Friday devotion.

## AGING CREATIVELY

By Bill Paul - #167

As resident neighbors and friends, we all have the opportunity to live our lives as fully as we can. While the specifics of doing so will inevitably vary from person to person, here are some suggestions that may enable us to celebrate and embrace the possibility of doing so.

1. Remember to stay in touch with acquaintances who have been and remained gifts to you through the years. These might include family, current and former neighbors, classmates, co-workers, others.
2. Continue to develop and nurture new friendships with your Sherwood Oaks neighbors and others, near and far.
3. Savor opportunities to remember and celebrate your current joys and past life-enhancing experiences.
4. Acknowledge your disappointments, losses, failures, griefs, and the emotional pains you have endured.
5. Contemplate and consider possible ways you can still contribute to society and the world by donating time and money to programs and organizations that reflect your convictions and love.
6. Recognize your own mortality and make specific plans for your end-of-life formalities and the distribution of your personal property.
7. Take steps and opportunities to heal any broken relationships by asking for or offering forgiveness.

Of course, there may be other last-chapter-of-life opportunities and tasks not identified above. Perhaps these can be starters.



## UPDATES FROM THE RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Waste Management, the company that receives Sherwood Oaks recyclables, has provided the following guidelines:

**These are the acceptable materials ... to be placed in the bins in our trash rooms.**

**PAPER: for the paper recycling bin or on the shelf:**

- Printer paper
- Copier paper
- Cereal and similar boxes
- Mail
- Office paper *without* wax liners
- Telephone books
- Catalogs
- Magazines
- Newsprint
- Corrugated cardboard (boxes empty and flattened)

**Paper NOT acceptable – i.e., must go in the trash:**

***Any paper that has contained or been in contact with food***

(Please note: the soup and ice cream paper cups, *even if washed*, that we get from the dining room are NOT recyclable, per the manufacturer.)

Nor are tissues, paper towels, napkins, pizza boxes, etc.

**CONTAINERS: acceptable, if CLEAN, in the bin for containers:**

Plastic containers with symbol #1 – clean, *caps removed*

Plastic containers with symbol #2 – clean plastic milk and water bottles, *caps removed*

Plastic containers with symbol #2 – detergent, shampoo, etc., clean, *caps removed*

Plastics, including the black containers with clear tops used for meals being delivered, with symbols #3, #4, #5, #6, #7

(Note: the #5 **plastic lids** on the paper soup cups *are* recyclable.)

Aluminum beverage and food containers, tin and bi-metal cans – clean.

Glass containers *must be clean and free of metal caps and rings.*

Aerosol cans – empty with less than 5% content

**NO PLASTIC BAGS!!** They should be returned to the store.

## SHERWOOD OAKS BOOK CLUB

By Julie Eden - #290

The book to be discussed on **Tuesday, April 14, at 4 p.m.** in the Chapel is *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek: A Novel*, by Kim Michele Richardson. A bestseller according to both *The New York Times* and *USA Today*, the book is about the first mobile library in Kentucky, established by President Roosevelt's Kentucky Pack Horse Library Project.

Cussy Mary Carter, the librarian who accompanies the library, is the last of her kind, with skin a shade of blue all its own. "If Cussy wants to bring the joy of books to the hill folks, she's going to have to confront prejudice as old as the Appalachians and suspicion as deep as the holler." (*Amazon.com*)

The book has been described as "a timeless and significant tale about poverty, intolerance, and how books can bring hope and light to even the darkest pocket of history." (Karen Abbott, *NYT* bestselling author of *Liar Temptress Soldier Spy*)

It has also been termed "a unique story about Appalachia and the healing power of the written word" (*Kirkus*). Join us!

## **SPRING – THE SEASON OF PLANTING**

By Harriet Burress - #112

Do you remember selling seeds when you were in grammar school? It was our annual fundraiser, and many little packets were sold. Parents, grandparents, neighbors – all bought seeds of many kinds for flower beds and Victory gardens. As children, we saw these seeds grow, bud, flower, and produce delicious and beautiful fruits.

In the March 2020 issue of *Progressive Farmer*, there is a page of quotes titled “Planting.” Following are a few of them:

“The planting of a tree, especially one of the long-living hardwood trees, is a gift which you can make to posterity at almost no cost and with almost no trouble, and if the tree takes root it will far outlive the visible effect of any of your other actions, good or evil.” – George Orwell

“A man doesn’t plant a tree for himself. He plants it for posterity.” – Alexander Smith

“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.” – Robert Louis Stevenson

“Always do your best. What you plant now, you will harvest later.” – OG Mandino

“We plant seeds that will flower as results in our lives, so best to remove the weeds of anger, avarice, envy, and doubt, that peace and abundance may manifest for all.” – Dorothy Day

“If you plan for a year, plant a seed. If for ten years, plant a tree. If for a hundred years, teach the people. When you sow a seed once, you will reap a

single harvest. When you teach the people, you will reap a hundred harvests.” – Kuan Chung

“He that plants trees, loves others besides himself.” – Thomas Fuller

## **SPRING IS NOW SPRINGING**

By Jane Lavender - #253

We’ve been watching Spring emerge before our eyes, and, though this has not been a heavy winter, we take joy in the addition of color and flowers to our campus. The Landscape Committee and all gardeners are getting itchy fingers in anticipation of things to come and work to be done.

For those residents who enjoy getting a bit of dirt under their fingernails, there are two places where we may work to help beautify the campus. One is the Wimbledon Garden, which is cared for by residents, and the second covers the beds around the path by the Summer House. At present, no one is caring for the Monochromatic Garden there, and it is definitely in need of adoption! There is always a welcome for volunteers at any of these areas. We usually work with others, which means having a fun time as well as doing good for the community.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining us or have any questions.



## **SHERWOOD GIFTS SPRING LAMP SALE**

Back by popular demand is the lamp sale in the Annex and the Gift Shop. All table and floor lamps are **HALF PRICE** through April – while the supply lasts.



## SPOTLIGHT ON NEW BOOKS

### THE BOOK SELECTION GROUP

By Tom Fararo - #214

These recently purchased books will be on the new bookshelf in our library. If a book you seek is not there, you can fill out a reserve slip or reserve the book online from your home computer.

*A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabel Allende. Fiction. A reviewer calls the notable author's new novel "majestic." It deals with the human aftermath of the Spanish Civil War. "Allende's assured prose vividly evokes her fictional characters, historical figures ... and decades of complex international history; her imagery makes the suffering of war and displacement palpable yet also does justice to human strength, hope and rebirth" (*Publishers Weekly Starred Review*).

*Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano. Fiction. A young boy is the only survivor of a plane crash that kills his entire family. The story of his life thereafter is the main thread of this novel. "When you're reading, you're deep in the pleasure of good storytelling, but when you're done, you know that you've experienced a brush with literary virtuosity" (*Newsday*).

*The Great Unexpected* by Dan Mooney. **Large Print.** Fiction. Two elderly men of disparate backgrounds become close friends in a U.K. nursing home. "This novel is filled with humor and touching emotion, providing excellent character development ... and the varied experiences of their lives. This is a real crowd-pleaser" (*Publishers Weekly*).

*The Aosawa Murders* by Riku Onda. Fiction. This puzzle mystery won the annual Mystery Writers of Japan Award for Fiction. "This dark and dazzling novel defies easy categorization but consistently tantalizes and surprises" (*Kirkus Review*).

*Into the Fire* by Gregg Hurwitz. Fiction. The 5<sup>th</sup> in the Orphan X series, following last year's *Out of the Dark* (in our library). Also known as The Nowhere Man, Orphan X is said to be comparable to Jack Reacher. A "high-octane thriller" (*The Real Book Spy*).

*A Divided Loyalty: An Inspector Ian Rutledge Mystery* by Charles Todd. Fiction. "Nobody evokes long postwar (WWI) shadows or overwhelming post-war grief better than Todd" (*Kirkus Review*).

*The Old Success: A Richard Jury Mystery* by Martha Grimes. Fiction. Reviewers say that series fans as well as newcomers will enjoy this latest in the series that "continues the Grimes tradition of mixing solid procedural details with deft characterization and offbeat wit" (*Booklist*).



## TRIPS AND TOURS and FOCUS ON THE WORLD

By Agnes Peebles - #324

These two committees are sponsoring a trip to the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh on Friday, April 24, to view the exhibit, *For You Were Strangers: Jewish Immigration to Pittsburgh, 1880-1990*. Unless the Center has been closed because of the coronavirus, a docent will walk us through the exhibit, which outlines the history of Jewish immigrants in Pittsburgh. A member of the local Jewish community will also share more personal experiences. The trip will conclude with lunch. There is a sign-up sheet on the Trips and Tours bulletin board – do plan to join us!

## How Can I Keep from Singing?

By Janice Wendt - #158

*The singing.*

*There was so much singing then,  
and this was my pleasure, too....*

*Here I lie.*

*I have had pleasure enough.*

*I have had singing.*

– Ronald Blythe

Thank goodness for the singing, the music, and those who sing with me. There was a time when I tried to make music my vocation. While I was a music major (pipe organ) for one semester in college, it soon became clear to me that I didn't have the focus or dedication to make it the center of my life. Other things – politics, writing, the charms of life – called me away.

I had taken vocal lessons in high school, had sung in my church choir, and soloed a bit in church. I attended summer music camp all through high school, singing in madrigal groups, playing my flute in the orchestra. But, by the time I left graduate school (journalism) and married, there didn't seem to be time for music. I wasn't attending church at that point much either, or playing our piano.

However, within 10 years I had joined a church, thankfully one with a fine choir, with paid soloists, and a composer for a choir director! We sang some difficult music and sang it well. By now, I have sung in that choir for 44 years! All those Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings have, more than almost anything else, buoyed and nourished me through career changes, a divorce, empty-nesting, and on into the start of my "old age."

Music, and singing, in particular, have a way of restoring your soul. You can have an awful day at work, engage in a fight with your spouse, be bone tired and

dread bundling up of a February night to go to choir practice. But then, it happens ... the headache fades, the shoulders relax, and you are lifted up again to that floating place of healing. Where else, in today's world, can one mingle in common purpose for an hour or two, with folks of other ages, occupations, political interests, and varying levels of musical talent? All this time together, pushing to make a lovely sound.

Most of my working life, I identified as a hospice nurse, a calling I loved. But the job can be depleting in many ways. My church choir renewed and filled me back up again week after week. Those familiar, dear souls have become a sanctuary.

There are numerous studies now showing the life-enhancing and life-prolonging benefits of singing in a group. My guess is that this is due to the combination of the music itself (lowers blood pressure, releases endorphins, etc.) and the strength of the community of singers.

Here at Sherwood Oaks we have ... a chorus! We singers have instruments that aren't as clear as they once were. The range of notes we can sing is quite diminished. Some of us don't see or hear too well. Nonetheless, the joy of working together to create sound is no less. For an hour or so, the aches and pains take a back seat, and we are together having a good time. The end product isn't as lovely, maybe, as it once was, but it does not matter. The joy and healing effects are in the rehearsals, not the concert.

In the words of the old hymn,

*My life flows on in endless song*

*Above earth's lamentation.*

*I hear the real, though far-off hymn*

*That hails a new creation.*

*Above the tumult and the strife*

*I hear the music ringing;*

*It sounds an echo in my soul.*

*How can I keep from singing?*



## **THE COLETTA MCKENRY LIBRARY ACCESSIONS** **FICTION, INCLUDING LARGE TYPE AND DVD's**

<i>Absent without Leaf</i>	Orchard, Sandra	c. 2019	F ORC
<i>American Dervish</i>	Akhtar, Ayad	c. 2012	F AKH
<i>Best Laid Plants</i>	Lee, Katy	c. 2019	F LEE
<i>The Better Sister</i>	Burke, Alafair	c. 2019	F BUR
<i>Beyond the Sea</i>	Thompson, Janice A.	c. 2018	F THO
<i>Bryant &amp; May: The Lonely Hour</i>	Fowler, Christopher	c. 2019	F FOW
<i>By Its Cover</i>	Leon, Donna	c. 2014	F LEO
<i>Catch of the Day</i>	Herne, Ruth Logan	c. 2018	F HER
<i>Criss Cross</i>	Patterson, James	c. 2019	F PAT
<i>The Distance Home</i>	Konig, Orly	c. 2017	F KON
<i>Dormant Lies</i>	Penney, Elizabeth	c. 2019	F PEN
<i>Dragonfly</i>	Meacham, Leila	c. 2019	F MEA
<i>The Dutch House</i>	Patchett, Ann	c. 2019	F PAT
<i>The Family Gathering</i>	Carr, Robyn	c. 2018	F CAR
<i>In the Full Light of the Sun</i>	Clark, Clare	c. 2019	F CLA
<i>A Gentleman in Moscow</i>	Towles, Amor	c. 2016	F TOW CDs
<i>The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society</i>	Shaffer, Mary Ann	c. 2008	F SHA CDs
<i>The Killer Angels</i>	Shaara, Michael	c. 2004	F SHA CDs
<i>The Lightkeepers</i>	Geni, Abby	c. 2016	F GEN p.b.
<i>The Long Call</i>	Cleeves, Ann	c. 2019	F CLE
<i>Pocket Full of Deadly</i>	Fields, Jan	c. 2019	F FIE
<i>Red, White and True</i>	Gould, Leslie	c. 2019	F GOU
<i>The Secret Ingredient</i>	Thompson, Jance	c. 2019	F THO
<i>The Starless Sea</i>	Morgenstern, Erin	c. 2019	F MOR
<i>Stealth</i>	Woods, Stuart	c. 2019	F WOO
<i>Stolen Goodbyes</i>	Adams, Beth	c. 2019	F ADA
<i>Storm Tide</i>	Penney, Elizabeth	c. 2018	F PEN
<i>Sudden Death</i>	Enrique, Alvaro	c. 2016	F ENR
<i>Treason</i>	Woods, Stuart	c. 2020	F WOO
<i>The Vanishing</i>	Krentz, Jayne Ann	c. 2020	F KRE
<i>Unsheltered</i>	Kingsolver, Barbara,	c. 2018	F KIN CDs
<i>When You See Me</i>	Gardner, Lisa	c. 2020	F GAR

## **NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES**

<i>The Fearless Benjamin Lay</i>	Rediker, Marcus	c. 2017	BIO LAY
<i>Thomas Paine and the Clarion Call for American Independence</i>	Unger, Harlow G.	c. 2019	BIO PAI
<i>The Big Heist</i>	DeStefano, Anthony M.	c. 2017	364.106 DES
<i>Finding Chika: A Little Girl, an Earthquake, and the Making of a Family</i>	Albom, Mitch	c. 2019	362.77 ALB
<i>Lenin on the Train</i>	Merridale, Catherine	c. 2017	947.08 MER
<i>Notre-Dame: A Short History of the Meaning of Cathedrals</i>	Follett, Ken	c. 2019	726.6 FOL

<i>Parallel Worlds</i>	Rose, Michael		808.81 ROS
<i>The Ride of a Lifetime: Lessons Learned from 15 years as CEO of the Walt Disney Company</i>	Iger, Robert	c. 2019	384.80 IGE
1776	McCullough, David G.	c. 2005	973.3 MCC CDs
<i>The Slave Ship: A Human History</i>	Rediker, Marcus	c. 2007	306.3 RED
<i>The Story of Britain</i>	Strong, Roy	c. 2019	941 STR
<i>Touched by the Sun: My Friendship with Jackie</i>	Simon, Carly	c. 2019	927 SIM
<i>The Years that Matter Most: How College Makes or Breaks Us</i>	Tough, Paul	c. 2019	378.19 TOU
<i>The Yellow House</i>	Broom, Sarah M.	c. 2019	814.6 BRO

*Eleanor Bauer moved to Sherwood Oaks in October of 2003. She died in April 2013. Her books of poems, STRIP TEASE and PARTS AND PIECES, are in the reference section of our library. Her son has given The Acorn permission to reprint her poems.*

### THIS YEAR I'LL DO MY OWN TAXES

By Eleanor Bauer

I start with my name and address,  
That's fine, no cause for distress.  
I'm a housewife but single?  
Do the two really mingle?  
Shall I add an explanation to account for  
the situation?  
Will IRS add a fee for my inconsistency?  
I press on, decide not to wrangle,  
Then find my kept records are all in a  
tangle.  
Each time that I sum up my income I  
come up  
With a number that's new,  
This just will not do.  
I refuse to panic and turn to mechanics.  
(Electronics are better at math than my  
head.)  
Sadly I find that the battery's dead.  
Bravely I thrash on in less confident  
fashion,  
Subtracting deductions as per "simple"  
instructions.  
Then, all aglow, when I think that I'm  
through,  
I discover I've left out a number or two.  
I go into shock and call Mr. Block.

### THE LIBRARY LOWDOWN

By Barbara Christy - #237

In preparation for carrying out our ten-year inventory, we have decided to get rid of some unused collections. Before we remove them, however, we are offering them to anyone at Sherwood who might want some of them. Or, if someone has a special reason for us to keep one or more of them, let Barb (8237) or Anne (8308) know.

*Encyclopedia Britannica*, c. 1991, 32 volumes

*Encyclopedia Britannica Book of the Year*, 9 volumes, 1995 - 2012

*The World Book "Yearbook"*, 1964 - 1994, 19 volumes

*Who's Who in America*, 9 volumes between 1986 and 2012

*Who's Who in the World*, 4 volumes between 1975 and 1990

Coronavirus precautions: Library volunteers are daily wiping down hard surfaces used by multiple people. A container of sanitizer wipes is on the checkout table for any patrons who wish to use them.

## THE FANTASTIX ARE COMING

By Frank Weiss - #154

Your SORA Program Committee will be presenting **The FANTASTIX, a children's Show Choir, on Tuesday, April 21, at 7:15 p.m.** in the Auditorium/Card Room. The group, which is directed by Mary Ann Mangini, has been serving the local community through song and dance for the past five years. It has performed all over the Pittsburgh region, including venues such as Market Square, Kenny-wood, the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, local parks, theaters, nursing facilities, country clubs, and churches.

Two years ago, the Fantastix began touring schools, presenting an anti-bullying message through their original music production – “You Are Worth It.” Last year, the group appeared on stage at the New Hazlett Theater in Pittsburgh with Johnny Angel and the Halos. This spring they will be headlining a show with the Fabulous Gemtones at the Kean Theater in Gibsonia. The Fantastix will be presenting their full-length musical, “Into the Woods,” at the Comtra Theater in early June. They are excited to be performing for us.



## WILL BILL MARCUS MARK THE END OF AN ERA?

By Kelley Noble, Chair  
SORA Continued Learning C'tee

The final two programs of the March 2020 Continued Learning series, which will feature Dr. William Marcus, will occur on Thurs., Apr. 2, and Thurs., Apr. 9. As of now, there are no plans for programs in October 2020 or beyond. Indeed, as of July 1, 2020, there will be neither a Continued Learning Committee nor a committee chair.

Do you care? Are you willing to step in? Going by the responses to last fall's questionnaire, you are not! Meanwhile, my term as committee chair will end on July 1.

The past four years have been exciting for me – full of hard work, successes, frustrations, and, ultimately, programs of which your committee has been justifiably proud. But there it is. We're done! If *you* are interested in chairing the Continued Learning Committee, do let me know (8189). In the meantime, as Bob Hope used to say, “Thanks for the memories.”

## THE OAK TREE

By Georgia Trostle - #717

A mighty wind blew night and day.  
It stole the oak tree's leaves away,  
Then snapped its boughs and pulled  
its bark  
Until the oak was tired and stark.  
But still the oak tree held its ground,  
While other trees fell all around.

The weary wind gave up and spoke,  
“How can you still be standing, Oak?”  
The oak tree said, “I know that you  
Can break each branch of mine in two,  
Carry every leaf away,  
Shake my limbs and make me sway.

“But I have roots stretched in the earth,  
Growing stronger since my birth.  
You'll never touch them, for you see,  
They are the deepest part of me.  
Until today, I wasn't sure  
Of just how much I could endure.  
But now I've found, with thanks to you,  
I'm stronger than I ever knew.”

## **SOCK IT TO ME....**

By Julie Eden - #290

My large three-bedroom New Jersey apartment was located on a seventh floor, just above the treetops. Few manmade things were in my view for the 25 years there. Of those that were, I treasured the 1868 Collings-Knight Homestead the most. I kept an eye on that in every season from the corner master bedroom.

As much as trees filled my vast living room view, the heating unit wanted to fill the room with warmth – uncontrolled warmth – forever. To cool it off in winter, I'd crack a window or the door to the adjoining unheated enclosed terrace. My library unit was not connected, so there was no chance of heat. The bedrooms I could carefully control. Hence, I needed only to wear footies and, in the cooler months, cotton ankle socks. I wore pantyhose to work, where it was also quite warm. I did have two pairs of longer light-weight socks. They were saved for winter boots used only in the snow.

Moving to a patio home at Sherwood Oaks was a change. No one lived above or below me. That was good. On the other hand, I had views of neighbors and trees rooted in the ground (solidly, I hoped, so they would not fall on my abode). No more panoramic views of multi-colored foliage in the autumn. And nothing from the 1800s greeted my eyes. But I could control the heat. And it did not have to be tropical all year long.

Once autumn arrived, I suddenly had cold feet and needed real socks. Who wants cold feet? Off to Kohls I went to load up on some lightweight above-the-ankle crew socks. It was fun shopping

for the various color combinations: black and grey, navy and denim marbled, tans and brown.... They served me well until winter came around. The 30-degree days showed up on the calendar. Then I need something warmer.

Back I went for a heavier cotton-ribbed variety.

When the 20-degree days arrived, I bought even weightier, cozy, color-block socks in browns and blues (too thick for my boots) and even a couple of pairs of wool socks. Indeed, they are really warm and so substantial they're hard to get on! I also discovered Cuddl Duds snowflake versions to wear around home, with no shoes or boots, and novelty socks (there are hundreds of those), and slouchy boyfriend socks. There are also beefy hiking crew socks. I passed on them. No winter hiking for me!

I now have a very full drawer of socks. The summer footies and ankle socks are stored in plastic bins in the closet to be used again as the thermometer rebounds. They will remind me of the over-heated place that was mine for years. I do miss the views and my library. But I don't miss adjusting the heat by opening a terrace door or a window in 20-degree temps. I just grab a pair of socks.

## ***Out of the mouths of ....***

The couple were both about 5'4" tall. Their daughter was 5'2", but the sons grew to 6' and 5'8", respectively. Whenever the father was asked how he got two such tall sons, with a twinkle in his eyes he replied, "Oh, I'm not asking any questions!"

## WHAT'S NEW WITH SORA?

(SO Residents Association)

By Jean Henderson, Secretary - #611

**NOTE: Complete minutes are always available for review on the SORA mailroom bulletin board, on the SO APP, and in the SORA Library binder.**

Summary of reports and actions for the March 3, 2020, board meeting:

VISITORS: Twenty residents attended.

TREASURERS: Memorial/Special Projects Fund has a balance of \$57,414.20, excluding a CD for \$51,175, rolled over at 1.60%. The Employee Appreciation Fund balance is \$18,396.07. The SORA bank balance is \$55,968.66, which now includes \$28,762.23 with the Chapel Fund, a protected fund, transferred to SORA from Sherwood Oaks.

### LIAISON REPORTS:

Trips and Tours. Future tours are April 1 – The Winery; April 3 – Youngstown Art; June 26 – Pirates baseball game.

Continued Learning. A wide range of spring events has been advertised.

Sherwood Gifts. Total sales for 2019 were \$22,409. Donations amounting to \$14,000 were made in 2019 to the SORA Memorial Fund. **Assistance with computer issues is urgently needed.**

Living With Loss. A new grief group will begin April 16 for six Thursdays. Contact Jean Henderson to register.

Recycling. New directions will be posted in the trash rooms. Please rinse all containers before recycling.

Landscape. Orders for annuals are due to the Landscape Dept by April 6.

Puzzle Activity. Mary Lou Fox is the SORA liaison. New lighting is being investigated.

ADMINISTRATION: Residents are reminded that they are an important

referral source to SO. COVID-19 emergency preparedness information is being shared; wash your hands and stay home if you are ill. To address internet disruptions in the center, contact the front desk.

### OTHER BUSINESS:

The Board elected residents to the Nominating Committee: Frank Weiss, Chair; Anne Williams, Ron Ouellette, Kelley Noble, and Jim Mentzer.

The new American croquet equipment is ready for use.

The next SORA Board meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. The annual residents' meeting was planned for June 9, 2020, at 7:15 p.m. in the Auditorium. See Channel 900 for updates when we get closer.

## TENACITY

By Ellie Castle - #307

It is March,

And the same dried leaves that hung on  
after Fall's assault

Are still clinging to their "home."

Through wind and rain they remained  
unmoved.

What tenacity – what stubbornness –  
what determination,

Thumbing their noses at the elements.

At some point the new green leaves will  
overcome them,

And my daily inspiration will be  
obliterated.

So at 91 I am hanging on,

Tempted to give up or let go

Of life that has had deep meaning and  
purpose.

When, finally, new young people take  
over,

I hope I can gracefully let go,

Knowing that some of them will still be  
hanging in there

Next March.

## POOR PLANNING

By Ellen Brierly - #734

It occurred to me while shopping last week that I wasn't sure if I needed toilet paper.

Not to worry, I always have an ample amount. Two days later, I heard that there was a run on toilet paper. I don't know why. I understand hand sanitizers and wipes, but toilet paper? Really?

I decided to check my stash and found that I had exactly one roll. Oops! I decided to get up early on Saturday morning and beat the crowd. I was at Walmart by eight, in time to look at the empty shelves. I scurried over to Giant Eagle, which had the exact same empty shelves. Shop and Save was the next object of my search. The parking lot was packed, as it would be on a Saturday morning. I was not feeling very positive, but I had a mission. Not knowing in what aisle I might find the seemingly obsolete item, I walked over to a lady who was checking out: in her cart were four rolls of toilet paper.

"In what aisle is that located?" I asked her. Bless her heart. She turned to me, grabbed two of the rolls, and put them in my cart.

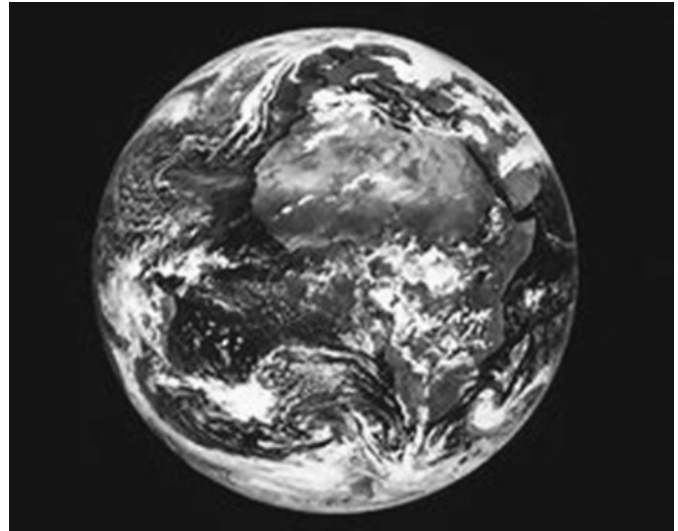
"There are no more back there. The shelf is bare," she said.

There are many ways we can show kindness to our fellow man, and you probably haven't considered sharing toilet paper to be high on the list, but I tell you, I have elevated that lady to number one.

I doubt that she went home feeling warm and fuzzy because she had rescued a stranger from a possible disaster, which brings me to the point.

You don't know what small things you might do that are meaningful to another.

Moral of the story? Check your shopping list carefully, and, if you ever wonder whether or not you need toilet paper, put it on the list anyway!



## EARTH DAY 2020

By Nancy Paul - #167

Earth Day will be celebrated by millions of people in the US, in Canada, and in more than 193 countries on **Wednesday, April 22, 2020** – marking its landmark 50th anniversary. The theme for this year's observance is "Climate Action."

In Pittsburgh, Earth Day will be celebrated by over 50 organizations that will come together for the 50th Anniversary. Said Mayor William Peduto, "Pittsburgh is a vibrant, shining example of a city investing in and adopting green and sustainable technologies and practices. We look forward to celebrating our efforts during Pittsburgh Earth Day 2020."

Keep watching the news so that you, too, can celebrate our beautiful planet.



## CHAPEL NOTES

For all the obvious reasons, scheduled Chapel activities have been canceled until further notice. Please check Channel 900 for updates.

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### EDITORIAL

*Gentle Readers:*

*This past month we have heard some objections to one of our regular columns – namely, Cooper’s Climate Capsule. We understand that people may disagree as to whether climate change is a cyclical phenomenon or a permanent threat to human civilization. However, we do not understand why that matters! Are we to run only articles with which 100% of our residents sympathize? If that is the case, then why should I – a lifelong member of a branch of the Religious Society of Friends that has no pastors – have to read the list of ministers leading chapel services every Sunday? Or why should we run the SORA reports, when they can be read on the bulletin boards in the mailroom instead?*

*When I am reading the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, whether in print or on-line, I always skip over the sports pages, since they do not interest me. Similarly, if residents do not want to read about climate change ... or book clubs ... or trees ... or poetry ... or scheduled lectures or concerts ... or anything else, we are all free to ignore those pieces and move on to what interests us.*

*Surely one of the rewards of living in a place like Sherwood Oaks is getting to know people from different backgrounds, different lifestyles, and even different political beliefs. Our home here offers us room to grow, to change, to become more accepting, and – most of all – to continue learning as we age. Let us take advantage of these opportunities to enrich our lives!*

– Rosemary Coffey

### COOPER’S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #715

This column highlights information from U.S. government agencies that authored the 4<sup>th</sup> National Climate Assessment in 2018.

**This Month’s Agency – Department of Agriculture**

**Website:** <https://www.usda.gov/oce/climatechange/index.htm>

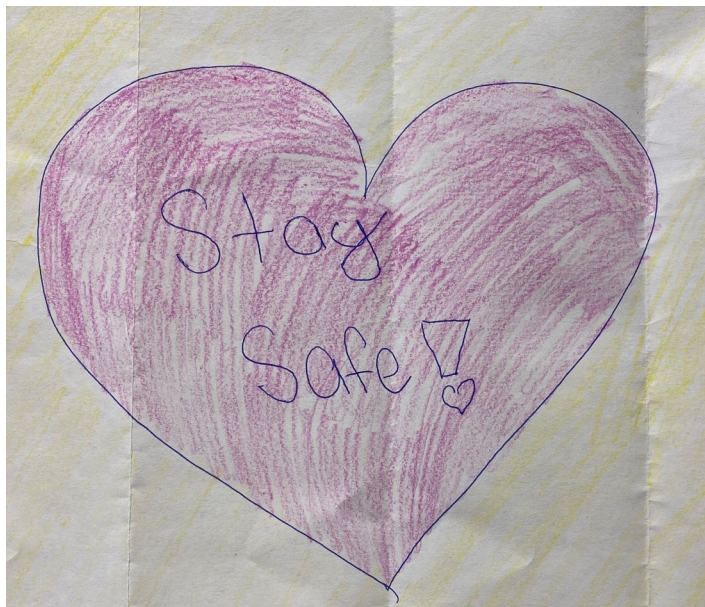
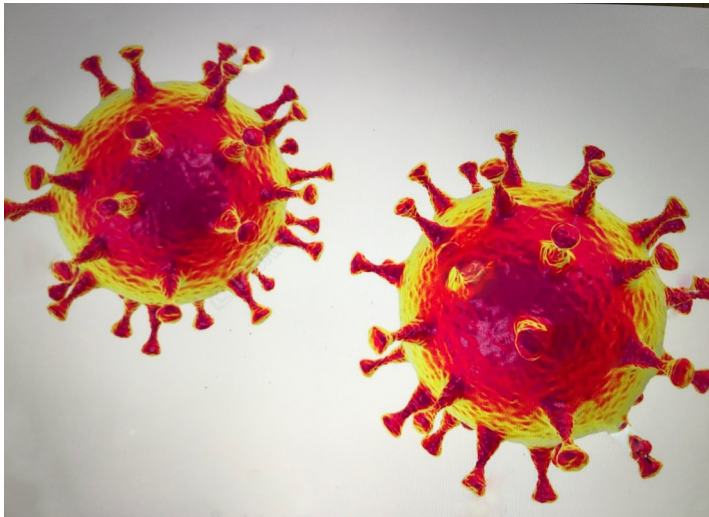
Climate change is a central consideration in USDA’s strategic planning. Strategic Goal 2 of USDA’s Strategic Plan is to Ensure Our National Forests and Private Working Lands Are Conserved, Restored, and Made More Resilient to Climate Change, While Enhancing Our Water Resources. Its objectives include the restoration and conservation of the Nation’s forests, farms, ranches, and grasslands; leading efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change; protecting and enhancing America’s water resources; reducing risk from catastrophic wildfires; and restoring fire to its appropriate place on the landscape. These goals are addressed throughout the Science Plan, often through multiple approaches. The USDA Strategic Plan also calls on agencies to assist rural communities by ensuring that opportunities are developed to capitalize on the Nation’s efforts to develop markets for ecosystem services and mitigate climate change. This Science Plan outlines technical, economic, and communications expectations for the Department that will support this strategic objective.

#### **Current “Carbon Tax” Legislation**

Learn more about the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend bill, with 80 co-sponsors, at [www.energyinnovationact.org](http://www.energyinnovationact.org). For constantly updated information on the climate crisis, follow [@CCLSlipperyRock](https://www.facebook.com/CCLSlipperyRock) on Facebook.

## *Signs of the times...*

**stay calm  
help your  
neighbor**



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