

# THE ACORN

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

May 2021 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. 22, No. 5

## *Spring 2021 at Sherwood Oaks*



Photo by Rabe Marsh

*Gentle Readers:*

*As we look back on the past year, we may all reflect on our social isolation – especially painful when we recall that having company was one of the reasons many of us moved here in the first place.*

*At the same time, we need to credit the Sherwood Oaks administration for doing whatever has seemed necessary to protect us. After all, nobody has died due to the coronavirus or even been hospitalized! And only half-a-dozen of us have even contracted the virus. We must be doing something right.*

*Meanwhile, small steps are being taken to bring us together again. Clearly, the restrictions on eating in the dining room are a nuisance, especially for those of us with hearing problems ... but at least we're eating there. Little by little, given that nearly all of us have by now received the required two vaccinations, restrictions are bound to be lifted.*

*Some questions remain unanswered. What happens if the later strains, which are more contagious, start to spread? How long will it be until the vaccines lose their effectiveness? When can we start visiting each other without physical distancing and wearing masks?*

*But there are signs of hope. The lobby in the Community Center now has comfortable chairs. The Fitness Center is open evenings and weekends. There is patio furniture outside the Scooter Room. Two people at a time can be in the Computer Room. Stay tuned ... and be patient.*

Rosemary Coffey and Ruth Becker

Keep an eye out as you read through the issue for philosophical sayings related to some of the complex delights of the English language!

## MAY CALENDAR

May Day	May 1
Cinco de Mayo	May 5
Mother's Day	May 9
Clean Your Room Day	May 10
End of Ramadan	May 12
Armed Forces Day	May 15
Income Tax Day	May 17
Indianapolis 500	May 30
Memorial Day	May 31

## THE ACORN

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Submissions for the June (Summer) issue must be sent to the Editors no later than

**May 15, 2021.**

## REMINDER!

Please look at photos of residents showing their hobbies or travel adventures on p. 7, and see how many you recognize before you confirm your guesses with the identification box on p. 10. We look forward to having your photos of **yourself with members of your extended family** appear in the June issue! Email them to <rosemarycoffey@aol.com> or place them in *The Acorn* mailbox by May 15.

## JIM & GEORGANN SEANOR - # 217

By Jean Henderson - #611



Photos by Mike Mills

**Opposites attract!** He's a master woodworker; she's a reader. He's a veteran (20 years as a Navy pilot, with 2100 flight hours) and retired business executive; she's a retired nurse. He attended Cal State (PA), while she attended Latrobe School of Nursing. He's handsome; she's beautiful. **BUT the two became one!**

Meet Jim and Georgann Seanor (pronounced *SAY-ner*). They met when they were just 5 or 6 years old; they were both born and raised in New Alexandria, PA, in nearby homes; they attended the same Presbyterian church; they call each other "Sis" and "Jim." They married in 1961 in New Alex, with 24 hours for Jim to report to Georgia for military duty.

They share three children and 8 grandchildren. Two daughters (Clarion grads) are nearby in Freedom and Cranberry: one an audiologist for the Butler Schools, and the other an RN in the AGH heart unit. Their son (Grove City grad) is in Lake Mohawk, Ohio, a retired steel executive. Their oldest grandchild is a Captain in the Air Force – their youngest is eleven. ALL are super athletes.

The Seanors share a love of travel – some because of his Navy duty and

more as leisure. In the Navy, Jim flew on a P2V, a land-based plane searching for underwater submarines. He was stationed in FL, PA, PR, Bermuda, Sicily, and Spain, but flew to dozens of other sites, many of which Georgann enjoyed as well, except for a visit to Rome where an accident between their moped and some horses caused a lot of whinnying!

After Jim's Navy days, his business ventures took them to Delmont, McKeesport, and Greensboro, NC, where for 17 years he was President of Chatillon – a company that measures force. They retired to Summerfield, FL, for 18 years, enjoying golf, softball, and assorted hobbies, before moving to Sherwood Oaks in January 2021.

The Seanors are cruise people, having taken at least 15 or 20 trips to the Caribbean, the South Pacific, and the Mediterranean during their FL sojourn.

Their new Sherwood home is filled with travel treasures and stunning pieces created from Jim's love affair with wood. The most unique? Two miniature homes – exact replicas of the homes where they grew up, back in New Alex, AND a replica of the plane Jim flew during his Navy days.

Not only did the Seanors move north to be near family, but Fred and Ruth Reubi (#612) were their good neighbors in FL! Fred tells me Jim was the leader of the neighborhood pranksters!

Welcome to Jim and Georgann – so glad they're our neighbors now!

*Welcome*

## **SORA OFFICER AND BOARD NOMINATIONS**

**To Be Voted on at  
June 15, 2021, Annual Meeting**

**President:** Frank Finley, eligible for 2<sup>nd</sup>  
1-year term

**Vice-President:** Stan Foster

**Secretary:** Jean Henderson, eligible for  
reelection; no limit on terms

**Treasurer:** Peter Broeren: 1<sup>st</sup> 3-year  
term ends in 2022; eligible then for a 2<sup>nd</sup>  
3-year term; not presented for election  
this year

**Operating Treasurer:** Beth Brown  
completes Jim Bouwkamp's 1<sup>st</sup> 3-year  
term in 2023; eligible for 2 more 3-year  
terms [Bylaws 3.02 E, page 6]; not  
presented for election this year

**Directors whose 2<sup>nd</sup> 2-year terms end  
June 30, 2021, and are NOT eligible  
for reelection:**

Elaine Hartswick

Jane Lavender

Anne Williams

**Directors whose 1<sup>st</sup> 2-year terms end  
June 30, 2021, and ARE eligible for 2<sup>nd</sup>  
and final 2-year terms:**

Al Brahm

Frank Weiss

Gary Brandenberger, replacement  
for Bob Hines; eligible for two 2-year  
terms [Bylaws 3.02 E, page 6]

**Other board members whose terms  
end June 30, 2022:**

Nancy Marshall – 1<sup>st</sup> 2-year term  
ends; eligible for 2<sup>nd</sup> 2- year term

Mary Lou Fox – 2<sup>nd</sup> 2-year term  
ends June 30, 2022; not eligible for  
reelection

Jane Paul – ditto

Lee Wierman – ditto

Betty Eichler – immediate past  
president; will be replaced by new  
immediate past president when the time  
comes.



## **LIBRARY LOWDOWN**

By Barbara Christy - #237

Do you know what a wonderful resource  
your library is?

We have a memorial book that includes  
the names and dates of death of all the  
residents since the opening of  
Sherwood Oaks. It even includes an  
early (partial) record of memorial  
contributions to our landscaping fund.  
There are notebooks with last year's  
and this year's *Acorns*, and others with  
the current minutes of all SORA groups  
and the SORA bylaws.

Often overlooked, but available in the  
library, are the works of Geoffrey  
Chaucer, both in Middle English and  
modern English. If you are a traveler,  
there are dictionaries for French,  
Spanish, German, and Chinese, plus  
travel books in print, National Geo-  
graphic documentaries, and 100+ of  
Rick Steve's programs on DVD.

We also have a complete 30-volume set  
of Sir Walter Scott's Waverly novels and  
a set of the Harvard Classics (50  
volumes.) For people interested in more  
current material, Joanne Weiss posts a  
map of the month – this month it is  
United States Federal land, and there is  
a lot of it!

Come browse your library. You never  
know what you will find.

## 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 April 6, 2021, board meeting:

TREASURERS: Memorial/Special Projects Fund balance is \$116,216.94. Employee Appreciation Fund balance is \$16,545.84. The SORA bank balance is \$59,818.16.

### LIAISON REPORTS:

Sherwood Gifts. New hours are week-days, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Curio Cabinets. Next feature will be teapots.

Health Affairs. Contractors have been contacted to repair perimeter sidewalks. All but 3 or 4 residents have been vaccinated.

Computer Room. Daily hours will be increased: 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

Library. Over 7400 items are available. Suggestion forms for new books are posted in the mailroom.

Dining Services. All dining procedures are regulated by UMPC Senior Community guidelines. Patience is requested.

Bells. A Spring concert is being planned to be shown on Channel 901.

ADMINISTRATION: Annette McPeck reported the Butler County positivity rate is 7.4% (last month: 4.7%.) Census: IL 207; SNU 39/43; PC 36/42, and OGC 27/30.

**Masks should be worn and social distancing practiced even after immunization.** Visitors/families are to be masked and screened at entry: to SNU, enter at ambulance entrance; to PC or OGC, enter at Oak Grove lobby entrance. Residents should not plan on having visitors in SO public areas, e.g., lobby, dining room,

billiards room. Channels 900 and 901 programming should be sponsored by a SORA activity or committee, or by the Administration.

OTHER BUSINESS: The Nominating Committee presented its slate to be considered at the June 15 annual meeting. Feasibility Task Forces: Auditorium/Stage and WiFi Update – recommendations are being developed; and Extension of Fence Line Trail Bridge – funding is in place and work is scheduled. New SORA activities were approved: 1) Resident Art and Craft Wall; 2) Resident Handiwork and Activities Table.

The next SORA Board meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 4, 2021.

## NEED TO GET RID OF SOME FURNITURE?

By Jim Blum - #135

If you need to dispose of some unwanted furniture, you are in luck. Tiger Pause, a non-profit Christian organization, will pick up the furniture and find it a new home.

Tiger Pause's "Eye of the Tiger" program trains and prepares low-income youth for a variety of careers in the trades, trucking and logistics, service fields, and entrepreneurial business by instilling self-respect and self-discipline. Youth aged 14-24 are introduced to the dignity of work by picking up unwanted but usable furniture, transporting it, cleaning and processing it, and then selling it at a reduced price to families with little or no resources, while enabling them to keep or earn dignity. Proceeds help pay the youth workers, buy and maintain equipment, and support the cost of remote learning and after-school programs for younger children that are provided at no charge.

To donate furniture to Tiger Pause, contact me at 724-831-2562 or 8135. The pickup cost is zero, but the reward of knowing you have helped out low-income youths and provided a needy family with a new piece of furniture is infinite.

## KINGLY LEER, CLEOPATRA: QUEEN OF DENIAL, AND OTHER DEADLY SHAKESPEAREAN DELIGHTS

By Charles Partee - #220

“He was not of an age but for all time.” Thus Shakespeare could write brilliantly not just about young lovers (Juliet was only 14), but also about old lovers like Antony, who described Cleopatra thus:

“Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale  
Her infinite variety.” (II.2.241-2)

Unfortunately, Enobarbus’ delightful account of the first time Antony laid eyes on Cleopatra (II.2.197-210) contains a word whose meaning has so shifted in 500 years as to become risible to all but the most determined Shakespeareans, among whom I am honored to be counted.

At the Globe Theatre in London during one glorious day, we saw three plays. A few days later, on the ground at Stratford-upon-Avon, I found a rock that young Willy himself had kicked with his right toe, leading to the famous line, “Toe be or not toe be. That is the question.” But my most favorite Shakespearean moment occurred in Pittsburgh at *A Midsummer’s Night Dream*. Of course, Nick Bottom is the comedic actor’s Hamlet, as Falstaff is his King Lear.

In my estimation, the thespian playing Bottom was the Tops. Unbeknownst to us at the start, as Pyramus he had received permission to take a long time dying. The lines read:

Thus, die I, thus, thus, thus.

Now am I dead.

Now am I fled.

The expanded performance commenced with Othello’s suicide re-created by a disembowelling dagger, followed by a few assorted sword deaths, among them Mercutio’s. Then there were a hanging, as of *Henry V*’s Bardolph; a hand chopped off

and a tongue cut out from *Titus Andronicus*, along with the pilot’s severed thumb from the Scottish play. Next came slitting a wrist and falling on a sword, based on *Julius Caesar*. After that there were three *Hamlet* deaths: poison poured into an ear, a poisoned drink, and a poisoned rapier cut. The drowning, using fallen leaves on stage, could have been that of Ophelia, but was actually that of Clarence from *Richard III* (I.4). A chopped-off head represented Cloten from *Cymbeline* and the title character from *Macbeth*. From *King Lear*, we had Gloucester’s yanked-out eyeball (“vile jelly”), which, with the flat of his sword, was launched, like a triumphant tennis ball, into the audience.

After all these deaths, Thisbe kills herself by stabbing and saying:

Come, blade, my breast imbrue:  
And farewell, friends:  
Thus Thisbe ends:  
Adieu, adieu, adieu.

But, naturally, Nick Bottom as Pyramus must have the last word, so he revived one more time, sat up, folded his hands across his chest, and, with an audible *crack*, died the greatest death in all of Shakespeare: King Lear dying of a broken heart.

By a strange concatenation of events, my eight-year-old granddaughter was sitting with her parents in the first row front of the O’Reilly Theater thrust stage. As expected, the audience, especially those who recognized some of the death references to other plays, were roaring with laughter. But high above them all was a little girl’s laughter. Sitting only a few feet from an accomplished and creative actor playing a wonderful part, she had understood enough to be thoroughly delighted. A new generation of

Bardolators

was born that night. Not at all a bad thing toe be, if you can nail it.



1 - Making Wine

Here we are showing off hobbies or travel pics ... how many of us do you recognize?

See p. 10 for the answers when you're ready!



6 - Running a Race



2 - On Folk Dancing Tour



4 - Overlooking a Canyon



7 - At Machu Picchu (Peru)



3 - On Skiing Vacation



5 - Holiday in Provence



8 - Gone Fishin'

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

All that Glitters	Steel, Danielle	c. 2020	F STE
Anxious People	Backman, Fredrik	c. 2020	F BAC
Bertie's Guide to Life and Mothers	Smith, Alexander McCall	c. 2016	F SMI L.T.
The Black Swan of Paris	Robards, Karen	c. 2020	F ROB
The Blues Walked In	George, Kathleen	c. 2018	F GEO
Death of an Honest Man	Beaton, M. C.	c. 2018	F BEA
Good Neighbors	Langan, Sarah	c. 2021	F LAN
Love in the Late Edition	Henry, Reg	c. 2020	F HEN p.b.
Missing and Endangered	Jance, Judith A.	c. 2021	F JAN
One By One	Ware, Ruth	c. 2020	F WAR
The Only Good Indians	Jones, Stephen Graham	c. 2020	F JON
The Opium Prince	Aimaq, Jasmine	c. 2020	F AIM
The Pursuit of Happyness		c. 2006	F PUR DVD
Season's Meetings	Rodgers, Anne Marie	c. 2020	F ROD
Second Watch	Jance, Judith A.	c. 2013	F JAN L.T. p.b.
Sherlock Holmes and the Shakespeare Globe Murders	Day, Barry	c. 2017	F DAY L.T.
The Survivors	Harper, Jane	c. 2021	F HAR
A Time of Love and Tartan	Smith, Alexander McCall	c. 2019	F SMI L.T.
Unraveled Stalkings	McCrite, K.D.	c. 2019	F MCC
Willful Transgressions	Y'Barbo, Kathleen	c. 2020	F Y'BA

## **NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES**

Ruth, A Portrait: The Story of Ruth Bell Graham	Cornwell, Patricia	c. 1997	BIO GRA
Bunny Mellon: The Life of an American Style Legend	Gordon, Meryl	c. 2017	BIO MEL
Gray Ghost: The Life of Col. John Singleton Mosby	Ramage, James A.	c.1999	BIO MOS
1846: Portrait of the Nation	Christman, Margaret C. S	c. 1996	973.6 CHR
Behind the Wall: A Journey through China	Thubron, Colin	c. 1987	915.1 THU
The Daughters of Kobani	Lemmon, Gayle Tzemach	c. 2021	956.910 LEM
Hill Women	Chambers, Cassie	c. 2020	929.2 CHA
The Mother's Book	Child, Lydia Maria	c. 1992	649.1 CHI
Old Ironsides: The Rise, Decline, and Resurrection of the USS Constitution	Gillmer, Thomas Charles	c. 1993	359.322 GIL
The Road to Guilford Courthouse: The American Revolution in the Carolinas	Buchanan, John	c. 1997	973.393 BUC p.b.
Satchel: The Life and Times of an American Legend	Tye, Larry	c. 2009	796.357 TYE

### **RECYCLING UPDATE: ALUMINUM FOIL**

By the ACORN Staff

With assistance from Jeff McGaughey, Grounds Supervisor, and Ruth Inkpen of the Recycling Committee, we have determined that aluminum foil is, indeed, accepted

by Waste Management, Inc., which picks up our recyclable trash. So, as long as the Dining Room is not able to recycle all that foil that appears at our tables as we pick up our food from the hot and cold buffets, do consider folding it over, taking it home with you, wiping it clean, and recycling it from there! The earth will thank you.



## PRIMARY ELECTION ALERT

By Agnes Peebles - #324

You may feel that you haven't recovered from the last election, yet here is another! Primary Election date is May 18. While this one is not as widely significant as that of November 2020, it is important.

This is a "nominating" election. At this time, we have the opportunity and the responsibility to influence whose names will appear on the ballot in November. These will be the people who decide issues in our community, county, and state, the ones whose responsibilities affect our daily lives. We will also be asked to vote on four amendments to the state constitution. These have appeared in the *Cranberry Eagle*, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, and probably other newspapers recently. Check them out, so that you are informed and ready to vote. We hope to be able to post the ballot in the mailroom soon.

Please note these important dates. May 3 is the last day for voter registration. If you are not already registered or if you wish to change your party registration, the required forms will be available from our receptionists. May 11 is the last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot. May 18, Election Day, 8:00 p.m., is the deadline for the return of mail-in and absentee ballots.

There will be bus transportation to the polls beginning in the morning of May 18. Check the bulletin board the week before to see the times and to sign up. We do not know how limited space on the buses will be by that time.

## FOCUS ON THE WORLD

Submitted by Nancy Paul - #167



### “How Do Cartels Get Their Weapons?”

In the National Geographics series, “Trafficking,” the award-winning journalist Mariana van Zeller uncovers a supply chain of American firearms being smuggled into the hands of drug cartels, fueling record levels of gun violence in Mexico.

Watch this informative and sobering episode on

**Sherwood Oaks Channel 901**

**Thursday & Friday, May 20 & 21,**

**3:00 & 7:30 p.m.**

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*If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?*

*Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?*

*Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?*

*Why does the sun lighten our hair, but darken our skin?*

## COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #715

Fourth in the series of documentaries on climate change is *The Human Element*, which will be shown May 10<sup>th</sup> on Channel 901 at 10:00 am, 4:00 pm, and 7:30 pm. The program lasts about 75 minutes and has closed captioning.

James Balog, who also produced *Chasing Ice*, has focused his lens on the complex relationship between humans and nature. *The Human Element* features subjects who are often overlooked, namely: victims of climate change.

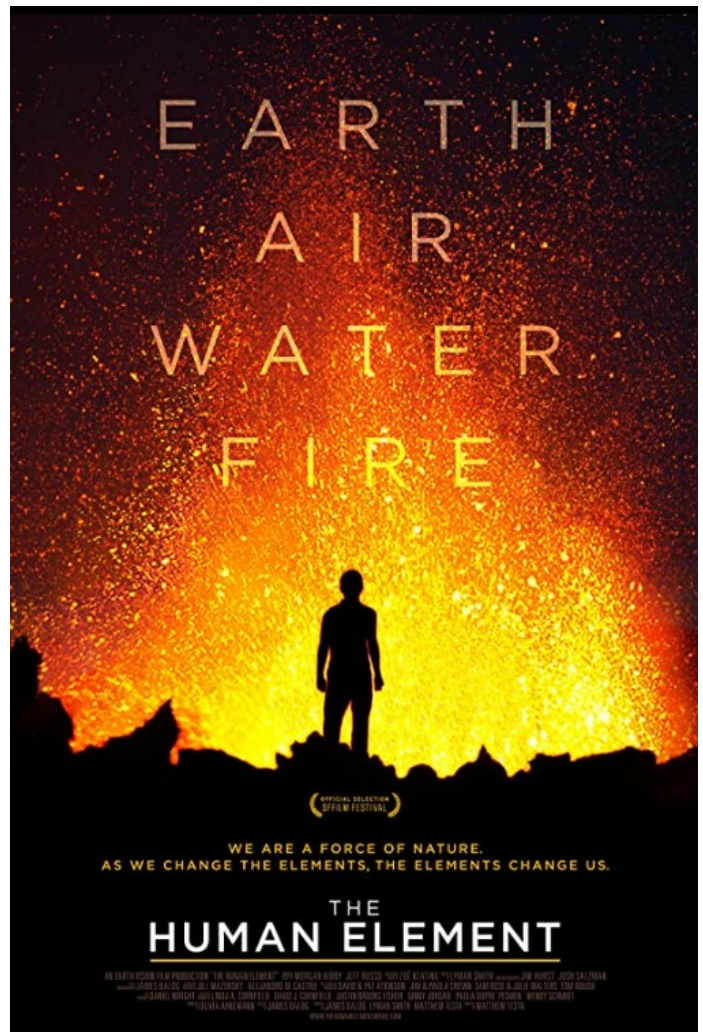
Balog visits Tangier Island, a fishing community facing the imminent reality of sea-level rise threatening its future. We meet children in Denver, all of whom suffer from asthma and attend a special school for children struggling with air. Balog embeds with a Cal Fire strike team on the frontlines of the most expensive wildfire in California history. And he ventures deep into Kentucky coal country, meeting unemployed miners finding hope from a new source.

Balog argues that humans are part of the whole system of nature and not apart from it. Knowing this, he finds great hope that the fifth element, the human element, can bring the whole system back into balance.

Look for more information about *The Human Element* on the Focus on the World bulletin board in early May.

### Current “Carbon Tax” Legislation

Learn more about the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend bill, which has been reintroduced in the House with 29 original co-sponsors, at <[www.energyinnovationact.org](http://www.energyinnovationact.org)>. For constantly updated information on the climate crisis, follow the Slippery Rock chapter of Citizens’ Climate Lobby on Facebook at @CCLSlipperyRock.



### KEY TO RESIDENTS’ HOBBY OR TRAVEL PHOTOS ON P. 7

- |                       |
|-----------------------|
| 5. Ruth/John Becker   |
| 4. Janet Tyanski      |
| 3. Bob Tyanski        |
| 2. Rosemary Coffey    |
| 1. Frank/Joanne Weiss |
| 8. Janie Naylor       |
| 7. Bill Laffer        |
| 6. Diane Neely        |

*Why do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke?*

*Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?*

*Why don't you ever see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?*

*Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?*

## COME SEE THE SWANS!

By Barbara Dixon - #335

Members of the Painting Studio have been hard at work creating works of art honoring our beloved mute swans, Sherman and Oakley. This exhibit will be on display in the Gallery beginning May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Stop by and see what *you* can create with a few brushes and some paint! New members are always welcome in the fully equipped studio, where classes are held Mondays from 1 to 3 p.m.



Photo by Megan Coffey (Sept. 2019)

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## EASTER HUNT

By Joni Pun - #304

The 2021 Easter Hunt for bunnies, flowers, and butterflies outside the Independent Living areas was won by Peg Rychcik (#297), who identified 33 objects out of the 44 that were hidden. Some of the more creative hiding places were never found! Many people had fun looking for them, but next time – HINT, HINT – remember to look up, down, around, under, or maybe even inside!

## CHERRY

By Joanne Weiss - #154

Outside my sunroom window pane,  
There grows a cherry tree –  
A weeping cherry, I am sure,  
She was supposed to be,

With branches, oh! so neatly pruned  
To grow down toward the earth,  
But Cherry knew a better way  
To show the world her worth.

She broke the grafters' chafing bonds  
And stretched up to the sky,  
With branches spreading everywhere,  
And some so very high.

In wintertime her sturdy trunk  
Defies the drifting snow;  
Her branches take delight in winds  
That dance them to and fro.

The tiny seedlike buds give hope  
That Spring will surely come,  
When leafy branches will provide  
Her feathered friends a home.

As Spring arrives, she soon becomes  
A cloud of lacy white.  
She loves this time when she can be  
A feast of scent and light.

And then where blossoms once had been,  
The tiny fruit appears.  
Not good for making cherry pies,  
But cardinals feast and cheer.

All Summer long she shades my house  
And keeps it cool inside;  
She watches over garden flowers,  
Where chipmunks dart and hide.

When Autumn comes, her verdant leaves  
Become a golden crown,  
And then, with sighs of grateful thanks,  
Fall gently to the ground.

Her beauty, freedom, and her strength  
Are there for all to see,  
As she proclaims in every way  
That "Weeping's not for me!"

## PRETTY / UGLY

By Abdullah Shoaib

From Dontgiveupworld



I'm very ugly

So don't try to convince me that

I am a very beautiful person

Because at the end of the day

I hate myself in every single way

And I'm not going to lie to myself by  
saying

There is beauty inside of me that matters

So rest assured I will remind myself

That I am a worthless, terrible person

And nothing you say will make me believe

I still deserve love

Because no matter what

I am not good enough to be loved

And I am in no position to believe that

Beauty does exist within me

Because whenever I look in the mirror I  
always think

Am I as ugly as people say?

*[Now read the poem bottom up!]*

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND

By Donald McBurney - #206

For the Scholarship Committee

We have all appreciated the work of the young people who delivered our meals in the cold weather this pandemic winter. I know that they and the many others who work hard to take care of us all year hear our thanks and appreciation. But one additional way we can repay them for their work is through the Scholarship Fund. Each year many residents at Sherwood Oaks contribute to help with tuition for college and university students on our staff. This is an unusual program among institutions like Sherwood Oaks.

Last year 156 individuals and families gave \$84,240. This, plus our endowment, allowed us to make 53 awards of \$2,000 each. These awards go directly to the institution for tuition and fees. The cards we receive every year show how much the money is appreciated.

This year we would like to increase the awards to \$2,200. Please consider, therefore, increasing your own giving to this very worthy and much-appreciated effort. Make your checks payable to **The Sherwood Oaks Fund**, with **Scholarship Fund** written on the memo line, at your earliest convenience. You may leave the checks at the front desk to the attention of Tabby Alford. All contributions are tax deductible.



*Why do supermarkets make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions, while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front?*

*Why do banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the counters?*

## CRANBERRY AREA DIVERSITY NETWORK (CADN)

By Nancy Paul - #167

If you've moved to Sherwood Oaks recently, you may not have heard about this vibrant organization. CADN was formed by two Cranberry neighbors, with the aim of "sustaining Cranberry Township as a hospitable place that emphasizes respect and inclusion for everyone."

The network offers activities throughout the year to carry out its aim. Concluding in April was a series of virtual events. One of them, "Cuisine, Culture and Conversation," took participants into their neighbors' homes to learn how they made their favorite dishes and discuss the origins of foods and cultures surrounding them.

Another was a virtual speaker series on topics such as the ingredients needed for a positive immigrant experience and the trials of a first-generation immigrant.

A not-to-be-missed future event will be CranFest, which Sherwood residents have enjoyed attending in past years. The 2021 festival will be held outdoors at the Rotary Amphitheater at Community Park, tentatively set for June 10, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Guests can enjoy international flavors from authentic food trucks.

Music and dance performances representing the various Cranberry cultures will be held on the newly renovated amphitheater stage.

Notices about CranFest will be posted in the mailroom. For more information about CADN, visit [cranberrydiversity.org](http://cranberrydiversity.org). You may also e-mail <[cadn@cranberrydiversity.org](mailto:cadn@cranberrydiversity.org)>.

## CURIO CABINETS

By Gussie Dimick - #160

The next display is a request, and it's appropriate, considering all that we've been through during this last year. The focus will be on TEAPOTS. Many a lonely night has been made more tolerable by the warmth and comfort emanating from the humble teapot.

The current display – Birds of Prey – will end on May 4. TEAPOTS will begin on May 6.

Possibly due to the effects of the coronavirus, resident participation in the cabinets has declined in the last few months. The key to a successful show has always been the generosity of our residents in finding and bringing appropriate items for display. Let's all do our part to continue this wonderful tradition.

Pick up items on Tuesday, May 4, 10-12 a.m. and 4:30-5:30 p.m. **Bring your teapots on Thursday, May 6, 10-12 a.m. and 4:30-5:30 p.m.**



## SHARING AND CARING

By Bob Typanski - #190

Sharing and Caring were two social workers

having a bad day. Caring observed:  
I don't think you're pulling your weight.  
For me alone to make a difference,  
I'd truly have to be a saint.

All I can do is to keep them strong,  
showing them that they're alive.  
Of course, they should all keep trying,  
but  
my actions only *help* them survive.

## WORTH A LOOK

### BOOKS NEW TO OUR LIBRARY

By Barbara Christy - #237

*Between Two Kingdoms* by Suleika Jaouad. Biography. The author's dream was of becoming a war correspondent based in Paris. But a few weeks before her 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday, her surprise "gift" is the diagnosis of leukemia. Chances of survival – 35%. Four years, countless rounds of chemo, a clinical trial, and a bone marrow transplant later, she walks out of the cancer ward, pronounced "cured." To learn how to live again, not just be cured, she embarks on a three-month road trip with her faithful Terrier-mutt companion. She wants to meet some of the people who wrote to her during her illness and to explore the world between "sick" and "well." Her journey is a story of survivorship and what it means to begin again. BIO JAO

*Keep Sharp* by Sanjay Gupta. Non-fiction. Neurosurgeon and CNN commentator Sanjay Gupta reveals secrets for keeping your brain young, healthy, and sharp. He reviews recent research and debunks myths on his path to sharing evidence-based best practices for a better tomorrow. 153.4 GUP

*Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv. Non-fiction. "Direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development," says this author, who has compiled an extensive body of research to back up his claim. In addition to raising an alarm that links disturbing childhood illnesses like depression, obesity, and attention deficit disorders, Louv offers practical advice for adults who care about our children's future. 155.418 LOU

*Square One* by Joseph Maroon, M.D. Non-fiction. This world-famous Pittsburgh neurosurgeon had it made – until he didn't. After a quick series of losses and setbacks, he experienced a deep depression. In this illuminating book, he shares his personal insights, anecdotes, and scientific research to help readers learn how to lead more balanced and joyful lives. 170.4 MAR

*The Hope of Glory; Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus from the Cross* by Jon Meacham. Non-fiction. This Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer explores the intersection of faith and history, as he meditates on the seven sentences that Jesus spoke while on the cross. With an essay covering each of the phrases, Meacham offers commentary on Jesus' message of love, not hate; grace, not rage; and extraordinary mercy, not vengeance. 232.963 MEA

*Six Frigates: The Epic History of the Founding of the U.S. Navy* by Ian W. Toll. Non-fiction. In this well-researched but eminently readable history, the author recounts the controversy embroiling our newly created country. Washington's commissioning of six mid-sized fighting ships was the largest appropriation of federal money and the first real demonstration of power by the central government. But would the creation of a permanent military be the beginning of authoritarian rule? 359 TOL

*At Home in the Land of OZ* by Anne Clinard Barnhill. Non-fiction. This is a book about crossing barriers and making connections. The author's sister, Becky, born in 1958 before autism was commonly recognized, was diagnosed as emotionally disturbed. In search of a cure, Becky was subjected to well-mean-

ing but futile efforts by earnest, but uninformed, caregivers. This is an honest, compassionate, and ultimately inspiring account of Becky's and her family's experiences. 362.1 BAR

*Consecrated Dust: A Novel of the Civil War* by Mary Frailey Calland. Fiction. Unnoticed by the press because of overwhelming casualty reports from the Battle of Antietam, the September 17, 1862, explosion at the Allegheny Arsenal in Pittsburgh marked a significant moment in the Civil War. The blast caused the largest number of single-day civilian casualties on the same day that Antietam marked the bloodiest battle. This fictional account gives voice to ordinary people on the battlefield and on the home front and is a window into the history of Pittsburgh in 1862. F CAL

*Fresh Water for Flowers* by Valerie Perrin. Fiction. This is a captivating tale of a small-town French cemetery caretaker and the regular visitors and mourners who visit the graves and stay for a cup of coffee. But, when the local police chief spreads his mother's ashes on the grave of a stranger, Violette's comfortable routine is disrupted, and her difficult past re-emerges. This book is for readers who believe in hope and happiness, despite all. F PER

*The Black Swan of Paris* by Karen Robards. Fiction. "Of all of the possessions in life, fame is the most useful." Estranged sisters Genevieve and Emmanuelle, reunited by WWII, engage in a harrowing effort to rescue their mother, a Resistance fighter captured by the Nazis. Known as the Black Swan of Paris for her fame as a singer, Genevieve is a favorite of the Nazis and hopes to use her connections. Knowing

her mother is being tortured to reveal her knowledge of the impending Allied invasion increases the urgency of saving her fast – or arranging for her assassination if no rescue is possible. F ROB

*The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate. Fiction. After the Civil War, former slaves advertised in Southern newspapers, searching for loved ones who had been sold and taken away. Flash forward to 1987, when a newly-minted teacher lands in rural Louisiana and finds a long-lost book that helps unravel the mystery of one such family and the people who helped them. F WIN

*Murder is a Must* by Marty Wingate. Fiction. **Large Type.** Hayley Burke is the newly appointed curator of Lady Fowling's First Edition Library. Hoping to make a big splash and ensure success for the library, Hayley hires Oona, her former – and difficult to get along with – boss to help plan the event. Discovering a reference to a priceless but missing first edition, Oona becomes obsessed with finding it, but gets murdered for her trouble. F WIN

*A Matter of Life and Death* by Phillip Margolin. Fiction. **Large Type.** A young, homeless family. A no-holds-barred illegal boxing match run by criminals. Blackmail and murder. These are the ingredients that Robin Lockwood, a rising star attorney, has to work with while trying to defend her poor client from a death sentence. F MAR

*Why do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in our driveways and put our useless junk in the garage?*

*Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavoring, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?*

## THE FINISH LINE IS IN SIGHT – SORT OF

By Julie Eden - #290

It's really all Ellen's fault.

Well, to be honest, that's not true. I always had a long-term goal to write my life's story. When asked by friends why I had not done so, I'd say, "Not enough people have died yet." I really wasn't waiting for such morbid events; I just needed to get all my ducks in a row.

Over the years, I have kept all sorts of memorabilia: diaries; calendar books; letters from my mom, an aunt, and others; those wonderful end-of-year wrap-ups sent by friends and relatives; newspaper articles I wrote, or others featuring our family (mainly my dad); airline tickets; detailed notes from photography and other family trips; programs from concerts ... and the list goes on.

Just after moving to Sherwood Oaks, I saw a notice on the bulletin board advertising the class Ellen Brierly holds each fall, "Writing Your Life's Story." They say timing is everything, and, boy, this was just right. Away I went, and it was as though I was starting (or maybe training for) a marathon. If I were running a race, I'd now be where I can see the finish line, just one more corner to take. Growing up in Oregon, where track and field is in your blood, I guess that is a great metaphor for my "story."

The journey, or run, has not been made alone. My sister, Lynn (three years younger), and I have spent hours discussing our childhood neighborhood, the elementary school we attended, old television shows we watched, family trips around Europe, and other life events. This past weekend we were attached (by phone), looking at a map of Cambridge, England, figuring out the route we took from home to school by bicycle.

We wondered if Market Square, an outdoor market, was still located where we remembered it.

Lynn also recalled an earthquake we experienced in Tokyo one Christmas Eve. We were waiting for Louis Armstrong to come on stage. As the lights in the venue started to sway, someone in the audience commented that maybe Louis had gotten up from his chair. Everything settled down quickly, and the concert went on.

My brother, Ernie, though nine years younger than I, also has been a good sounding board. He has a fantastic recall of sporting events. I took him to track meets as a kid, and he loved those. He also remembered exactly whom we saw playing (in 1964) when attending Wimbledon, and who won the title that year!

I put this together (and had a lot of fun doing it) for my siblings, my children, and my grandchildren. I'm about done with Part One. Those next generations will be the stars of Part Two.

To get to the finish line of any kind, one needs a team. Well, I was lucky to find Rosemary Coffey, another gem at Sherwood Oaks. When I learned she was a professional editor, my heart skipped a beat (in a good way, this time around). I've tried to learn where to put commas (an ongoing lesson); how to document a book's title; and the darn difference between "lose and loose," "chose and choose," "it's and its." I *try* to keep the number of typos down.

Rosemary has done her best. She's been there, timing each lap I run (or walk) and handing me some nutritional substance during the marathon. When we meet at the finish line, instead of my getting a ribbon or medal, I'll hand one to Ellen, one to Rosemary — and one to the clerk at Staples, who will have to try to get all this printed for my siblings and my descendants.



## REPORT FROM THE CONTINUED LEARNING COMMITTEE

By Wally Christy - 237

In response to the limitation on in-person gatherings for learning opportunities, the Continued Learning Committee has turned to prerecorded topics. In addition, the availability of the new Channel 901 for resident and staff use has opened up new options for learning.

We are, therefore, planning to offer a broad range of video programs generally falling into one of the following disciplines:

- History – of both local and distant areas
- Scientific advances
- Travel
- Music, dance, and performance art
- Understanding and caring for our environment
- Civics: the study of privilege and the obligations of citizens

The topics will be on DVDs or on YouTube. The sessions will be in English and, if possible, have closed captioning. They should last 30 to 90 minutes and will be shown at 10 a.m., 4 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.

We plan to schedule the programs a month in advance, so that notice of the showings can be found in the *Acorn* and on the weekly schedule. You will be able to make them a part of your day.

May 2021 schedule:

- May 4 - Leonard Bernstein - Teachers and Teaching
- May 11 - A Walk in the Maine Woods
- May 18 - A Plastic Ocean
- May 25 - Pittsburgh A to Z

In the Fall we hope to resume inviting guest speakers and have “in-person” presentations. Keep on learning! It’ll be fun.

## OUTDOOR GAMES

By Joni Pun - #304

Outdoor games will resume with the nice weather. The croquet lawn and the putting green are located in front of the Oak Lodge, and the others – Shuffleboard, Bocce, Horseshoes, Corn Toss, and Badminton – are at the Summer House. The games offer a great chance to keep active (even though none is especially strenuous) and have fun playing.

Anyone can put together a group to play. Let’s start by making 3 p.m. a time to start. Later in the summer, it may be necessary to go to evenings, if we have high temperatures. We can start with a tentative schedule, e.g.: Mondays – croquet, Tuesdays – shuffleboard, Wednesdays – horseshoes, Thursdays – bocce, Fridays – corn toss, and Saturdays – putting green. If interested, just show up on the days you want to, or call Joni Pun at #8304. Nothing is set in stone – we can change days and hours as needed. We are privileged to have such a nice place as the Summer House and the greens located near the Community Center – let’s use them!

### *IN MEMORIAM*

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

*Jean Ross*

*April 5, 2021*

*Anna Lee*

*April 21, 2021*

## CHECK THE WANTED POSTERS IN THE MAIL ROOM!

By Jane Lavender - #253

Did you know that we residents can have a hand in beautifying the campus? And that's not just in our back patio areas. Wimbledon Garden (that's the perennial bed near the Center) and the beds at the Summer House (the ones on the circular path) are maintained by residents. The people now working these beds are in need of a few more warm bodies who would love to get dirt under their fingernails. We usually work with others and for no more than an hour at a time. Times are flexible depending on personal schedules and weather. The pay is the satisfaction that comes with the joy of gardening in beautiful beds.

Please call me (8253) or Don McBurney (8206) if you are interested in joining us.



## RESIDENTS' ART WALL

By Joni Pun - #304

You may not realize it, but we have many talented people living at Sherwood Oaks! From May 3<sup>rd</sup> on, the shorter wall of the scooter gallery will be reserved for works produced by residents. Any work that can be hung will be accepted, as long as it has been made by someone living here. The possibilities include paintings, photographs, stitchery of all kinds, or works done in wood, in fiber, etc. A small card will show the title, the artist's name, and the medium, as well as an explanation, if desired. It is hoped that each showing will run one or two months only, to give more people the chance to display their works. For additional information, call Joni Pun (#8304) or Ann Ferguson (#8269).

## LAST NEWS FOR A WHILE

By Talley Ferguson - #269

I turned 6 months old on April 11. I weigh 14.4 pounds and am 14" tall. My teeth are still coming in, and so is my adult fur. It will take about two years for my adult fur to take over, and then it will continue to change as I age.

Get this: I have to use special sunscreen on my fur! The sun turns my gray fur a little brown. My next furs will be lighter, grayer, and longer. Then, some time as I age, my gray fur will darken. I will always be a work in progress.

Believe it or not, my mom got this idea for us to go kayaking. Well, she ordered an inflatable kayak, a life jacket for herself, and another one for me. Mine is really silly. It has a bright orange fin on top, so people can see me when I'm in the water. How embarrassing! She also signed me up for swimming lessons. My breed is not necessarily fond of swimming. We'll see about this.

My mom thinks I am part Tennessee Walker because of the way I prance. Doesn't she know that that's what Shelties do? Sigh....



*My life jacket with the orange fin*

## **DOWN THESE MEAN PARKING LOTS A MAN MUST GO WHO IS NOT HIMSELF MEAN**

By Dennis Lynch - #335

Now that we are more than two weeks post-vac, Barbara decided that I could go get a real haircut and she would join me. We took off at 1:00 p.m. for that Clip place in the Cranberry Mall, near Giant Eagle. She doesn't really like it; I think it is OK, not a real Barber Shop, but .... We parked her bronze Honda CR-V in a nearby handicapped spot – pay attention now, because the details are important – I got out of the passenger side, walked behind the car to a painted crosswalk, and crossed, as we walked to the shop.

We had not made reservations and were told that the wait would be about an hour. That was fine by me, as the place didn't look too busy, and I thought it might be less. Barbara, however, was miffed and set off for the GE Pharmacy to pick up a prescription.

I was, indeed, clipped before she came back. To my disappointment, they weren't doing beard trims – a casualty of Covid, I guess. Another casualty was the magazine rack. I like to wait, because I can catch up on *Rod and Gun*, *Guns and Ammo*, and *Mercenary and Testosterone*. When Barbara returned, I said I would wait for her in the car, where a used copy of *The Making of the President: 1960* awaited me.

I left to return to the car. Walk with me now, and pay attention! This is where it gets good. I got to the painted crosswalk (remember?), crossed over to the bronze CR-V in the handicapped spot, walked behind our car while hitting “unlock” on the key – and nothing happened. Barbara always locks the car. “Ha,” I thought. “Will I ever rag her about this!” I grasped the

passenger door handle and opened the door.

Because I was stooped, the first thing I saw was the passenger seat. It held a packet of tissues and several receipts, and the Handicap Tag. We never leave the tag there. I looked up – someone was in the driver's seat. It wasn't Barbara! Panic!

Instead, it was a brunette of a certain age, wearing round, brown-framed glasses, staring at me wide-eyed.

“Hey!” she said.

It wasn't our car. And I could see the headlines in her mind: “Woman Car-jacked in Giant Eagle Parking Lot”; “Old Irish Bad Guy Still at Large.”

“I'm very sorry,” I said, starting to back away. “We have a bronze...,” I stammered, and closed the door, continuing under my breath, “... CR-V ... and it was parked right here ....”

I started to look frantically for another bronze CR-V, an unoccupied one. Then I thought I'd better get out of sight before I heard the sirens, so I went back over the painted crosswalk, back to the Clip shop, back to Barbara, who was still waiting.

“Barb—!” “Oh, dear! I moved the car and I forgot to tell you!”

“Harrumpf!” Boy, was I points up on her!

So she told me where it was parked, and I slipped out of the shop, watching carefully for flashing lights, and found the car (still a bronze CR-V). I pressed “unlock” on the key, and the car unlocked. That was a good omen. I don't know what I would have done if the car had remained silent.

I opened the passenger door, plunked my behind on the empty seat, swiveled myself in, closed the door, and heaved a hearty sigh of relief – as my glasses fogged over.

*"The flowers that bloom in the Spring, tra la ..."*



Photos by J. Eden & J. Wendt

*... bring promise of merry sunshine!"*