

THE ACORN

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

December 2021 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. 22, No. 10

The Eggnog Party Tradition through the years...



Photos courtesy of Jesse Komara

Gentle Readers:

As we look forward to the end-of-year holidays – Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, New Year’s Eve – we may long for the years pre-pandemic, when we could visit with family and friends and entertain them here at Sherwood Oaks. We are also aware that things are likely to get worse. The onset of winter means more time indoors, which, in turn, means less social distancing and more feasting; that, in turn, means not always being masked for the protection of others as well as ourselves.

But we also recognize that we’re better off now than at the same time last year. We’ve been vaccinated, and boosted, and encouraged to look to a happier future. Thus we embrace a spirit of hope, while we celebrate with our friends here at Sherwood Oaks. Be of good heart, as we say goodbye to 2021 and welcome the onset of 2022.

– The Editors



A SERVICE OF LIGHT

By Jan Wendt - #158

A Service of Light will be held on Tuesday, December 21, beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the Auditorium. This is a traditional service, usually held on the shortest day of the year. It is Christian-based, but can be of help to all of us facing the holidays with heavy hearts for a variety of reasons.

The service, which will be led by members of the Living with Loss Team, includes music, candle-lighting, and holy readings. A small symbol of light will be given to all who attend.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

World AIDS Day	Dec. 1
Pearl Harbor Remembrance	Dec. 7
Human Rights Day	Dec. 10
Bill of Rights Day	Dec. 15
Winter Solstice	Dec. 21
Christmas Day	Dec. 25
Boxing Day	Dec. 26
Kwanzaa (start)	Dec. 26

THE ACORN

Editor

Rosemary Coffey
rosemarycoffey@aol.com

Staff

Ruth Becker, Special Projects
Rabe Marsh, Photographer
Jan Wendt, Profile Coordinator

Production Editor

Tabby Alford

Ex Officio

Annette McPeck

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

December 15, 2021.

IN MEMORIAM

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

*George Mallory
October 27, 2021*

*Jean Gibson
October 31, 2021*

*Raymond Friedel
October 31, 2021*

*Geraldine Noble
November 16, 2021*

BARBARA (BABBIE) HOLDING - #357

By Connie Brandenberger - #602



Photo by Mike Mills

“Babbie” is the name preferred by our new resident. As we might guess, she received this moniker from her two-and-a-half-year-old sister, Connie, who mixed Barbara and Baby and came up with Babbie. Indeed, her name reflects her “bubbly” personality. Babbie is happy to be here and is enthusiastic about everything in her new surroundings. She is very familiar with Sherwood Oaks, since her in-laws, Janet and Jim Holding, and an aunt, Laura Ann Holding, were former residents here for many years. She was impressed with the care shown by the staff. Babbie always enjoyed eating with her relatives in our dining room, especially our famous Sunday Brunch.

Babbie and her husband Jim, who passed away eleven years ago, were high school sweethearts. She attended Peabody High School, while he went to Shadyside Academy before attending and graduating from Yale, as they began their family. This was a very memorable time in their lives, as they enjoyed living in a big old mansion with other couples, all of whom had their own apartments. This home was next door to that of the President of Yale.

They met some of their dearest lifelong friends at that time. Indeed, a few years before they occupied the apartment, the previous inhabitants were George and Barbara Bush. Mrs. Bush left behind a mirror that is now in Babbie’s bedroom. She was excited to say that she and Barbara have glanced into the same mirror.

Her husband began his career with Bell Telephone in Pittsburgh, followed by eleven years in Warren, PA. After that, they were happy to return to their hometown of Pittsburgh and resided in McCandless Township for 48 years. She has a daughter living nearby in Sewickley, a second daughter in Ohio, and a son in Warren, PA. Their son also graduated from Yale. She smiles broadly when she mentions eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Babbie was active with her girls, being a leader in the Girl Scouts and Brownies.

Being outdoors has always been a joy for Babbie and her family. Traveling in their RV and sharing campsites with friends were a big part of their family life. Since she always enjoyed playing games, she now teaches and challenges her grandchildren to beat Grandma.

Babbie is familiar with a few of our current residents, one being Joe Schewe, with whom she attended school from kindergarten through high school. Babbie is very happy to be a part of the Sherwood Oaks community and is full of enthusiasm for life. In her words, “I am in a Happy World.”

Two hats were hanging in the hallway. One said to the other, "You stay here, I'll go on a head."

MARGARETA FONG - #264

By Jean Henderson - #611



Photo by Jean Henderson

“Love Makes the World Go Round” is a song known to many of us. But a reversal of that title would better reflect the life’s journey of Margareta Fong ... indeed, her world has love all around!

Love began in Sweden, where she was born and grew up, the youngest of nine siblings. And love followed in Princeton, NJ, when she came to the States to be an au pair with a family of six children whom she adored and with whom she has kept in touch over the years.

Love continued in Princeton where, during her first week, she met her husband to be, a refugee from China who came from Hong Kong to study at Princeton and then worked as a professor of physical chemistry at Purdue for his whole career. He passed away four years ago of an inoperable cancer.

Their love brought two sons into the world – one now in NYC, who heads a medical mutual fund that develops heart valves, and one living in Seattle, an attorney. In addition, there is a daughter who lives in Shadyside and is a lecturer at Pitt in economics, while her husband is a professor at CMU. Six grand-

daughters complete the family – two to each child.

Her love for children led to a long-term volunteer position as a CASA – a court-appointed special advocate. Moreover, her love for animals led her to her cherished vocation as office manager with a non-profit in Battle Ground, IN, called Wolf Park – founded by a psych professor at Purdue who studied the psychology of wolf packs, their interaction between ranks, and the communication among the pack members. From her office, she could observe the actions of a pack of wolves. What a unique occupation!

Margareta also loves “anything nature.” A strong advocate of many ecological organizations, she joined a group in Indiana that worked to eradicate invasive weeds to save the forest floor. She looks forward to enjoying nature here at Sherwood.

Traveling has also been a love for Margareta. She still has family in Sweden and has always tried to get back as often as she can. She and her husband traveled all over Europe and also enjoyed return trips to Hong Kong to visit with his family.

Now, she **loves** her new patio home, made beautiful by her husband’s paintings and a bright sunroom.

In sum, love has made Margareta’s world go round! Do take time to chat with her about her unique journey.

I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.

A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said, "Keep off the Grass."

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 **Nov. 2, 2021**, board meeting:

TREASURERS: Memorial/Special Projects Fund balance is \$117,501.15. Employee Appreciation Fund balance is \$108,100.88; 44% of residents have contributed to-date. The SORA bank balance is \$73,592.60.

LIAISON REPORTS:

Continued Learning. Watch Channels 900/901 for upcoming weekly programs.

Bells. A holiday bell concert will be shown on Channels 900/901.

Living with Loss. Longest Night Service will be held December 21 for those dealing with grief. A grief support group is planned for Spring.

Trips and Tours. Check the mail room bulletin board for upcoming events.

Programs. Live evening performances will be held Jan. 27 – JAZZplay, and Feb. 24 – Anna Singer.

Drama. The play in rehearsal will be rescheduled when feasible.

New Year's Eve. The party will be held in the auditorium; BYOB.

Focus on the World. Educational programming continues.

ADMINISTRATION: Annette McPeck reported the Butler County positivity rate: 12.9% as of Nov 9. Census: IL 204; PC 35/42; SNU 36/43; and OGC 26/30. Four homes are under contract. **Masks should be worn, and handwashing practiced, even after vaccination.** 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 room, or chapel services. Resident satisfaction surveys will be reviewed in January. Vaccine booster clinic will be Nov. 11. The SO Resident Holiday Party is Dec. 16.

OLD BUSINESS: Gary Brandenberger is the new chairperson of Maintenance Committee. Dan Cindric is the new chairperson of Civic Affairs Committee. A chairperson is needed for Housekeeping Committee. A committee is being organized to plan our 40th anniversary.

NEW BUSINESS: The Eggnog party for residents is Dec. 3; the employee party is Dec. 9.

VISITORS: Six were present.

The next SORA Board meeting will be on Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021. The next quarterly residents' meeting will be on Dec. 14, 2021.

THE SHERWOOD OAKS PLAYERS RETURN!

By Lorraine Commeret – #131

We were all so sad that we had to cancel our Dinner Theatre production of *Check Please*, which was supposed to have been presented with the cooperation of Dining Services. But I am glad to announce that we have recuperated and revived and will have a dinner performance on **Friday, January 14, 2022!** When Jesse sends out the invitations, please respond quickly. Seating is limited, and priority will be given to those who signed up before.

It's our first revival! And it is also our first time offering a second performance! We will have a matinee the following day, **Saturday, January 15**, at 1:30 in the afternoon. No food will be available, but the laughs will all be there. While there is no charge, seating is again limited, so please watch for instructions in the January *Acorn* on picking up tickets. In the meantime, do think about joining the Drama Club: call me at 8131 for information.

SENIOR CITIZENS VOTE

By Dan Cindric - #107

As a former Election Judge in Allegheny County, with a senior citizens high-rise in our precinct, I was happy and sometimes amazed at the effort people took to come to the polls. Although this was prior to mail-in ballots, many could have voted using an absentee ballot, since they had walkers or wheelchairs and would have proper reason to vote absentee. But no, they insisted on showing up in person to cast their vote and perform what they believed to be their duty as American citizens.

After moving to Sherwood Oaks last year and being concerned with the number of poll workers who had second thoughts about continuing in their positions, due to what many people saw as the difficult divisions in our country, I volunteered to be a judge at the Butler County Election Bureau. I was immediately appointed as the Election Judge for the precinct that included Sherwood Oaks. I had expected most residents here to vote using the new mail-in ballots and did so myself. Then on Election Day, to my surprise, resident after resident from Sherwood Oaks appeared at our precinct to vote in person. No matter whether they were registered with a party or were independents, they kept coming to vote in an "off-year" election that includes elected positions not usually considered high-profile. With the assistance of six other volunteers, including our own Barbara and Wallace Christy, we processed everyone, rarely seeing more than 2 or 3 people waiting in line to vote.

Next spring's primary will be much more high-profile, with races for Governor, U.S. Senate, and the new U.S. House districts, which are still being determined.

I hope I will see you again, and perhaps many more of you, at the polls at that time. Clearly, Sherwood Oaks residents are very civic-minded.



OUR LOBBY

By Harriet Burress

When John and I left Monday Night Bridge on October 25, the lobby was still lit but very quiet. However, it spoke of activity – not only there but throughout Sherwood Oaks.

The curios and the table in between were filled with mostly orange objects of the season, brought in by residents to celebrate Halloween. Across from that area was the committee table, and on it that night was a display of beautiful wooden objects made by different residents in the woodshop. Filigree signs, a tissue box, several wooden puzzles, etc., were all expertly finished.

Outside the Sherwood Gift Shop is a table of puzzles that has been there throughout this last year. The puzzles, ranging from 300 pieces to 1000, are for exchange: bring one in; take one out.

Another table outside the café was filled with decorated pumpkins ready for judging by the residents' votes. Among them were Snow White and the seven dwarfs – yes, 8 pumpkins in one display.

A lovely flower arrangement from Sunday's chapel service sat on a table in one of the seating areas.

All of this spoke of our residents – most of them at home that night ready for bed – but out and about, active and involved as ever, during each day.

By the time this is published in the ACORN, a Christmas tree filled with some of the hundreds of baby caps knitted by many of us will be in a corner.

The fireplace, which is THE destination for meeting, greeting, and much conversation, will have been lit, and the curio cabinets will be filled with items brought from homes depicting Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, and Christmas.

OUR LOBBY is surely a testimony to the active lives of the residents who have assembled here from far and wide. What a blessing it is to live at Sherwood Oaks!

MADNESS: A BOOK REVIEW

By Dennis Lynch - #335

Madness. Unruly crowds. Extraordinary delusions. Fear. Death. Love. Cold. Alternative news. Hubris. Tipping points. Torture. Patience. Impatience. Fame. Friendship. Love. Death. Hot chocolate. Hemlock.

Those are the highlights of the new Three Pines, Armand Gamache of the Sûreté du Québec, novel by Louise Penny:

The Madness of Crowds,

the seventeenth story in this popular series. I know several of you are already fans of Penny's and will rush to get it from our library (we have two copies) or Cranberry's library. (By the time you read this, I will have returned the copy I have. Our library appears to have all of the series, if you prefer to start at the beginning with *Still Life*.)

Some of you will get this book because you love the characters, the setting, the plotting, and the writing. I hope others will

come to this book to experience a writer at the peak of her craft. From the first chapter, you will feel safe – albeit a bit apprehensive – knowing you are in the hands of a woman who thinks clearly, feels strongly, and knows where she wants to take you and how to get you there: on the page, in the world of the story, and in your mind.

There are no direct references to the times we are living through. You will make those connections yourself ... perhaps with some discomfort.

Crowd control. Death. Love. Torture. Moral questions. Uncertainty. And a pet duck who quacks swearwords.

What's not to like?

Addendum: Louise Penny concludes the book with three pages of the usual acknowledgments – to friends, librarians, agents, editors, publishers, family. Then her last sentence is:

"All this is to say, if you don't like this book, it's their fault."

CHRISTMAS DISPLAY

By Monika Dalrymple - #200

As in years past, I will install my nutcracker display again this year. It will be up and running on the evening of December 1, which means that it will be ready for all to enjoy by December 2. Do stop by to see it on the first floor of the apartment building, as in years past.

A backward poet writes inverse.

If you jumped off the bridge in Paris you'd be in Seine.

WORTH A LOOK
Books New to Our Library

Compiled by Barbara Christy - #237

The Wish by Nicholas Spark. Fiction. By 2019, Maggie Dawes is a world-renowned travel photographer, splitting her time between New York and photographic locations around the world. But, over Christmas, she is suddenly restricted to home by a troubling medical diagnosis. With time to reflect, and forced into a new dependent role with her aunt, she spends more time with a new, young employee in her photo gallery. As their relationship deepens, she begins to share her story: exiled at age 16 to Ocracoke, VA, on Virginia's Outer Banks, falling in love with photography and a West Point cadet, and remembering a special Christmas from years ago. F SPA

Florence Adler Swims Forever by Rachel Beanland. Fiction. Set in Atlantic City in 1934. The Adlers, a long-time married couple, decide to rent out their house for the summer, moving into an apartment above the bakery where they lived when they were first married. But soon the apartment is overflowing, as one daughter, Florence, comes home to train for a scheduled English Channel swim, and their granddaughter moves in with them while her mother is on enforced bed rest to save a pregnancy. Added to the mix is Anna, recently escaped from Nazi Germany. When Florence dies in a training accident, Mrs. Adler decides to keep her death a secret from Fannie, suffering her own problems with prolonged isolation in bed. Based on a true story, the web of secrets and lies brings long-held tensions to the fore, but eventually the human spirit triumphs. F BEA

Foul Play by Stuart Woods. Fiction. Stone Barrington is back. Walking home in New York City, he encounters a new client – in trouble. And Stone is not inclined to ignore trouble for his clients or his city. Using his knowledge of the city and its power players, he soon uncovers a complicated plot whose author is unknown. As he ping pongs from elegant New York apartments to glamorous Connecticut villages, Stone and his former partner, Dino Bacchetti, are forced to use all their skills and experience to defeat this new threat. F WOO

Fight Night by Miriam Toews. Fiction. "... learn to fight," Swiv is told by her Grandma, Elvira, because she has been fighting all her life and still is. First, she fought for her independence from her strict religious community. She has also fought those who wanted to take away her joy, her independence, and her spirit. And now, even as her health fails, Grandma is fighting for her granddaughter and for her family. Cramped together with Swiv's mother in their Toronto home, grandmother and granddaughter decide to explain their lives in letters they will never send. Written from the perspective of both Swiv and her grandmother, *Fight Night* is a touching tribute to mothers, grandmothers, and all the women who are still fighting for the right to live on their own terms. F TOE

I Couldn't Love You More by Esther Freud. Fiction. Another book about three generations of women. This time it is London, in the 1940s, 1960s, and 1990s. Aoife Kelly is a barkeep, with her brusque husband, Cash. After a spell in wartime London they return to Ireland with their daughters in tow. A decade later, passion-

ate and independent, daughter Rosalee moves back to London, where she meets and begins an affair with a famous artist, a German-Jewish refugee, aged over twice her tender eighteen years. When Rosalee, abandoned and newly pregnant with his child, is evicted from her flat and dismissed from her job, she is desperate to hide the secret from her family. After seeking advice from a local priest, she returns to Ireland. Jumping to the 1990s, Kate, of the third generation, is living in London with her young daughter and husband, an unsuccessful musician and destructive alcoholic. As an adoptee, Kate is floundering to find a sense of herself in the midst of her unhappy marriage. She sets out to track down her birth mother, a search that leads her to a Magdalene laundry in Ireland and the harrowing history that it holds. The loving but problematic ties of family are brought forward in this novel with tenderness and candor, while spinning a gripping, nostalgic tale. F FRE

Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty by Anderson Cooper. Non-fiction. Spanning more than two and a quarter centuries, this is an insider's account of the powerful and famous Vanderbilt family. Anderson Cooper has selected the most interesting and consequential family members to chronicle the accumulation and dispensation of the largest privately owned fortune in history, while simultaneously recording the social setting that made it possible. 929 COO

Shade: A Tale of Two Presidents by Pete Souza. Non-fiction. As the official Presidential photographer for both the Trump and the Obama administrations, Pete Souza was in a unique position to

observe as well as record the daily life of the President. As such, in this book, he reflects on differences in style and substance of two Presidencies as they unfolded from Inauguration Day, 2008, through the release of the Mueller Report. Formatted to highlight the contrasts while subtly commenting on them ("throwing shade," in popular parlance), *Shade* is a quick but impactful tour of two Presidencies. 353.23 SOU p.b.

Lost Civilizations: A History of Vanished Empires and Forgotten Cultures by Bill Price. Non-fiction. Ancient and sometimes forgotten civilizations are explored and described from the often fragmentary evidence available. From what may be the oldest civilization, the Natufian in the Eastern Mediterranean, through the lost colony of Roanoke, Virginia, Price questions what it means to be a civilization, as he challenges the assumption that cultures have progressed in orderly fashion from hunter-gatherers to farmers and trader-producers. This thought-provoking volume will make you question what it means to be a "primitive" society and whether our own civilization will endure. 909 PRI

Einstein's Relativity and the Quantum Revolution: Modern Physics for Non-Scientists (2nd ed.) by Richard Wolfson. Non-fiction. For the science geeks among us, this offering from The Great Courses is a 4-DVD set, accompanied by a course guidebook. Designed to make the "basic ideas behind relativity and quantum physics simple and comprehensible to anyone," the 24 lectures in this series are aimed at interested people who have no background in the subject. 530 WOL

CHAPEL NOTES

By Gary Brandenberger - #602
For the Chapel Committee

Services begin at 2:00 p.m. in the
Auditorium

Everyone is welcome.

Bring a friend.

Sunday, December 5

Rev. Ben Robbins
Northmont Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 12

Rev. Tom Parkinson
Dutilh Methodist Church

Sunday, December 19

Rev. William Dambach
North Hills Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 26

In-house service of prayer and
carols

*When it comes to life, the critical thing is
whether you take things for granted or
take them with gratitude.*

– G. K. Chesterton

THE LIBRARY LOWDOWN

Submitted by Jean Henderson - #611

Did you know that the Sherwood Oaks library has an online catalog? It can be accessed from home or from the computer in the library. Using the tools in the catalog, you can search for books by author, title, and even subject matter. To search the catalog from the computer in the library, do the following:

1. From the main computer screen, click on the blue diamond-shaped icon titled "Online Catalog." When the red and white screen comes up, click on the box in the upper left-hand corner

that says "search." You will then have the option of typing in a book title, an author's name, or a subject of interest.

2. If you are unsure of a book's title, type in your best guess. The search engine will list the closest matches to the title you have selected.
3. If you type in an author's name, all books in our library written by that author will be listed.
4. If you type in a subject, all books in our library with that subject in the title will be listed.

To access the catalog from home, type <sherwoodoaksrc.booksys.net> in your search engine. Click on "Display." When the red and white screen comes up, follow the directions above.

For an even easier way to access the catalog from home, bring up the Touchtown app on your device and click on the "Library" link. At the bottom of the page, click on the link in blue. This will bring you to the red and white online catalog screen.

Having trouble using this catalog? Call Anne Hunt (8308) or Barb Christy (8237).

Meanwhile, stop by the paperback room to look over the holiday books on the cart! Please put borrowed books back on the cart when you return them.

TO MY LOVE

By James Mauch - #263

To my love, my one and only,
Still, after all these years,
My love and treasure,
My past and future,
Through health and sickness,
Through life and death,
My love, my one and only.

BELLS ... 30 YEARS OF BELLS!

By Rosemary Frelke - #348

With the Christmas program this December, the Handbell Choir is celebrating its 30th year at Sherwood Oaks. Because of COVID-19, the program will again be taped by Jason Lyle, who will, for the third time in a year and a half, work his magic for your enjoyment. The Bells feel so fortunate to be able to continue to play for residents, thanks to Jason.

The first performance of the Bells was the Christmas program of December 1991. The ringers were just beginning to play, with no director and not much time to practice, so one person counted out loud the beats for the participants as they played "Silent Night." Several people had worked very hard to get the bells for Sherwood Oaks, even though some residents made it clear that they would cost too much, or probably wouldn't be used, or residents were too old or not physically strong enough to handle them. Other residents wanted very much to have them. Ralph Peabody (resident from July 1991 to May 2016) was a member of the group that prevailed; he wrote a history of the bells titled "1991 – SORA said No," a copy of which may be found in the Sherwood Oaks Archives. The Dec. 2016 issue of *The ACORN* was devoted to the Bells on their 25th anniversary.

We still have two residents with us who rang with the early bell ringers, namely, Agnes Peebles and Olive Tiller. They had fun playing and enjoyed learning to ring in a socially acceptable manner that ended up sounding musical. Sometimes they went on the road, playing in the foyer of Passavant Hospital and Oldenski Hall at St. Ferdinand's Church. Agnes felt that "Bell ringing is a community experience. Every

ringer is essential." SO has been fortunate to be graced with these two ladies.

Ralph directed the group for ten years, before passing the baton to Lyn Marsh, who is still our director, teacher, encourager, corrector of wrong notes, and the essence of patience. She also directed the Chorus before the pandemic and prepared both groups for their Christmas and Spring programs. Since September of this year, the Bells have been able to resume their usual practice schedule preparing for the Christmas program. Lyn has chosen music that the Bells think you will like, and Jean Henderson will introduce each song before it is played. Once the times of the program have been displayed, please watch, listen, and enjoy.

RESIDENTS' ART GALLERY

By Joni Pun - #304

The current arts and crafts display by Sherwood Oak residents will run until the first Monday of February. As I will not be here for most of December and all of January, I am making a plea now for folks who would like to exhibit something that they have made. We have had paintings and sketches in all media, plus craft works such as woodworking, needlework of various kinds, basketry, etc., but I know that there are many more people out there who make things and we would love to see them. You are limited only in that the work has to be ready to hang by some method. How about it? Let's see what you do! If I have not contacted you by now, you can call me (8304) until December 13. After that, please call Ann Ferguson (8269) for information. See you in February!

IN THE PRESENCE OF HUMILITY

By Lee Wierman - #110

When I took the class on "Writing Your Life Story" from Ellen Brierly, she listed topics about which to write. One topic was people with whom we had had unexpected conversations. My list included: Sonia Henie (I was 10), Dick Clark (our children were riding on a Kiddy-Land train,) Lynn Redgrave (after seeing her act in *St. Joan*), the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey (we were worshiping in a NYC Episcopal Church), and Sandra Day O'Connor (we sat together to watch grandchildren in a Chautauqua school amphitheater production).

My choice of topic derived from these experiences has narrowed to meeting the Dalai Lama. In 1998, a friend from India asked us to join her, and a small group of others, for a month-long trip to India. The opportunity to visit Dharamsala, the compound given to the Dalai Lama when he escaped the Chinese in 1959, was part of the plan. This well-known, dramatic story had captured my imagination years before. The 23-year-old youth, dressed as a soldier and fearing for his life, escaped with his mother, sister, younger brother, and some officials. The entourage had a grueling two-week trip from Tibet to India, where they received permission to establish a government-in-exile. We wanted to meet this man, who had won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989.

February 23 began with a visit to the Sikh Golden Temple in Amritsar and another historic site, before we were on our way to the mountains and Dharamsala. Traveling through miles of shops, crowds, animals, bicycles, honking trucks, schools, and, rarely, a

small hospital, we felt the road gradually begin to rise. We passed terraced rice farms with snow-capped Himalayas in the distance. The light faded and darkness came, but not before we could see that the road was steep, one-lane, with no guardrail. Rain began; the temperature dropped. After many hours, the bus coughed, sputtered, then stopped. There were no lights of any kind, as the bus driver tried several times to drift the bus backward and restart the motor. There were female shrieks and male grumblings until the driver stopped. We sat for over an hour, until a young man on a Vespa stopped, spoke with the driver, and headed off to get gasoline for us.

After his return, we continued grinding our way uphill to a hotel, arriving at 10 p.m. It was 55°F in our rooms, the only warmth coming from a small electric heater. A quick supper was followed by an even quicker change for bed. My diary notes include: "one hanger, no washcloths, small hard pillows, and COLD." Also noted: for many, this room would be luxury. We did not sleep; when the electricity went off, we were up finding additional pieces of clothing to wear in bed. At breakfast, moisture from our breaths could be seen; we appreciated the hot coffee. Our intention to wear our best for the Dalai Lama was changed, dictated by the cold. We were taken to the Dalai Lama compound in cars, as the road was too curvy and tight for a bus.

As we were told not to address His Highness directly, our comments or questions were to be given to a representative, a symbol of our respect. We were all searched, our personal items being put in an office; we were offered a white silk Khata scarf, which conveys good wishes

and respect; and we were then seated in the audience room. My seat was next to a woman who had, on leaving the New Delhi airport, missed a step, fallen, and broken an ankle. Taken to a hospital, she received a cast, pain medication, and a wheelchair before rejoining our group. When three men, the Dalai Lama and two monks, entered the room, I watched the Dalai Lama slowly survey our group. His eyes came back to rest on the woman beside me. He came to her, took her two hands, touched his forehead to hers, and said softly, "Are you in pain?" She answered, "No." He smiled broadly, eyes twinkling, and said, "Good."

Compassion flowed from this man. The beautiful Tibetan burgundy and gold robes of the three men, against the austere plain furnishings of the room, created a presence in themselves. After the Dalai Lama made a few remarks, he then made eye contact individually with each person in the room, whereupon he asked for questions. Slowly, members of our group began to speak. My husband, Paul, asked about his hopes for China. Acknowledging that the topic was broad, he commented about the Chinese system of little concern for human rights or freedom of choice. He answered negative questions with positive answers, accompanied by an infectious giggle. I asked how he maintained his humor and positive thinking, considering that he had lost his country. He laughed and said, "You Americans, you have not lost your country, you do have human rights and freedom of choice, yet you laugh so little. There is much to enjoy and laugh about. One must live in hope; peace to you." Our audience ended with him placing a white scarf around each neck, speaking words of blessing with a parting nod. During our

visit, I searched an inside jacket pocket for a Kleenex, discovering a forgotten pocket camera. I have a lovely picture of Paul and the Dalai Lama, the man the Chinese call "A Wolf in Monk's Clothing."



A PERFECT DAY!

By Robert Typanski - #190

What makes a perfect day?
That's really hard to say.
Beauty's in the eyes of a beholder,
But a perfect day
evolves as we grow older.

When I was young, it meant fun:
Time to laugh, time to run.
It meant no school – time to play.
"We love you," parents would say.

It changed when I grew older.
To meet a girl meant I got bolder.
Then that day at a dance, I asked,
And she said yes: I had a chance!

At the hospital early one day,
The doctor woke me to say:
"You're a father now, young man.
Better learn to rise and stand."

That child grew and soon would say,
"I'm getting married and moving away.
We'll buy a house. Grandchildren will
come;
They'll be there for you to have fun."

Life has evolved from a very fast song
To a stroll in the mall, and we still get
along.
That perfect day evolved to when we
say:
"I feel good and don't hurt today"!

COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #715

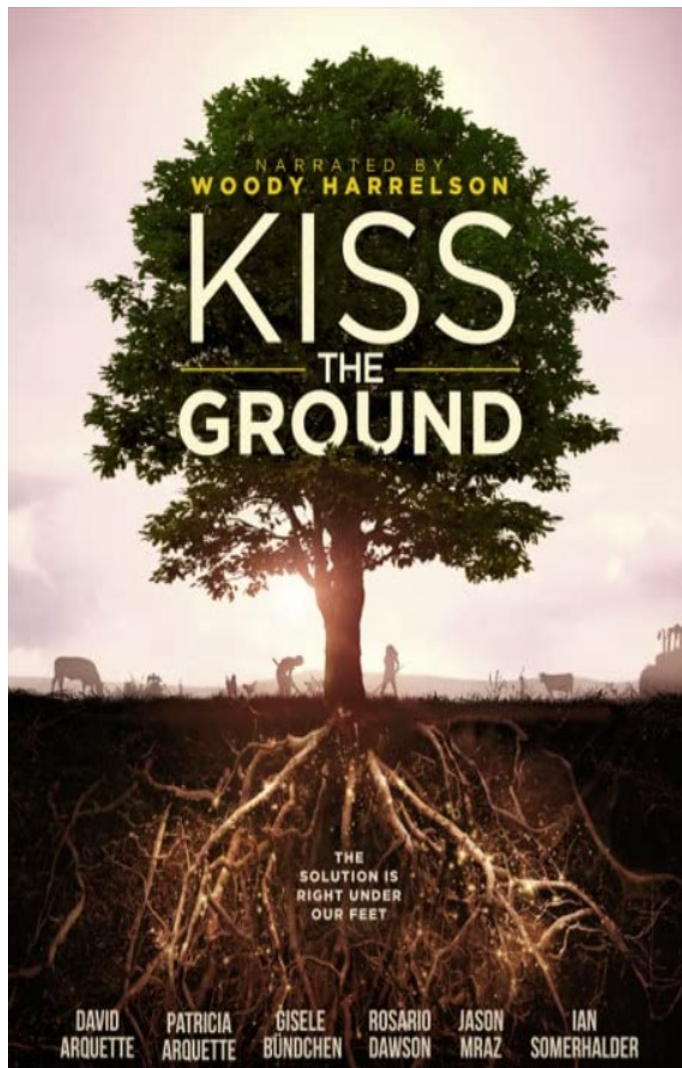
While we hear a great deal about the need to modernize our electric grid and switch from fossil fuels for generating electricity to green sources such as solar, wind, hydro, and nuclear, the generation of electricity makes up only about 25% of all emissions in the U.S.

Another big contributor to fossil fuel emissions is the agriculture sector of our economy. As it happens, the current system in this country does just about everything wrong when producing our food supply. Massive corporate farms planting only a few crops, mostly to feed livestock, require vast quantities of artificial fertilizer that eventually wind up fouling our waterways. Moreover, tilling the soil each season releases huge quantities of carbon dioxide.

Kiss the Ground is the December offering on Channel 901, on Monday, the 13th, at 10:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. As was discussed in our October viewing, we must find ways to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere if we are to keep the planet from warming more than 1.5 degrees C. Scaling up the regenerative agriculture techniques displayed in *Kiss the Ground* will go a long way to converting our farmland from sources of greenhouse gas emissions to sinks of those emissions deep into the earth. At the same time, the soil will become much more productive, even as the need to increase quantities of food to feed an exploding world population bears down on us in the next few years.

Current “Carbon Tax” Legislation

Learn more about the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend bill, with 87 co-sponsors, at www.energyinnovationact.org. For constantly updated information on the climate crisis, follow @CCLSlipperyRock on Facebook.



Kiss the Ground reveals that, by regenerating the world's soils, we can completely and rapidly stabilize Earth's climate, restore lost ecosystems, and create abundant food supplies. Using compelling graphics and visuals, along with striking NASA and NOAA footage, the film artfully illustrates how, by drawing down atmospheric carbon, soil is the missing piece of the climate puzzle.

WATCH ON CHANNEL 901

MONDAY/ DEC. 13

10:00 AM, 4:00 PM, 7:30 PM

FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME!

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

The Consequences of Fear	Winspear, Jacqueline	c. 2021	F WIN
Dead Men Tell No Tales		c. 2017	F DEA DVD
Did You Hear about the Morgans?		c. 2010	F DID DVD
Double Strand Deception	McCrite, K.D.	c. 2020	F MCC
Finding Neverland		c. 2011	F FIN DVD
Letters in the Attic	Dodson, DeAnna Julie	c. 2020	F DOD
The Man from U.N.C.L.E. - Season One		c. 2015	F MAN DVD
Meant for Good	Dodson, DeAnna Julie	c. 2021	F DOD
A Model Mystery	Penney, Elizabeth	c. 2021	F PEN
The Package	Dunn, Sharon	c. 2019	F DUN
The Photo Album	Chase, Marlene	c. 2020	F CHA
The Searcher	French, Tana	c. 2020	F FRE
A Slow Fire Burning	Hawkins, Paula	c. 2021	F HAW
Toxic Designs	Holl, Kristin	c. 2019	F HOL
When She Was Good	Robotham, Michael	c. 2020	F ROB

NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES

All In: An Autobiography	King, Billie Jean	c. 2021	BIO KIN
Nowhere Girl: A Memoir of a Fugitive Childhood	Diamond, Cheryl	c. 2021	BIO DIA
American Marxism	Levin, Mark R.	c. 2021	320.53 LEV
Beautiful Country: A Memoir	Wang, Qian Julie	c. 2021	974.710 WAN
The Cloudbuster Nine	Keene, Anne R.	c. 2020	796.35 KEE p.b.
A Gift of Belief: Philanthropy and the Forging of Pittsburgh	Buechel, Kathleen W.	c. 2021	361.70 BUE

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH POP?

By Rosemary Coffey - #113

When we were little, he seemed so strong,
 Always there as a prop,
 But now he is feeble and not always clean:
 What shall we do with Pop?
 We knew we could count on his loyal support,
 Even if we were a flop,
 But now he is weary and sometimes confused:
 What shall we do with Pop?

He gave us our food, our home, and our clothes,

He worked till we feared he would drop,
 But now he is old and forgetful and sad:
 What shall we do with Pop?

He used to have money to spend on his kids,

We thought it would never stop,
 But now he is poor, and the money is gone:

What shall we do with Pop?

Our friends are coming to dinner tonight;
 Then we'll go out to shop;
 We want to be happy and carefree again:
 But what shall we do with Pop?

January 1984

*Signs of approaching winter
at Sherwood Oaks*



Autumn Leaves and Swans



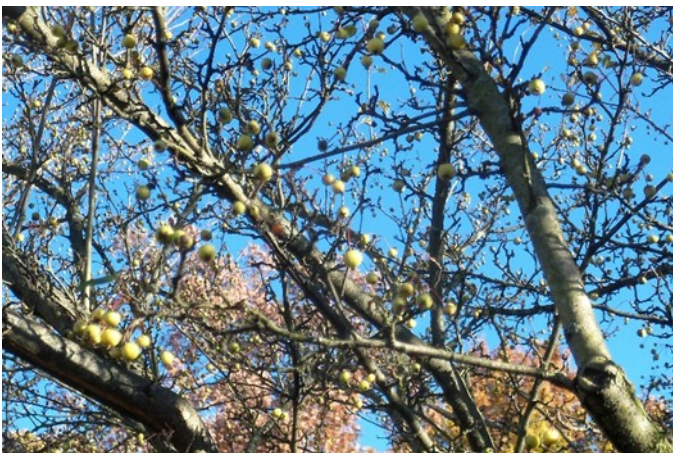
Grasses Turning White



Mushrooms



Red Bush



Baring Branches



Tree with Orange Leaves

Photos by Diane Neely and Rabe Marsh