

THE ACORN

SHERWOOD OAKS NEWSLETTER
100 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066
www.sherwood-oaks.com

Summer 2021 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. 22, No. 6

New Kids on Our Block...



See article on p. 11.

Photo by Jan Wendt

Siu Fa

Talley

Brodie

And on the other end of the leash:

Joni Pun

Ann Ferguson

Warren Howe

Gentle Readers:

Good news! As we all endured and survived the rigors of lockdown, it was a narrow path we trod. Now, with some restrictions relaxed, our daily life walks on a wider road, while still flanked by "Perhaps" and "Maybe." Uncertainty remains on both sides, but the footing is more comfortable and secure. We do not need to go single file. We can walk and talk side by side.

Here at the start of THE ACORN's summer break, some rules have changed:

Hooray for being able to make brief visits with friends in The Oak Grove Center and in Personal Care. (In both cases, contact Lori Greer - 4651- in advance to make an appointment.)

Likewise, hooray for being able to visit friends in the Skilled Nursing Unit. (Call Epiphany Lehman - 8475 - in advance.)

Hooray for small gatherings and committee meetings ... and for tables in the dining room at which we can actually hear and speak with each other ... and for bus rides to local churches ... and for computer help right here in our own Center ... and for birthday parties.

There are still questions like "Where, when, and with whom do I wear a mask?" (It takes a bit of figuring: Those are the "Perhaps" and "Maybe" matters.)

As the path gets wider, we can even wonder: "Will guests be welcome in the Dining Room sometime soon? Or family members (and staff members, too) in the swimming pool? What about concerts and lectures in the auditorium? And field trips?"

Those are the opportunities our community's path may offer. While we pay attention to the local statistics and regulations, the "new normal" does involve our traveling together. Let's enjoy the trip!

Ruth Becker and Rosemary Coffey

SUMMER CALENDAR

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| D Day, WWII | June 6 |
| Flag Day | June 14 |
| Juneteenth | June 19 |
| First Day of Summer | June 20 |
| Father's Day | June 20 |
| Independence Day | July 4 |
| V-J Day | Aug. 14 |

THE ACORN

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Submissions for the September issue must be sent to the Editors no later than

August 15, 2021.

REMINDER!

Please look at the photos of residents with members of their extended families on p. 9, and see how many you recognize before you confirm your guesses with the identification box on p. 16. We thank all of you who have shared pictures of different parts of your past throughout the 2020-2021 year!

JOHN & SHEILA BRIDGES - #122

By Harriet Burress - #112



Photo by Jan Wendt

When one has just read 32 pages about a career spent in countries around the world, where does one begin to condense this story to one page or so? As we welcome John and Sheila Bridges to Sherwood Oaks, they are not, however, in unfamiliar territory. Friends and former SO residents Doug and Betty Noll invited them to many musical programs here, and Carl and Llesolette Bloss, also now deceased, were neighbors.

Both John and Sheila are from England. He was from the South, while Sheila grew up in the North. “Due to my father’s changing his job and wartime evacuations, I attended seven different schools,” said John. When World War II began, John was “shipped off” twice – to his grandparents for six months and then to his aunt and uncle – “deep in the country, from whence we could see the fires of the London Blitz in the night sky.” He began his five-year Technical Training in Timber Technology as a Saunders Roe Aircraft apprentice. He spent time in regular engineering courses, at a sawmill, and in the Oak Forest, learning about timber structure and identification at Oxford University, and

working on finding ways to laminate wood. “My career as a manager of sawmilling was with all processes after a tree is cut.”

After working for two years in England as a Research and Development Engineer in a plywood factory, he was offered a four-year contract managing a new wood preservation plant in Kenya. Thus began John’s experiences abroad. Next was Trinidad, where he met Sheila at a birthday party. She had moved there to teach in the local Girls’ High School. They courted as they sailed, and were married. Sheila commented, “Trinidad is a very special place for us. We met there, were married there, and our son was born there.” Although she told John she would go anywhere with him but to Africa and the U.S.A., they lived in the Congo for four years and have been in the U.S. for forty.

Sheila was educated in London, where she studied music at Guildhall School of Music. In Trinidad she was encouraged by the nuns to finish her degree in English. “She wrote [composed] more music than words, and helping tuberculosis patients with musical therapy was a gift of hers,” John said. Sheila ranks Switzerland as her favorite country, with Chile as no. 2.

Why Chile? John accepted a position with the Overseas Development Ministry in England to help set up a Timber Utilization School at the University in Concepción. He had been told that the students spoke English – no need to learn Spanish. Well, out of eighty students, three spoke English. “We did a lot of very practical things at first until my knowledge of the language improved.” The British Consul escorted them to their home, which was charming, but the roof and windows leaked, and the stove never kept the house warm and dry.

However, "We spent six happy years there." John and Sheila spoke English at home, and their son learned Spanish at school. When they moved to the U.S., that practice was reversed so that he would become bilingual. He now lives in Michigan.

While in Chile, John was approached by Koppers of Pittsburgh to help with quality control in their local plants. This resulted in his becoming their Area Manager for Latin America and moving his family once again, this time to Cali, Colombia. Alas, "many good friends were made in Chile, but not so in Colombia."

Sheila's interests center around music. For years she played violin in the Tuesday Music Club of Pittsburgh, along with our friend and former resident, Al Schartner. She would surely be delighted if anyone here would like to play duets with her. She also plays the piano and small pipes.

Sailing was the Bridges' passion for years, especially in Trinidad. "By the time our son was four, he had spent more nights in his bunk on our cruising sailboat than in a house with a roof," Sheila said. John made sailboats for 65 years, including a Chinese junk for Walt Disney's "Swiss Family Robinson." There is so much more to know about Sheila and John, so do enjoy becoming acquainted, as you welcome them to Sherwood Oaks.

POEM FOR ALL NEW RESIDENTS AND EMPLOYEES

Submitted by Peg Rychcik - #297

If any time you are in doubt,
Ask anyone to help you out.
You're new to Sherwood Oaks, it's true,
But that's a thing we've all been through.

[First published in The Acorn, July 1985]

O COME, O COME, O FOLKS OF SHERWOOD OAKS (Sung to the Tune of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*)

By Wally & Barbara Christy - #237

O Come, O Come, O folks of Sherwood Oaks,
And thank the staff who sheltered us all year.
We've mourned in lonely houses here,
Until the words "No Masks" appear.
Rejoice, rejoice! Freedom is near.
Speak thanks to all who labor here.

O come, Thou staff of Jesse, free
Us all from Covid's tyranny;
From spread of germs your servers saved,
And gave us victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! For freedom you gave
Send thanks to all employees brave.

O come, thou workers from afar,
And cheer us by your helpful stars;
Disperse the gloomy thoughts of blight
And isolation's shadows turn to light.
Rejoice! Rejoice! The staff of Sherwood Oaks
Has seen to us, all humble Sherwood folks.

O come, the end of lockdown, come,
And open wide our lovely Center home.
Make safe the way that leads to health
And stop the virus growth and stealth.
Rejoice! Rejoice! The staff of Sherwood Oaks
Has cared for us, the lonely Sherwood folks.

O thank Annette McPeck of thoughtful sight,
Who, for our safety, chose all things so right.
In former times didst have less grief.
This year, alas, she had a different brief.
Rejoice! Rejoice! The staff of Sherwood Oaks
Has seen to us, all grateful Sherwood
folks.



SHERWOOD OAKS MAKES THE NEWS!

By Rosemary Coffey - #113

A friend in Wabash, IN, sent me a page from the March 26, 2021, issue of *The Week*, an international publication. When I turned it over, there was a section titled "One year of isolation." Its three articles featured an 8-year-old girl, a 102-year-old man, and a massage therapist in her 40s. The one in the middle, Melvin (Jud) Judkis, turned out to be a resident of Sherwood Oaks.* So I decided to interview him, which I did early in May, in the Community Center.



Photo by Rabe Marsh

Fortunately, the most intense part of the recent lockdown is over, so I had no problem arranging a meeting, thanks to the assistance of a friend, also in Personal Care. Jud told me about his sons, one of whom lives in NJ and the other who is nearby, but spends a lot of time in Hilton Head, SC. Jud and his wife Edna lived in Mt. Lebanon for 40 years, when he was an electrical engineer at West-

inghouse (W). There were enough W employees in his part of town for the company to provide a bus to shuttle them to and from Monroeville; they took turns driving it. He reminisced somewhat about his experience of the development of nuclear power at W and the efforts to prevent it from impacting the engineers who were working with it. They had, for example, three million pounds of ice that were used to absorb radiation coming out of the plant!

Jud has been a resident of Sherwood Oaks since September 1998. In earlier times, he and his wife Edna, who had a master's degree in social work from the University of Chicago, traveled in France, Italy ("The food was good!"), and Switzerland. Edna spoke some French, which helped a lot. As for Jud himself, he graduated from Reed College, in Portland, OR, where his father owned a grocery store.

Here at Sherwood Oaks, he became extremely fond of the woodshop, where he used to spend a lot of time. He greatly misses his late wife, who died in 2004, but is looking forward to getting out and about more often, now that restrictions are easing up. Keep an eye out for him in the dining room in the near future!

** Actually, the article, submitted by Jud's granddaughter Maura, had two minor errors: It said Jud was in Skilled Nursing rather than Personal Care, and it described Sherwood Oaks as "an assisted-living facility," instead of the continuing care retirement community that it is. Perhaps, in the mind of the young granddaughter, there wasn't much of a difference!*

**CORRECTED SORA Nominating
Committee Candidate List
For Election Consideration at the
June 15, 2021, Annual Meeting**

CONSIDER FOR ELECTION

President - Frank Finley – 2nd and final 1-year term

Vice President - Gary Brandenberger – 1st 1-year term; eligible for one more year

Secretary - Jean Henderson – no term limit

Operating Treasurer - Beth Brown – 1st 3-year term; eligible for a final three-year term

Board Members - 2nd and Final Two-Year Term

Al Brahm

Frank Weiss

Board Members - 1st Two-Year Term

Bruce Cooper

Diane Neely

Judy Pinyot

Barbara Scruggs

CONTINUING ON BOARD (no need for action at annual meeting in 2021)

SORA Treasurer - Peter Broeren – 1st 3-year term ends June 30, 2022; eligible for a final 3-year term

Immediate Past President - Betty Eichler – 2-year term ends June 30, 2022

Board Members

Nancy Marshall – 1st 2-year term ends June 30, 2022; eligible for 2nd 2-year term

Mary Lou Fox – 2nd 2-year term ends June 30, 2022; not eligible for re-election

Jane Paul – ditto

Lee Wierman – ditto

GRATITUDE TO THOSE LEAVING THE BOARD FOR THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE

Jane Lavender, Anne Williams, Elaine Hartswick, and Stan Foster

Nominations from the Floor – SORA Bylaw 5.03 D.3.c.

Nominations may be made from the Floor by ten (10) or more residents who shall, at least ten (10) days before the annual meeting, submit to the Secretary the written nomination accompanied by the written consent of the proposed nominee(s) to serve. The Secretary shall include these nominations on a ballot clearly differentiating them from the Committee's nominees.

WHAT HAPPENED TO HOPE?

By Agnes Peebles - #324

For months during the winter and spring, a special stone has lain under the wind screen at the corner near Unit #280. But now, HOPE is missing!

When I was running late, HOPE always encouraged me to speed up. When I was slogging along on my way home, I relied on HOPE to help me make it the rest of the way. When I was taking mail to the Center, I HOPEd to get there before the mail truck left. When my spirits were low, HOPE lifted them. Now, HOPE is missing.

Jason Lyle, who says HOPE was the first stone he painted, misses it, too. How many others of you have smiled, straightened your shoulders, walked more briskly, buoyed by HOPE? Where, oh where, is HOPE?

HOPE, please come home.

WHAT'S NEW WITH SORA?

(SO Residents Association)

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 **May 4, 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 \$58,739.65. The Operating Treasury Budget for 2021-2022 was adopted at \$19,390. Residents will be asked to contribute a \$40.00 activity fee to support the budget.

LIAISON REPORTS:

Scooter Gallery: Paintings of swans have been hung. Residents' crafts are also displayed near the mailroom.

Focus on the World. The April food collection was \$1565. Documentaries will be shown on channel 901.

Dining Services. Relaxed procedures will soon be in place.

Landscape. Wood chips have been put down. The Summer House water line has been repaired. Raised beds have been prepped. A PSU course has been offered to employees.

Welcoming. Move-ins are picking up after a slow winter.

Pool. The pool has reopened.

ADMINISTRATION: Annette McPeck reported the Butler County positivity rate is 6.1%. Census: IL 207; SNU 43/43; PC 33/42; and OGC 26/30. **Masks should be worn and social distancing practiced even after immunization.**

Visitors/families are to be masked and screened at entry. Residents should not plan on having visitors in SO public areas, e.g., lobby, dining room, billiards. Employee vaccination rate is 70%. The employee food drive goal is 30 cases of food through May. Patio homes will be power washed this spring. Smoke detector testing is in process.

OLD BUSINESS: *Auditorium/Stage Task Force.* The Board approved the purchase of a Yamaha Digital Grand Piano to replace the Steinway and organ. The net cost, \$3290, will be covered by the Memorial/Special Gifts Fund. *WiFi.* The work should be completed by the end of the year. *Extension of Fence Line Trail Bridge* – repair is underway.

The next SORA Board meeting is Tuesday, June 8, 2021. The annual residents meeting is June 15, 2021.

NEW PAPERBACK PICKINGS

(found on shelves to right of door)

By Jean Henderson - #611

NOVELS

The Secret Lives of Church Ladies

(Deesha Philyaw)

Old Baggage (Lissa Evans)

Still Life (Louise Penny)

Roberts Ridge (Malcolm MacPherson)

BIOGRAPHIES

Ghosts by Daylight: A Modern-Day War

Correspondent's Memoir (J. di Giovanni)

NON-FICTION

Last Go Round: A Real Western (Ken Kesey)

The Morning They Came for Us:

Dispatches from Syria (J. de Giovanni)

SPIRITUALITY

Women of the Bible: One-Year Devotional

(Ann Spangler)

COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #715

Over the next three months, aspects of the climate crisis will be highlighted on Channel 901 in the following documentaries:

Before the Flood, featuring Leonardo DiCaprio in the run-up to the December, 2015, meeting where the Paris Agreement was hammered out, will be shown on **June 14** at 10:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.;

Paris to Pittsburgh, from *National Geographic*, shares the reactions of people fighting the climate crisis to the United States announcing its pullout from the Paris Agreement; it will be shown on **July 12** at 10:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.;

Anthropocene, the name given to the current historical epoch, travels to twenty countries and six continents to view the effects of humanity on the planet; it will be shown on **August 9** at 10:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.

The US has now rejoined the Paris Agreement. After hosting a two-day Global Climate Summit that began on Earth Day, April 22, the new Administration has pledged to make the climate crisis the central theme in all its actions. It is now making plans to move the country away from fossil fuels toward a green energy economy, as it prepares for the crucial COP26 meeting in Glasgow on the sixth anniversary of the Paris Agreement.

Current “Carbon Tax” Legislation

Learn more about the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend bill, which has been reintroduced in the House and now has 41 co-sponsors, at www.energyinnovationact.org. For constant updates on the climate crisis, follow the Slippery Rock chapter of Citizens’ Climate Lobby on Facebook at @CCLSlipperyRock.



STARRING:

LEONARDO DI CAPRIO

KI-MOON BAN

DR. MICHAEL MANN

JOHN KERRY

POPE FRANCIS

Before the Flood presents a riveting account of the dramatic changes now occurring around the world due to climate change, as well as the actions we as individuals and as a society can take to prevent the disruption of life on our planet. “This documentary shows how interconnected the fate of all humanity is — but also the power we all possess as individuals to build a better future for our planet.”

RESIDENTS WITH EXTENDED FAMILIES: CAN YOU GUESS WHO THEY ARE?



1



4



2



5



3



6

See p.16 for the answers!



**FOCUS ON THE WORLD
SUMMER PROGRAMS**

Submitted by Nancy Paul - #167

“FLINT’S DEADLY WATER”

A PBS Frontline documentary drawing from a two-year investigation, which uncovered the extent of a deadly Legionnaires’ disease outbreak during the Flint water crisis — and how officials failed to stop it.

June 17 & 18, at 3 & 7:30 p.m., Channel 901

xxxxxxx

**“THE UNDERGROUND ORGAN
HARVEST”**

An unflinching descent into the shadowy world of black-market organ trafficking: the street-level brokers, the rogue surgeons, the impoverished men and women who are willing to sacrifice a slice of their own bodies for a quick payday, and the desperate patients who face the agonizing choice of obeying the law or saving their lives.

July 22 & 23, at 3 & 7:30 p.m., Channel 901

xxxxxxx

“THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT”

Examine the origin, history, and impact of the 1882 law that made it illegal for Chinese workers to come to America and for Chinese nationals already here ever to become U.S. citizens. The first in a long line of acts targeting the Chinese for exclusion, it remained in force for more than 60 years.

Aug. 19 & 20, at 3 & 7:30 p.m., Channel 901

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

By John Bridges - #122

I enjoyed reading the humorous article by Dennis Lynch in the May issue. My own similar incident occurred in Nairobi, Kenya.

I had parked my pickup outside the square government building that occupied an entire city block. Finishing my business, I came out of a door, saw a blue and black pickup parked where I thought I had parked mine, opened the door with my key, switched on the motor with my ignition key, and drove around the block. Then I suddenly realized that the things on the seat were not mine! I had exited on another side of the building, where I found a blue and black pickup whose two locks both fitted my keys.

HONORING YOUR LOVED ONES

By Rae Zuberbuhler – 604

Looking for ideas to honor your loved ones? The Sherwood Oaks Landscape Committee hereby alerts you to the availability of Memorial Request Forms at the front desk.

If you would like to memorialize a loved one in this way, a living tribute is a very special way to do so. Planting a tree, creating a garden area, or donating any form of landscape enrichment are all lasting reminders for your family, while enhancing our beautiful campus.

Each gift is referenced in the Library’s memorial gift ledger, which is located on the back side of the “new book selections” on top of the SH-PU shelf. It lists past donations that may give you some ideas. Many of these are notable and unusual specimens. If you need guidance, please speak to members of the Landscape Committee or to landscape staff.

NEW KIDS ON OUR BLOCK

By Jan Wendt - #158

It's Spring! Along with sunny skies, fragrant blooms, and picnics, what says "Spring" more than the wagging tail of a puppy dog? As you may have noticed, we have *three* adorable pups on campus ... at once! At the "old folks' home"!

First to arrive this winter was Talley Ferguson, whom you have likely seen strutting around with his Mom, Ann (#269). Now a seven-month-old Shetland Sheep Dog, he is doing well with his obedience training. He also accompanies Ann, an experienced dog handler, when she teaches canine obedience. This Sheltie is a new breed for Ann, but she is tuned in to his natural need to herd.

Next to arrive was Sui Fa (SHOO-FA, which means "flower" in Chinese). Her owner is Joni Pun (#304), who has had Chows for 48 years. Sui Fa is a five-month-old ball of caramel-colored fluff, with the characteristic Chow black/purple tongue. Joni defines the breed as "independent" yet "tranquil" and low-maintenance.

The most recent addition to the pack is Brodie, a twelve-week-old Golden Retriever, who resides with his folks, Warren and Hedy Howe, in #337. The Howes moved in last summer with their then fur-baby, Laddie, also a Golden. Sadly, Laddie succumbed recently to cancer. Having had Goldens for 50 years, the Howes wasted little time in connecting with an Ohio breeder and selecting Brodie. They have added a dog door and a small, fenced yard to their unit to make life a bit easier for them and Brodie.

I love dogs more than most folks, but have no idea how I could muster the energy at this stage of life to raise a puppy. So, hats off to these intrepid residents for adding so much energy and, well, youth to our campus!

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

By Joan McBurney - #206

When I was a third-grade teacher at a Christian school, I assigned the class to memorize the "Song of Ruth" from Ruth 1:16 in the King James Version (sung to her mother-in-law). It reads as follows: "Entreat me not to leave thee – for whither thou goest, I will go, and where thou lodgest, I will lodge."

One student recited, "Where thou witherest, I will wither" (which actually sums up that passage). Don and I had it written on our cake for our 40th wedding anniversary.

Now here's a tale about one of my grandchildren. When they were small, my daughter gave me a notebook titled "Funny Stories, Cute Quotes, and Silly Sayings of my Grandchildren." It has been a great source of stories ever since.

When Joel was three, he stayed with me while his mother went shopping. She left instructions not to feed him any snacks, so he would eat a good lunch. But as soon as his mother left, Joel ran to the kitchen and, pointing to the cereal boxes, asked me for some Chex. I said, "No, Mommy doesn't want you to have any snacks," to which he replied, "NO! NO! *Grandma* say, 'That's fine, Joel can have Chex!'" Needless to say, I did give him a few.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Flora Farinelli

April 26, 2021

Ruth Stirling

May 2, 2021

Virginia Blabut

May 15, 2021

WILL THIS BE ON THE EXAM?

By Dennis Lynch - #335

Some of my favorite books are “popular science,” and I read them more comfortably now that I know the only exam I have left is the one where they tell you five words and ask you to recall them ten minutes later. So, without taking notes, I read and enjoyed a new book by Walter Isaacson (*Franklin, da Vinci, Jobs, etc.*), titled: *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race*.

It is a historical and scientific biography of the microbiologist Jennifer Doudna (Chemistry Nobel, 2020); the many scientists who worked with her or competed against her; and the basic research undertaken to understand our cells (our DNA and our RNA); and gene editing. And then it reviews the processes of transferring that research into commercially useable – and profitable – tools.

Isaacson is a skilled professional researcher and writer (and a former editor of *Time*). The book, which is an easy read, is heavily illustrated with delightful photographs of most of the scientists mentioned. The subtext is “Girls can do science!”

Progressing from the Double Helix and DNA, to the more important RNA, to editing – cutting and pasting – genes to make serious alterations in our bodies, Doudna and thousands of others confront vital issues, e.g.: Is it “OK” to make an edit in my genes that will relieve *me* of a serious health problem? How about doing the same thing in my germline genes to relieve *me* and *all my progeny*, and *all their progeny*, of the same problem? What if the issue isn’t producing HIV-resistant babies (which

was done in China in 2018 by He Jiankui) but making more light-skinned, blue-eyed, blond babies; or stronger babies; or smarter babies? Given these possibilities, shouldn’t we be talking about “the future of the human race”?

Homo sapiens is now being propelled forward (?) by gene editing, so you might want to advise your grandchildren to study biology, not computer coding!

Our library has the book.



THE LIBRARY LOWDOWN

By Anne Hunt - #308

Our paperback room is full of great books – come take a look! These books are taken out on the honor system, so no sign-out card is used; however, we do ask that you place a checkmark next to the current year on the sticky note found inside the back cover. This helps us determine whether a book should be kept or given away, if it is not being read.

We have had a request for the *Butler Eagle*. If you are a subscriber, we would appreciate a donation of the newspaper after you’ve read it. It can be left on the newspaper table in the library.

A kind resident has offered to donate the Mayo Clinic Health Letter, a monthly publication containing information on various health-related topics. These newsletters can be found in the magazine rack to the left of the book return box in the main library.

WILDFLOWERS EVERYWHERE!

By Monika Dalrymple - #200

Every year we get to enjoy the splendor of many kinds of flowers emerging and blooming on campus. "We the People" have provided them by breeding them over hundreds of years to bring out the best of Mother Nature. They are fabulous and beautiful! I love gazing at them every year when Spring finally makes an appearance after a long and often gray and harsh winter.



And yet "we the people" sometimes forget where they actually came from!

Oftentimes, we look at them as weeds and thus undesirable. But, despite all our interventions and genetic modifications, they are still here, blooming with modest profusion in nooks and crannies and along the trails at Sherwood Oaks. Yes, they are small and non-intrusive, but they have been here a lot longer than we have and exhibit a beauty all their own.



Perhaps the next time you are walking along the trails, you may choose not to dismiss them as mere "weeds." They are called "wildflowers," and they all have names that we gave them a long time ago.

Some of them are actually native, but most came with us on the ships of our ancestors, mostly by accident. Some of them had medicinal purposes, but most of them are, indeed, just "weeds"!

I deliberately did not add a picture of the garlic mustard, which is most undesirable and invasive, and can be quite destructive when grown in massive numbers, taking space away from some more timid flowers. It actually can, moreover, affect the healthy growth of some trees. But "we the people" brought them with us, too.



And, of course, there are the dandelions! Yep, we brought them as well. And they love us to death! Their leaves are actually eatable when they are young and freshly emerged. My grandmother used to mash them, cook them, and then use them as a poultice against fever and pain. They have a somewhat bitter taste, but also do make a very nice salad.

Since we all know what they look like, I thought adding a picture would be somewhat superfluous.

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

| | | | |
|--|----------------------|---------|------------|
| The Body in the Wake | Page, Katherine Hall | c. 2019 | F PAG |
| The Book of Lost Friends | Wingate, Lisa | c. 2020 | F WIN |
| Double Jeopardy | Woods, Stuart | c. 2021 | F WOO |
| Eternal | Scottoline, Lisa | c. 2021 | F SCO |
| Firekeeper's Daughter | Boulley, Angeline | c. 2021 | F BOU |
| Fresh Water for Flowers | Perrin, Valérie | c. 2020 | F PER |
| Funny Girl | | c. 1989 | F FUN DVD |
| A Green Journey | Hassler, Jon | c. 1985 | F HAS |
| The Last of the Mohicans | | c. 1992 | F LAS DVD |
| The Lost Manuscript | Bonidan, Cathy | c. 2021 | F BON |
| A Matter of Life and Death | Margolin, Phillip | c. 2021 | F MAR L.T. |
| Men in Black II | | c. 2002 | F MEN DVD |
| Moulin Rouge | | c. 2002 | F MOU DVD |
| Murder is a Must | Wingate, Marty | c. 2020 | F WIN |
| Perestroika in Paris | Smiley, Jane | c. 2020 | F SMI |
| Poirot: The Movie Collection | | c. 2010 | F POI DVD |
| Pursuit of Justice | Latt, Mimi Lavenda | c. 1998 | F LAT |
| The Revolving Door of Life: A 44 Scotland Street Novel | Smith, Alexander M. | c. 2016 | F SMI L.T. |
| Rumor Has It | | c. 2006 | F RUM DVD |
| Southern Fried Secrets | Mehl, Nancy | c. 2021 | F MEH |
| To Have and Have Not | | c. 2005 | F TOH DVD |
| We Begin at the End | Whitaker, Chris | c. 2021 | F WHI |
| The Wrong Side of Goodbye | Connelly, Michael | c. 2016 | F CON |

NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES

| | | | |
|---|------------------------|---------|---------------------|
| My Own Words | Ginsburg, Ruth Bader | c. 2018 | BIO GIN |
| Between Two Kingdoms | Jaouad, Suleika | c. 2021 | BIO JAO |
| At Home in the Land of Oz: Autism, My Sister, and Me | Barnhill, Anne Clinard | c. 2007 | 362.1 BAR p.b. |
| Australia's Early Dwellings and Churches | Smolicz, Richard A. | c. 1983 | 728.099 SMO |
| The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race | Isaacson, Walter | c. 2021 | 576.5 ISA |
| English Hours | James, Henry | c. 1989 | 914.204 JAM |
| Grace & Steel | Taraborrelli, J. Randy | c. 2021 | 973.931 TAR |
| The Irish Village | Morrison, Robin | c. 1986 | 941.5 MOR |
| Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder | Louv, Richard | c. 2006 | 155.418 LOU p.b. |
| Separated: Children at the Border | | c. 2018 | 304.873 DVD |
| Six Frigates: The Epic History of the Founding of the U.S. Navy | Toll, Ian W. | c. 2006 | 359 TOL |
| Square One: A Simple Guide to a Balanced Life | Maroon, Joseph C. | c. 2017 | 170.44 MAR |

I WAS FINGERED BY BIG JULIE

By Ellen Brierly - #734

If you read Julie Eden's article in the April *Acorn* regarding her endeavor to finish her life story, you also read her opening line:

"It's really all Ellen's fault."

[By the way, Julie isn't big. It just made a more interesting title for the story.]

I am the Ellen to whom she referred. Julie is one of 80 residents who have taken the "How to Write Your Life Story" class since it began in 2014.

You may not believe that you are equipped to write about your life, but, if you ever wrote a letter, you are able to write this story. I encourage you to write in your own voice, just as if you were talking to someone. This is not as much a writing class as it is a time of recalling stories from your past. Have you ever wished that you could ask some of your departed family members questions about their lives? We all have stories we need to share with our loved ones.

Now I hear you objecting on the ground that you don't think you have anything of interest to tell. I wonder if your great-grandmother thought *her* life was exciting – yet you would be fascinated by her story. The world has changed so rapidly that each generation finds the past to be very different from its own experience. Indeed, when my 5-year-old great-granddaughter heard that I did not have television when I was little, she crossed her arms over her chest and announced that that was impossible.

We start at the beginning and go step by step until the present day, using a

book by Frank Thomas by the same title as the class. It is no longer in print, but remains available on Amazon, on E-Bay, and from fellow residents. The book is not a requirement – only a tool, if you want to use it.

I have had people tell me that they have no memories. Ha! You have memories that you don't even know you have. In class, as others share their stories, you may be reminded of a long-ago moment in your own life. We also have what we call "memory bites" to stir those thoughts from the deep. At our age, we have known joy, sadness, laughter, tears, losses, and gains, all of which have made us who we are today. You do not have to reveal every detail of every story. This is *your* book, and you are in charge. No one will critique your work.

One more excuse looms into your head. You simply do not have time to do this. Your plate is already full. Well, this course requires two hours a week in class and one assignment outside of class. That can take an hour, or less, or more, depending on you. Some people need more words to tell a story. Others say it in just a few.

The truth is that time is an element. We are running out of time to write our story. We won't be here forever, and when we are gone, our stories are gone, too.

The next set of classes will start on **Wednesday, Sept. 1, at 1:00 p.m.** The location will be announced.

If you are interested, please call me at 724-591-5659. The class is limited to 12 members. Come, recapture your memories, and enjoy the fun!

THE GARDEN POST

By Jim Mauch - #263

If you walk up the path toward parking lot F, you will see a beautiful garden post on the way. It was created by Ann Ferguson in the woodshop, out of pieces of scrap pine. Ann got the idea from [Pinterest](#), an interesting design source with its own website.

The garden post was Ann's winter project. After carefully building the post and its supports, she and others painted it in all the beautiful colors we see now. The basic design was Ann's, but others helped. Jan Pociernicki assisted with artistic design elements, Barbara Dixon painted the cat, and Flora Farinelli painted the butterflies.

Ann had the idea of a birdhouse to top off the garden post, and she made and painted a lovely one. Some of us might have wondered if a bird would ever choose this house, for it was exposed and not high off the ground. Also, the entrance was a bit too large to keep out predators. But not being birds, we got it wrong. As my wife and I walked the path recently, we saw a beautiful bird, sitting on the house and singing for a partner to help it form a home out of a box, and we took this photo:



THE HEALTH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Wally Christy - #237

The Health Affairs Committee meets on the third Friday of every other month, with a break for the summer (June through Aug.). At our meeting on May 21, we heard an update from UPMC about what is next for Sherwood Oaks in terms of the end of “pandemic precautions” and the nature of longer-term prevention strategies. Stay tuned!

We also heard how folks are doing under current circumstances and welcomed a new committee member from amongst our recent arrivals.

RESIDENTS' ART WALL

By Joni Pun - #304

Have you seen the new residents' art wall in the Scooter Room – the wall closest to the mailroom? I think we came up with a nice assortment of art/craftworks. There are cross-stitch, photographs, scroll saw work, and, of course, paintings – watercolor, oil, acrylic, and batik, all done by our talented residents. We are looking for more, as we know of quite a few people who do interesting things. If you want to exhibit a work – anything that you have done and that can be hung – call Joni Pun (#8304) or Ann Ferguson (#8269). Works must be presented ready to hang, with a wire behind the work that will fit into the mounts that are already present.

KEY TO RESIDENTS' EXTENDED FAMILY PHOTOS ON P. 9

1. Jno/Anne Hunt
2. Julie Eden
3. Deane/Jane Lavender
4. Harriet/John Burress & families
5. Janie Naylor
6. Ruth/John Becker

WORTH A LOOK: BOOKS NEW TO OUR LIBRARY

By Barbara Christy - #237

The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing and the Future of the Human Race by Walter Isaacson. Non-fiction. This fascinating biography is reviewed by Dennis Lynch on p. 12 of this issue. 576.5 ISA

Grace and Steel by J. Randy Taraborrelli. Non-fiction. It is not just Dorothy, Barbara, and Laura Bush who are the heroines of the Bush family saga. The untold stories of Barbara Bush's other daughters-in-law, Columba, Sharon Murray, and Margaret are included, as well as the childhoods and early careers of Barbara and Jenna. Richly detailed and wonderfully frank, this is the epic story of the women in a storied family. 973.931 TAR

Pandemic 1918 by Catherine Arnold. Non-fiction. Our pandemic has been bad, but the one in 1918 was worse. Because the Allied countries hid the devastating news for fear of damaging wartime morale, the true scope of the disaster was unknown for many years. One century after the Spanish flu entered the history books, this well-researched volume uses archives, personal diaries and memoirs, unpublished records, and government documents to bring forth the global scale and human stories. Presciently, the author also looks to the future and what we still need to learn to manage outbreaks of this magnitude. 614.5 ARN

The Boys in the Cave by Matt Gutman. Three years ago this month, 12 boys and their soccer coach went caving in northern Thailand – and then went missing. Ten days later, they were located by a pair of British cave divers. Thus begins the unprecedented saga of personal courage, skill, and daring, plus international cooperation, ingenuity, and audacity that effected the rescue of all 12 boys and their coach. A tale for the ages. 796.525 GUT

The Revolving Door of Life by Alexander McCall Smith. Fiction. **Large Type.** This 44 Scotland Street novel finds 7-year-old Bertie being minded by his spirited grandmother, while his mother is off running a book club in a Bedouin harem. Meanwhile, Matthew's newly found windfall also creates problems, and the Duke of Johannesburg is cornered by an aggressive guest, while Angus Lordie and Domenica Macdonald settle into the routines of married life. F SMI L.T.

A Time of Love and Tartan by Alexander McCall Smith. Fiction. **Large Type.** The newest 44 Scotland Street novel features the adventures of Bertie and his two seven-year-old friends, while continuing the stories of art gallery owner Matt, newlyweds Angus and Domenica, and foster mother Big Lou. F SMI L.T.

The Body in the Wake by Katherine Page. Fiction. For once, Faith Fairchild is free to start projects of her own, because her husband is working on the other side of the island and both college-age children have summer jobs elsewhere. And then a body appears in Lily Pond. F PAG

Perestroika in Paris by Jane Smiley. Fiction. One runaway racehorse, a street-wise bird dog, and a class-conscious raven, loose on the streets of Paris, meet a lonely eight-year-old boy. What could go wrong? This is a novel for a reader looking for a light-hearted, warm-hearted story. F SMI

Cardiff by the Sea by Joyce Carol Oates. Fiction. This is a collection of four previously unpublished novellas, all about women facing threats from their past or present. A present-day inheritance leads to discovery of a terrifying past trauma; a distraught college sophomore is "befriended" by a visiting college professor; a young second wife is haunted by her husband's first wife; and, finally, a feral cat becomes the protector of a lonely and bullied seventh-grade girl. These suspenseful stories may keep you up at night. FOAT

Hamnet: A Novel of the Plague by Maggie O'Farrell. Fiction. In sixteenth-century England, the Black Death is an ever-present threat in the background of everyday life. A young Latin scholar is required by his abusive father to tutor the sons of a man to whom he is indebted. There he meets a bewitching and eccentric young woman healer. This is the story of their joyous marriage, his climb to success as a London playwright, and their desperate grief when the plague reaches them. F O'F

The Woman with the Blue Star by Pam Jenoff. Fiction. Krakow, 1942: The Nazis are in power, and Sadie Gault, with her mother, is living in the Jewish ghetto. When it is about to be liquidated, they escape to the sewers. An affluent Polish girl, missing her fiancé, wanders the streets and, by chance, sees Sadie through a grate in the sidewalk. Moved to help her, Ella also becomes her friend. As the German regime tightens its grip on the Jews, their friendship and their lives are endangered. F JEN

The Russian by James Patterson and James O. Born. Fiction. Michael Bennett and his new partner are assigned to a string of horrific murders, each involving a young woman. On the way to solving them, they uncover multiple cold cases around the US that fit the pattern. Meanwhile, Michael strives to keep the case from impacting his upcoming wedding to his long-time love. F PAT

Moonflower Murders by Anthony Horowitz. Fiction. Susan Ryland, last seen in *Magpie Murders* by the same author, has retired from a career in publishing to an island off the coast of Crete. There she is co-owner, with her longtime friend Andreas, of a beach-front hotel. The weather is lovely, the food is gourmet simple, and the sunsets are incredible, but the plumbing is bad, the wiring dodgy, and the Wi-Fi intermittent. Just as she is beginning to miss London and think that this move was a mistake, the Trehernes arrive. They seek out Susan be-

cause she has been following a murder following a murder case at Branlow Hall on the Suffolk coast. They believe the wrong man was convicted and the culprit remains free. Their daughter is now missing, and they fear she has become a victim of the killer-at-large. F HOR

A Gambling Man by David Baldacci. Fiction. As the decade of the '50s dawns, Aloysius Archer is recovering from a stint in WWII and another stint in prison. Taking a bus to California to seek his fortune – or at least a good job with an established private investigator there – he stops off in Reno and acquires a wad of cash and a female companion who also wants to break into the movies in Hollywood. But what he finds in Bay City is more crime and corruption than fame and fortune. F BAL

ADDENDUM

The Sherwood Oaks Library regretfully announces that the *New York Times* has notified us that, effective 5/24/21, print delivery will be available only on Sundays. We are investigating digital subscription options. Please leave a note in the Library cubby in the mailroom if you know how to use a digital subscription and would read the *NYT* if a computer were available in the library for that purpose.

Indoor cat viewing outdoor rabbit



Photo by Rosemary Coffey

FROM THE CONTINUED LEARNING COMMITTEE

For the summer months, the Continued Learning Committee has lined up a variety of programs that will be shown on Channel 901 each Tuesday in June, July, and August at 10:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. Here's the list:

- June 1 Two TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) talks about the beauty and power of poetry
- June 8 Rick Steves' Guide to Travel Planning
- June 15 Pumped Dry – US is using up aquifers at an unsustainable rate
- June 22 A quick, enjoyable walk through Italy's Amalfi Coast
- July 6 Two TED talks exploring the history and appeal of classical music
- July 13 The Science Behind Traditional Chinese Medicine
- July 20 Troubled Waters – the effects of commercial fishing on our oceans
- July 27 Rick Steves' Provence: Legendary Light, Wind, and Wine
- August 3 Two additional TED talks on poetry
- August 10 The Power of Herbs – Ayurvedic Medicine
- August 17 Saving Amazonia – what's happening to 'the lungs of the planet'
- August 24 Rick Steves' Rome: Eternally Engaging

The committee is hopeful that live, in-house presentations will be possible starting in October. To that end, we have asked Dr. Bill Markus to visit Sherwood Oaks on Oct. 5 and 12, for his always stimulating talks, and Mary Persin, vice-president of artistic planning for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, to make a presentation on Nov. 2.

Here's to a summer filled with interesting and stimulating programs!



OUTDOOR GAMES

By Joni Pun - #304

Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will have already started the outdoor games. Check your 900 channel or the bulletin board in the mailroom for days and hours for the games.

Anyone can get a group together to play at the Summer House or in the courts in front of the Oak Lodge. We expect to have a tournament again for the games, but that will be in September/October as it was last year.



NOTE TO JIGSAW PUZZLERS

By Joan McBurney - #206

We are missing many pieces of our 300-piece puzzles! If you have completed such a puzzle, please circle the missing area or areas on the cover when you return it to the Center. That way, the next puzzler will not search for the lost pieces needlessly.

Also, if you have any puzzles to contribute to our puzzle library, they would be much appreciated. *Thank you* to whoever left us about 10 1000-piece puzzles by the puzzle table. They were a wonderful addition to our library.

Backyard Sightings at Sherwood Oaks



Photo by the Burreesses' daughter

White squirrel exploring near #111



Photo by Shirley Peduslo

Turkeys eating near #126



Photo by Rosemary Coffey

Duck couple visiting behind #113



Photo by Terry Timblin

Fawn checking out Parking Area B