

# THE ACORN

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

Summer 2020 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. 21, No. 7

## Life Goes On ...



Photos by Rabe Marsh and Jan Wendt

[With thanks to Ruth Stirling for telling us about the new family!]

*Gentle Readers,*

*During this time of social isolation, many of us have been leafing through photo albums, recalling past events and friendships. The photo below, for example, is about 40 years old. Two of the women in it are currently residents of Sherwood Oaks. Can you identify them? Write your answers on a sheet of paper and put it in The Acorn mail slot. We'll share the solution over the summer.*

*Meanwhile, while you are flipping pages, laughing, marveling, swallowing hard, think about sharing some of your photos with us anonymously:*

- *For the September issue: photos of your infancy, early childhood, preschool*
- *October ... elementary school*
- *November ... middle school/junior high*
- *December ... high school*
- *January ... college/other post HS events*
- *February ... first jobs*
- *March ... young adult years with family and friends*



- *April ... hobbies*
- *May ... travel*
- *June ... recent extended-family photos*

*We can have a year-long contest guessing whom we're looking at! If you want to participate, put your photos with your name and pertinent information about the scene in The Acorn mailbox. Tabby Alford will scan them and return them to you. Due dates will be the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, as usual. Thanks!!*

## **THE ACORN**

### **Editors**

Ruth Becker

ruthbbfoof@gmail.com

Rosemary Coffey

rosemarycoffey@aol.com

### **Staff**

Julie Eden

Rabe Marsh

Jan Wendt, Profile Coordinator

### **Production Editor**

Tabby Alford

### **Ex Officio**

Annette McPeck

Submissions for the September issue must be sent to the Editors no later than **August 15, 2020.**

## JUDITH SHIFRIN - #231

By Jan Wendt - #158



Photo by Mike Mills

Imagine moving to a place like Sherwood Oaks and, after three days, the campus is “locked down.” No getting to know your new neighbors in the dining room; no way to sample exercise options, browse the gift shop, or try out the smorgasbord of activities. Masks hide the faces of those who share your courtyard. Have you landed on a strange planet? This has been Judith Shifrin’s experience, but she is settling in with good humor and looking forward to the return to a more “normal” life in her new surroundings.

Judith scouted out several area retirement communities, but “I knew this was the one.” She had known residents Bill and Nancy Paul and Ruth Hess from community work in Pittsburgh’s North Hills and travel experiences. It may have been the horticultural beauty of our campus that attracted this master gardener. Her large sunroom is filled with a lush variety of healthy plants, and she has had a large area outside prepared for more planting.

Judith, an Air Force “brat,” grew up on bases across America and abroad. She

names Wiesbaden, Germany, and Gulfport, MS, as two of her favorites. In Mississippi, the family lived across from the beach, leaving Judith with fond memories of crabbing and enjoying the ocean. Judith says that her wide-ranging living experiences as a girl “taught me a lot about people.”

High school happened in Bowling Green, OH, and she later graduated from Miami University in Oxford, OH. She and her husband lived for a bit in Cincinnati before moving in 1976 to Pittsburgh. After raising two daughters and a son, and enjoying volunteer work, Judith went to work as a registered sales assistant in a small brokerage firm. She really enjoyed the “people” aspect of the work, but also “knew when it was time” to retire five years ago.

Her life since then has been busy with travel, gardening, and scrapbooking. She has taken trips with friends and two of her granddaughters to Greece, Italy, Argentina, Chile, Spain, Mexico, and Israel/Jordan, often with the group Overseas Adventure Travel. A planned visit to Italy and Switzerland has been canceled, but Judith is hopeful it will be rescheduled in the not too distant future.

She tries to complete one scrapbook a year, often joining a group at Scrapbook Superstation in Butler to work on projects. Her books are truly little works of art commemorating family events and travel.

Judith’s son lives in Maine, and her daughters are close by in Cranberry and Adams Township. The grandchildren are growing up and beginning adult life, but technology allows Judith to be in touch frequently.

When the weather warms and the masks come off, be sure to find Judith and welcome her. She will often be found gardening in back of her new home.

## Frank and Mary Ann Conte - #106

By Jan Wendt - #158



Not surprisingly, Frank and Mary Ann Conte are all about family. Frank's brother Bob and his wife Jean preceded them in a move to Sherwood Oaks early last winter. For now, those family members are about the only residents they know, thanks to a pandemic that has prevented the newest Conte arrivals from the usual robust Sherwood welcome.

Both Conte men come from a traditional Italian upbringing in Pittsburgh's Morningside neighborhood: high school at Central Catholic, and college at Notre Dame for Frank and at W & J for Bob. Frank also logged three years in active duty with the Navy. The families they created with their wives, likewise, are large and remain at the center of their lives.

The couple arrived here on March 30 and have settled in nicely, but are eager to meet their neighbors and explore what our community has to offer. They came from a condo in Harwick, PA, where they lived after raising their children near Greensburg. Frank enjoyed a long career in HVAC sales and management, working part-time up until several years ago.

Before turning her attention to mothering five daughters and a son, Mary Ann worked as a medical technologist and later in health insurance verification. Both have played active roles in various Roman Catholic parishes, as lectors and Eucharistic ministers.

Mary Ann, a native of Wheeling, WV, grew up in Bridgeport, OH, Baltimore, MD, and Grafton, WV. She met Frank in Michigan, where she had gone to college and where he was then working. They married in 1961. Their daughters are scattered: two in Virginia, one in Maryland, another in South Bend, IN, and the fifth in Houston. Their son, Frank, died about 10 years ago from ALS.

In non-pandemic times, Frank and Mary Anne really enjoy visiting their daughters and 11 grandchildren (of whom eight are girls – clearly, the female gene prevails in this family!). In addition, attending Notre Dame football games with extended family and friends has been a highlight of their travel agenda.

Mary Ann has been a knitter and seamstress, and Frank is a golfer who has also relished more time to read since he retired. Looking forward to a sunroom being added to their unit as soon as construction is permitted, they are ready to sample “normal” life at Sherwood Oaks. Be sure to see them out and about and extend an invitation to lunch or dinner when the time comes; this congenial couple has been waiting a long time to get to know you!

*Welcome*

## THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

By Betty Eichler - #355  
Retiring SORA President

I am writing this in mid-May, and it will be summer by the time you read it. We don't know what will happen between now and then and how our situation may change. My term as SORA President will end on June 30, after two years in this position. Thank you for this opportunity. There are many people I wish to thank for their help and support. The SORA Board has been great during these years. All members have taken their responsibilities seriously, participated with enthusiasm, and been faithful in their attendance at Board meetings.

Thanks, first of all, to Vice-President Frank Finley, whose wisdom and support have been invaluable. His long association with Sherwood Oaks gives him a perspective few of us have.\* I value so much the service of Jean Henderson, who has been our Secretary for four years and has agreed to continue. She always knows how to handle any situation.

Thanks so much to Ray Friedel, who is finishing his term after six years as Operating Treasurer. He makes the deposits and writes the checks to keep all of our committees and activities going. He keeps accurate records, and the accounts are always in balance. I also appreciate the service of Treasurer Pete Broeren, who began his first term this year.

Much appreciation goes to Bill Paul, who has served on the SORA Board for eight years: as a Director, then Vice-President, President, and Past President. For the past two years, as Past President, he has chaired the Memorial/Special Projects Committee. Bill's enthusiasm for our shared life at Sherwood Oaks is always evident.

Kudos to the good folks who agreed to serve on the Technology Task Force and worked the better part of a year to develop the Sherwood Oaks Community App, SOApp,

for short. Some of them, along with a few newer residents, are continuing on a Technology Activity to support the App and develop new ideas. I offer a special thanks to Jason Lyle, who has managed our sound equipment for many programs and activities, but especially our SORA Board and Quarterly Meetings. His magic makes it possible for us to hear each other clearly and thus enhances our meetings.

I am indebted to our Executive Director, Annette McPeck. She has been a strong advocate for SORA and a great support for me. Our conversations about mutual concerns are always fruitful. It's good to know her door is always open.

I look forward to the leadership of the new officers and the entire Board, as we navigate our way through our present situation and enter what will become the new normal. I encourage all residents to attend Board Meetings as visitors and Quarterly Meetings as full participants, whenever we are fully open. This is our home, our community, and it is up to all of us to keep it vital, healthy, and enjoyable.

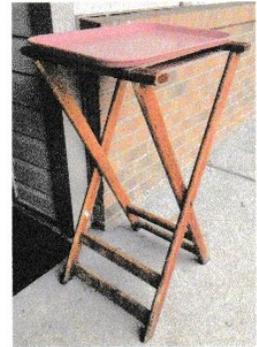
\*Frank served on the Board of the Directors of the Pittsburgh Lifetime Care Community (S.O.'s official incorporated name) for 11 years, 5 of them as chair.

## DINING ROOM: STAGING AREA FOR MEAL DELIVERY



Photo by Jesse Komara

# Sherwood Oaks Meal Delivery Spot



Photos by Peg Rychcik

## 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, after the Library reopens.**

Summary of reports and actions for the board meeting scheduled for May 5, 2020:

**The meeting was not held due to the COVID-19 pandemic.** The following reports were submitted and dispersed as minutes.

**TREASURERS:** The Memorial/Special Projects Fund balance is \$57,311.25, and the Employee Appreciation Fund balance is \$17,684.28. The SORA balance is \$52,043.53.

### **LIAISON REPORTS:**

**Program.** May 26 singer Laura Knoop Very was postponed, date TBD; watch for decisions re: June 16 Pitt Alumni Band and July 21 Aeolian Winds PGH.

**Curio Cabinets.** Next display will be "First Families," featuring Presidents, First Ladies, and the White House.

**Landscape.** Funds were released to purchase three lakeside 4' benches, amounting to \$2500, which includes the Lake Fund of \$1750. Funds for six more benches will be requested from the Memorial/Special Projects Fund.

**Maintenance.** Many projects are on hold due to the pandemic. Work continues on patio home upgrades. Oak Grove exterior lighting has been completed. Wi-Fi hotspots have been ordered for SNF and PC dayrooms. Lower level remediation has been completed.

**Gardens.** Four new raised beds will be ready for use when the new fence is installed.

**ADMINISTRATION:** Census in IL is 223 units of 272 available. SNU is 33/43. Personal Care is 36/42. Oak Grove is 30/30. Annette expressed gratitude to residents and staff for their extra efforts to keep all of us healthy.

**NOMINATING:** Residents have received the slate, with directions for nominations from the floor, in their mailboxes.

The next SORA Board meeting was planned for June 2, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. The annual residents' meeting was to be June 9, 2020, at 7:15 p.m. in the Auditorium. **Since all gatherings are on hold, watch the 900 channel, the SO APP, and FYIs for updates.**

## WHEN THE VIRUS THREAT IS GONE ALL OVER THE WORLD

By Joanne Weiss - #154

*[Inspired by Wallace Christy, I dare to say;  
Sing this to the melody of "When the  
Lights Go on all over the World"]*

When the virus threat is gone all over the  
world,  
And the masks are taken off all over the  
world,  
Then there'll be friends we've missed,  
And kids to kiss,  
And our hearts will sing,  
When the virus threat is gone all over the  
world.

When the virus threat is gone all over the  
world,  
And the welcome mats are out all over  
the world,  
Then there'll be plans to make  
And trips to take,  
And church bells will ring,  
When the virus threat is gone all over the  
world.

## **THE COLETTA MCKENRY LIBRARY ACCESSIONS** **FICTION, INCLUDING LARGE TYPE AND DVDs**

|  |                     |         |            |
|--|---------------------|---------|------------|
| The 19th Christmas                                 | Patterson, James    | c. 2019 | F PAT      |
| After the Storm                                    | Linda Castillo      | c. 2015 | F CAS      |
| Alert  | Patterson, James    | c. 2015 | F PAT L.T. |
| The Alice Network                                  | Quinn, Kate         | c. 2017 | F QUI L.T. |
| All That Glitters                                  | Howard, Linda       | c. 1982 | F HOW L.T. |
| Beautiful Dreamer                                  | Lowell, Elizabeth   | c. 2001 | F LOW      |
| The Bletchley Circle: San Francisco                |                     | c. 2018 | F BLE DVD  |
| The Boy from the Woods                             | Coben, Harlan       | c. 2020 | F COB      |
| The Boy from the Woods                             | Coben, Harlan       | c. 2020 | F COB L.T. |
| Charity's Burden                                   | Maxwell, Edith      | c. 2019 | F MAX L.T. |
| Code Name Hélène                                   | Lawhon, Ariel       | c. 2020 | F LAW      |
| Crooked River                                      | Preston, Douglas J. | c. 2020 | F PRE      |
| Eight Perfect Murders                              | Swanson, Peter      | c. 2020 | F SWA      |
| Fall of Poppies: Stories of Love and the Great War |                     | c. 2016 | F FAL p.b. |
| A Fatal Grace                                      | Penny, Louise       | c. 2012 | F PEN L.T. |
| The Holdout  | Moore, Graham       | c. 2020 | F MOO      |
| Lavender Blue Murder                               | Childs, Laura       | c. 2020 | F CHI      |
| The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules        | Ingelman-Sundberg   | c. 2016 | F ING p.b. |
| Long Range   | Box, C. J.          | c. 2020 | F BOX      |
| The Love Story of Missy Carmichael                 | Morrey, Beth        | c. 2019 | F MOR      |
| A Minute to Midnight                               | Baldacci, David     | c. 2019 | F BAL L.T. |
| The Monuments Men                                  | Clooney, George     | c. 2014 | F CLO DVD  |
| Mr. Nobody   | Steadman, Catherine | c. 2020 | F STE      |
| The Night Watchman                                 | Erdrich, Louise     | c. 2020 | F ERD      |
| Passenger to Frankfurt                             | Christie, Agatha    | c. 1970 | F CHR      |
| Redhead by the Side of the Road                    | Tyler, Anne         | c. 2020 | F TYL      |
| Rules of Civility                                  | Towles, Amor        | c. 2011 | F TOW L.T. |
| Running out of Road                                | Friedman, Daniel    | c. 2020 | F FRI      |
| The Secret   | Lewis, Beverly      | c. 2009 | F LEW      |
| Song of the Cuckoo Bird                            | Malladi, Amulya     | c. 2006 | F MAL      |
| Trace Elements                                     | Leon, Donna         | c. 2020 | F LEO      |
| The Ultimatum                                      | Robards, Karen      | c. 2017 | F ROB      |

## **NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES**

|   |                        |         |               |
|---|------------------------|---------|---------------|
| Beowulf   | Anonymous              | c. 2008 | 791.4 ANO DVD |
| Civil War Battlefields Then and Now   | Campi, James           | c. 2002 | 973.7 CAM     |
| Everyone Communicates, Few Connect: What the Most Effective People Do Differently | Maxwell, John C.       | c. 2010 | 650.13 MAX    |
| George and Barbara Bush: A Great American Love Story                              | Sosa, Ellie LeBlond    | c. 2018 | 973.92 BUS    |
| Heart Earth   | Doig, Ivan             | c. 1994 | BIO DOI p.b.  |
| Heartsongs  | Stepanek, Mattie J. T. | c. 2001 | 808.81 STE    |
| John McCain: American Maverick  | Povich, Elaine S.      | c. 2018 | 973.93 POV    |
| Journey through Heartsongs  | Stepanek, Mattie J. T. | c. 2001 | 811.6 STE     |

|   |                       |         |                 |
|---|-----------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Masters of the Air: America's Bomber Boys Who Fought the Air War against Nazi Germany               | Miller, Donald L.     | c. 2007 | 940.54 MIL p.b. |
| Mistakes Were Made (But Not By Me): Why We Justify Foolish Beliefs, Bad Decisions, and Hurtful Acts | Tavris, Carol         | c. 2020 | 153 TAV p.b.    |
| New Seeds of Contemplation  | Merton, Thomas        | c. 2007 | 248.34 MER p.b. |
| Spied a Blossom Passing Fair  | Russell, Josephine D. | c. 1969 | 808 RUS         |
| The Summer of 1787  | Stewart, David O.     | c. 2007 | 342.2 STE       |
| To Bless the Space between Us : A Book of Blessings   | O'Donohue, John       | c. 2008 | 242.8 O'D       |
| Torture Team  | Sands, Philippe       | c. 2008 | 341.48 SAN      |
| Why We're Polarized   | Klein, Ezra           | c. 2020 | 306.20 KLE      |
| William Sloane Coffin: An American Prophet  |                       | c. 2004 | BIO COF DVD     |
| With All Due Respect: Defending America with Grit and Grace   | Haley, Nikki          | c. 2019 | 327.73 HAL      |

## PITTSBURGH VASSAR BOOK CLUB

By Carol Kaufmann - #114 and  
Ruth Becker - #340

More than twenty years ago, two Vassar alumnae who volunteered at the Bryn Mawr-Vassar Bookstore in Oakland decided to read and discuss books together. (The store, now defunct, sold second-hand books and supported scholarships at both colleges with the proceeds.)

The two women had the College send them the names of alums residing in the Pittsburgh area as a contact list. Today the list numbers around 30 people. The club was never formally organized, but it has always followed a pattern of alternating fiction and nonfiction books.

Currently, meetings are held approximately every two months, depending on the weather. As people have moved around, into, and out of the Pittsburgh area, attendance has varied between two and about twelve.

Sometimes conversations ramble far from the book itself. It can be tricky to remain on the subject when one person's comment reminds somebody else

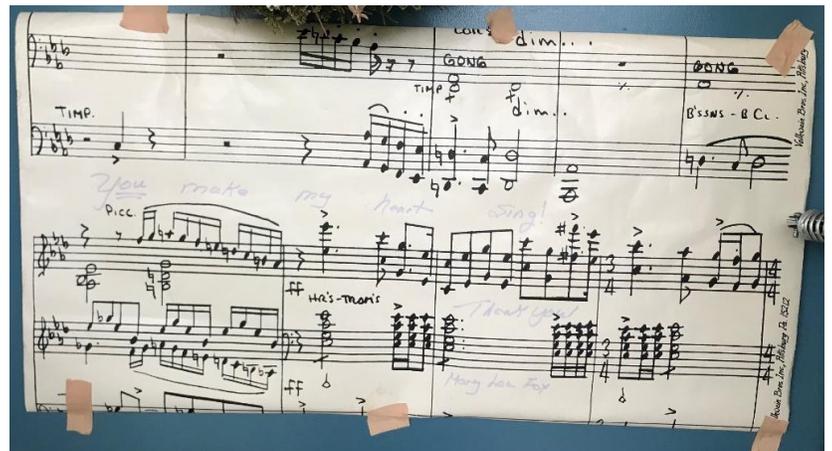
of times and events at college. As with many book clubs, the hostess often provides snacks relating to the theme of the book under discussion.

Recently, several meetings have been held at Sherwood Oaks, with Rosemary Coffey joining us as a resident member. Our last meeting, however, with eight in attendance, was held virtually via Zoom, as will be the next. The last fiction selection was Ta-Nehisi Coates's *The Water Dancer*, our copy of which ended up in the Sherwood Oaks Library. Erik Larson's *The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance during the Blitz* is up next. Since our library has already ordered that one, ours will have to go somewhere else when we're done with it!

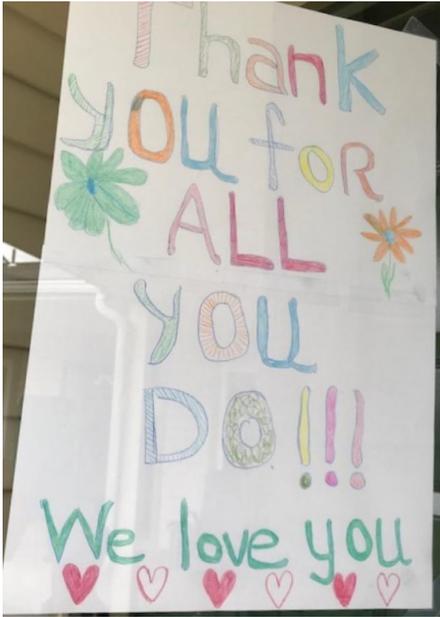
### ***Out of the mouths ...***

Several years ago, long before the advent of cellphones, a woman had to contact a friend about a family emergency. He was attending an ecumenical workshop/retreat at a Roman Catholic retreat center. She called the place. A strong baritone voice answered, "Savior of the World – How may I help you?"

# Photos of Thank You Notes ...



... to Staff from Residents



## QUARANTINE

By Agnes Peebles - #324

*Quarantine* is a word that stirs memories. I was quarantined at least six times before I was 12 years old – for whooping cough, mumps, chicken pox, three-day measles, nine-day measles (also called “German measles”), and scarlet fever. Any one of those (well, maybe not the three-day bout) brought the local health official to our farm to post a big sign on our door reading: QUARANTINE! DO NOT ENTER! Often our isolation meant that my dad had to go stay at my grandparents’ home across the lane until the sign came down, leaving my mother to cope with three more or less active girls in a six-room bungalow.

Sometimes we were quarantined for more than the time it took for the first person infected to recover. My parents seemed to figure it was easier to have all of us subject to whatever “it” was at the same time. Since in our little house there could be no “social distancing,” we frequently obliged them. With the three of us sharing a bedroom, the bathroom, and playthings, it was not difficult to pass the germs around.

The quarantine I remember most clearly was one December when my older sister contracted scarlet fever. At that time, that disease was the most feared of all the childhood diseases. Celebrating Christmas became a challenge, as everything that could not be sanitized or fumigated had to be burned. And how could Santa come into a quarantined house? Dad brought a tree and left it on the porch for us to bring in, set up, and decorate. Mother kept us busy for a while making decorations – chains out of newspaper and magazine strips glued together, icicles made from pictures of things we wished for when we leafed through the Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward catalogues.

I remember only three gifts from that Christmas, two received and one given.

Relatives in California sent us oranges, tangerines, and walnuts, which were used to fill our stockings, and a great-aunt gave each of us a celluloid doll with moveable arms and legs. (Those had to be destroyed later, amid many tears and lamentations.) I had lost a tooth, which I wrapped in a wad of paper the size of a baseball and gave to my father.

This quarantine isn’t too bad, but I sure could use a sister or two!

## 2020 SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE

By Kathleen Schartner - #218  
For the Scholarship Committee

All of us are experiencing very unusual and unwelcome problems due to COVID-19, but one pleasant activity in which we can now participate is a special campaign that began 19 years ago at Sherwood Oaks. That is our opportunity to thank all the staff who transfer food from the kitchen to our eager mouths with a really large tip. In fact, this includes not only the servers, but also those who wash the dishes, scrub the pots, clean the lettuce, and so on! We tend to forget about the tips we give at other restaurants when we are leaving the table in the café or the dining room ... sometimes, if we are distracted, maybe without even a smile or a thanks.

But here at Sherwood, we are unusual in awarding a \$2,000 scholarship to any staff member furthering his or her education – in any field. This money is sent directly to the chosen school as a partial tuition payment. Many times this financial help is the difference between continuing one’s education or taking a lifetime job far below one’s abilities. We recently helped a family of triplets!

All of you received an appeal letter last month. We hope you have already responded, but, if you haven’t, when you do write your check, think about the world’s best tip! For the record, as of the time *The ACORN* went to press, \$67,595 had already been received for scholarships.

## SALSIFY SOUP

Don Gowan - #173

There must be several people on this campus who are acquainted with *salsify*, but I haven't met one. It is hard to work the word into conversation, but, on the few occasions that I have been able to do it, I have been talking to good cooks who have never heard of it. However, I can describe it: a root vegetable that looks like a slender, white carrot, and is nicknamed the "vegetable oyster." Salsify soup is a satisfying substitute for oyster stew.

You can find *salsify* on the internet, classed as an exotic vegetable, but it wasn't exotic in Iowa in 1940. We had it in the garden, and we ate salsify soup. We did so because we liked oyster stew, and oysters were hard to come by in Northwest Iowa in the '30s and '40s; fortunately, salsify soup tasted just like oyster stew. Writers of internet articles won't tell you that. They will say that it doesn't taste like oysters, or that it has a faint oyster flavor, but I think that is because they don't know how to make the soup the way my mother used to make it. She could have told them how to do it, but it is too late for that now.

Salsify is better known in England. Once I was reading an English novel and came across this exchange between a couple who felt like celebrating some wonderful success:

"We should have oysters!"

"Oh, but we can't. They're out of season."

"Then we'll have salsify. It is the vegetable oyster."

My dad's grandparents came from England and lived in our hometown, so

maybe that is why salsify was just an everyday vegetable for us.

At one time, my brother Richard was an actor in a dinner theater in Orlando, FL. One dreary winter evening, he was sitting in the green room at the theater visiting with a friend, when he remarked that this would be a good night for some salsify soup. "What's that?" his friend wanted to know, so Rich explained. Just as an old character actor walked through the green room, Rich's friend said, "Well, I never heard of salsify soup." The old actor said, "Was that a play or a musical?" and walked on.

Since salsify seems to be such a satisfyingly sibilant sound to say, even if one cannot savor it, one should surely speak it!

## HAVE YOU SEEN ME?

By Barb Christy - #237 & Anne Hunt - #308

As a result of our recent inventory, we have discovered that the library is missing the following videos:

- Atonement
- The Big Lebowski
- Blindsight
- Chocolat
- The Devil Wears Prada
- Lincoln
- Michael Clayton
- Moonstruck
- My Big Fat Greek Wedding
- 12 Angry Men

Do you have any of these, or know where they are? If so, please return them to the library box in the lobby. No questions asked! Thank you.

## SPOTLIGHT ON NEW BOOKS THE BOOK SELECTION GROUP

By Tom Fararo - #214

To borrow any of these very recently purchased books, see the most recent procedural notification from our library managers.

*The Undocumented Americans* by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio. Nonfiction. "Profoundly intimate ... highly personal and deeply empathetic .... Readers will be deeply moved by this incandescent account" (*Publishers Weekly*).

*Lincoln on the Verge: Thirteen Days to Washington* by Ted Widmer. Nonfiction. On Feb. 11, 1861, three weeks before his inauguration, President-Elect Abraham Lincoln boarded a train for Washington, D.C. This account describes that eventful journey. "A colorful, richly detailed overture to Lincoln's odyssey" (*Kirkus Reviews*).

*The Big Finish* by Brooke Fossey. Fiction. "Fossey manages to depict the struggles of the elderly, whose concerns aren't often examined in fiction, in a way that's both respectful and entertaining. A moving, funny, and ultimately hopeful look at what makes life meaningful" (*Kirkus Reviews*).

*Big Summer* by Jennifer Weiner. Fiction. A story of female friendships "that is hard to put down" (*Publishers Weekly*).

*Hello Summer* by Mary Kay Andrews. Fiction. "Beach-worthy ... humor and romantic interest mixed in" (*Booklist*).

*Close Up* by Amanda Quick. Fiction. With killings amidst the glamor of golden-age Hollywood, the novel "mixes light mystery with romance perfectly" (*Library Journal*).

*Masked Prey* by John Sandford. Fiction. A Lucas Davenport novel. "Sandford always delivers rousing action scenes, but this time he's especially good on character" (*NY Times*).

*The End of October* by Lawrence Wright. Fiction. "The fact that it's about the world in shock and ruin because of a virus similar to Covid-19 makes it read as if it's been shot out of a cannon" (*NY Times*).

*Dead Land* by Sara Paretsky. Fiction. "Paretsky is justly praised for referencing vital social issues in her mysteries, but here we also get a taste of her flair for creating offbeat but believable characters" (*NY Times*).

*The Last Tourist* by Olen Steinhauer. Fiction. "Stunning .... Steinhauer reinforces his position at the top of the espionage genre" (*Publishers Weekly Starred Review*).

*A Conspiracy of Bones* by Kathy Reichs. Fiction. This 19th century Temperance Brennan novel (after 2015's *Speaking in Bones*, available in our library) finds the forensic anthropologist at her breaking point after a series of traumatic events. "CSI junkies who haven't read Reichs before will be hooked" (*Publishers Weekly*).

*The Warsaw Protocol* by Steve Berry. Fiction. With his 15th Cotton Malone novel (after 2019's *The Malta Exchange*, available in our library), "Berry once again shows there's no working author more skilled at combining thrilling adventure with engrossing historical detail" (*Publishers Weekly*).

*The Paladin: A Spy Novel* by David Ignatius. Fiction. "Ignatius has written several top-notch spy thrillers, but [*The Paladin*] may be his most gripping yet. ...

Love it for its old-school suspense or for its ultramodern vision of technology run amok, but love it you will" (*Booklist Starred Review*).

*Broken* by Don Winslow. Fiction. Six novellas by a widely admired crime novelist. "A great collection of short crime fiction" (*Kirkus Reviews*).

*The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance during the Blitz* by Erik Larson. The title says it all!

## LARGE PRINT BOOKS

*Home Work: A Memoir of My Hollywood Years* by Julie Andrews

*The ABC Murders* by Agatha Christie

*The Mysterious Affair at Styles* by Agatha Christie

*Camino Winds* by John Grisham

*Twisted Twenty-Six* by Janet Evanovich

*Outfox* by Sandra Brown

*The 20<sup>th</sup> Victim* by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro

*The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd

## I BEQUEATH THEE

By Ellen Brierly - #734

As parents and grandparents, we have given some thought to the future of our offspring. We love them and want to include them in our wills. Some people have even written names on items of interest, so that, when we are gone, there will be no bickering when the estate is settled. As we age and continue to purchase things that come with a warranty, it has been amusing to consider the scenario.

I find myself thinking about whether or not to buy some new items when I realize that the warranty far exceeds my life span. In my mind, I visualize the reading of the will: "I leave to my survivors a queen-size mattress that has 9 years remaining on the warranty."

We have always purchased items with the thought that they should have quality and last. For example, I had a heavy pad for the dining room table that wore out after fifty-plus years. This presented a dilemma. We were still living in a condo and entertaining. I certainly would not live another fifty years, so what should I do? I could buy a cheap one and hope it wore out soon, or I could ignore the whole idea and move. Sherwood Oaks was the answer. I wouldn't need a dining room table at Sherwood Oaks.

In due course, our patio furniture died. The plastic wicker crumbled under the afternoon sun. It had given us service for five years, but, when considering new furniture, I thought I would want something that would survive longer. Our oldest son suggested that, at our age, we might not need something to last longer than five years.

The 20-year-old comforter and pillows on the bed are worn. I could close the entrance to the room so that visitors can't see, or I could buy a brand new set and leave it to the estate when we are gone. It would be one more surprise for our children!

### SUMMER HOLIDAYS

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| D-Day                 | June 6   |
| Flag Day              | June 14  |
| Juneteenth            | June 19  |
| Summer Solstice       | June 20  |
| Father's Day          | June 21  |
| Independence Day      | July 4   |
| World Lung Cancer Day | August 1 |

## COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #715

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

**This Month's Agency – Department of Commerce – is home to the following two agencies:**

**(1) National Weather Service (NWS), providing weather, water, and climate data, forecasts, and warnings for the protection of life and property and enhancement of the national economy.**

NWS has played a key role in protecting American lives and properties for over a century. The timely provision of reliable weather, water, climate, and environmental information has supported the nation's social and economic development.

**(2) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin. (NOAA), emphasizing Science, Service, and Stewardship, in order to**

- **understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts;**
- **share that knowledge and information with others; and**
- **conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources.**

NOAA's goals are to promote public understanding of climate science and climate-related events, to make our data products and services easy to access and use, to provide climate-related support to the private sector and the Nation's economy, and to serve people making climate-related decisions with tools and resources that help them answer specific questions.

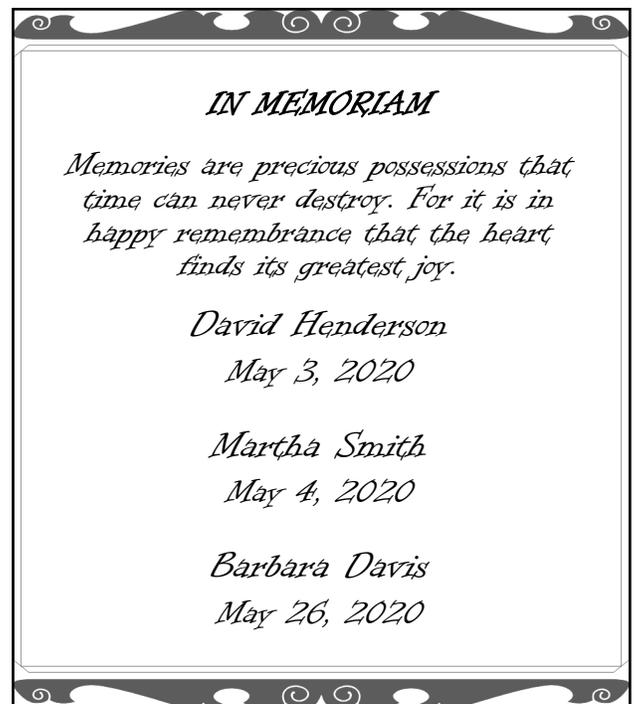
## Current "Carbon Tax" Legislation

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 on Facebook.

## MAY PLANT SALE

By Jane Lavender - #253

The Landscape Committee thanks all of you who bought hanging baskets of flowers or, in some cases, vegetables. We are looking forward to seeing them appear with a sudden burst of color all over the campus – a bit late on account of the frost delay. This year, with all of its quirks and changes, has evidently been a time to treat ourselves with a bit of beauty. The sale was a great success, bringing us a profit of \$1,082.00. We especially appreciate the organizational efforts of Judy Pinyot, with Mary Lee Jordan as her right-hand and support, and the grounds crew for all the deliveries. Well done, folks!



## LOCKDOWN LINGO

Submitted by Dennis Lynch - #335

\*Coronacoaster\* - The ups and downs of your mood during the pandemic. You're loving lockdown one minute but suddenly weepy with anxiety the next. It truly is "an emotional coronacoaster."

\*Quarantinis\* - Experimental cocktails mixed from whatever random ingredients you have left in the house. The boozy equivalent of a store cupboard supper. Southern Comfort and Ribena quarantini with a glacé cherry garnish, anyone? These are sipped at "locktail hour", i.e., wine o'clock during lockdown, which seems to be creeping earlier with each passing week.

\*Blue Skype thinking\* - A work brainstorming session that takes place over a videoconferencing app. Such meetings might also be termed a "Zoomposium." Naturally, they are to be avoided if at all possible.

\*Le Creuset wrist\* - It's the new "avocado hand" – an aching arm after taking one's best saucepan outside to bang during the weekly 'Clap For Carers.' It might be heavy, but you're keen to impress the neighbors with your high-quality kitchenware.

\*Coronials\* - As opposed to millennials, this refers to the future generation of babies conceived or born during coronavirus quarantine. They might also become known as "Generation C" or, more spookily, "Children of the Quarn."

\*Furlough Merlot\* - Wine consumed in an attempt to relieve the frustration of not working. Also known as "bored-eaux" or "cabernet tedium."

\*Coronadose\* - An overdose of bad news from consuming too much media during a time of crisis. Can result in a panicdemic.

\*The elephant in the Zoom\* - The glaring issue during a videoconferencing call that nobody feels able to mention, e.g., one participant has dramatically put on weight, has suddenly sprouted terrible facial hair, or has a worryingly messy house visible in the background.

\*Quentin Quarantino\* - An attention-seeker using their time in lockdown to make amateur films which they're convinced are funnier and cleverer than they actually are.

\*Covidiot\* - One who ignores public health advice or behaves with reckless disregard for the safety of others, said to display "covidioty" or be "covidiotic." Also called a "lockclown" or even a "Wuhan-ker."

\*Goutbreak\* - The sudden fear that you've consumed so much wine, cheese, home-made cake, and Easter chocolate in lockdown that your ankles are swelling up like a medieval king's.

\*Antisocial distancing\* - Using health precautions as an excuse for snubbing neighbors and generally ignoring people you find irritating.

\*Coughin' dodger\* - Someone so alarmed by an innocuous splutter or throat-clear that they back away in terror.

\*Mask-ara\* - Extra make-up applied to "make one's eyes pop" before venturing out in public wearing a face mask.

\*Covid-10\* - The 10 lbs. in weight that we're all gaining from comfort-eating and comfort-drinking. Also known as "fattening the curve."

... and finally, finally: One sentence to sum up 2020, so far: At one point last month, 1 TP roll was costing more than a barrel of crude oil!

--<https://www.heart.co.uk/news/coronavirus/hilarious-list-lockdown-lingo/>

## PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO LIVE ALONE

Submitted by Anna Marie Campbell - #103

I live alone, dear Lord, stay by my side,  
In all my daily needs be Thou my guide.  
Grant me good health, for that indeed I  
pray,  
To carry on my work from day to day.  
Keep pure my mind, my thoughts, my every  
deed,  
Let me be kind, unselfish, in my neighbor's  
need.  
Spare me from fire, from flood, and  
malicious tongues,  
From thieves, from fear, and evil ones.  
If sickness or an accident befall,  
Then humbly, Lord, I pray, hear Thou my  
call.  
And when I'm feeling low, or in despair,  
Lift up my heart, and help me in my prayer.  
I live alone, dear Lord, yet have no fear,  
Because I feel Thy presence ever near.

– Author unknown; posted by Oblates of St. Benedict,  
Belmont Abbey, NC, 01-10-2011

## 297 STAYCATION PARK

*Having a wonderful time ...  
wish you were here!*

By Peg Rychcik - #297



Outdoor Seating



Bird Watching

## DISTANCING AT THE FRONT DESK



Photo by Roberta Breninghouse



Garden Growing

Behind you  
all your memories,  
Before you  
all your dreams;  
Around you  
all who love you,  
Within you  
all you need.

(- Anon.)

## HOW DO WE SAY THANKS?

By Jane Lavender - #253

So many of us ask this question when we think about all the ways in which the Sherwood Oaks staff has made the past two and a half months so very safe and easy for us. Well, an idea from Ellen Brierly started a few people thinking, and that was all it took for John and Harriet Burress to get it started ... then a few phone calls, a grapevine, a network, and willing residents to put it all together.

On May 5, there occurred a grand noise-making, flags-waving, horns-tooting, bells-ringing gauntlet of residents lining the drive from the flagpole to the gatehouse. It was our way of loudly saying, "Thanks so much for all the many ways we have been blessed by you. You are truly appreciated." At the same time, we residents really loved being together (although six feet apart), seeing each other, smiling inside our masks, and laughing together. So I say "Thank You" to the folks who made it happen.



*Spring is in full bloom...*

