

# THE ACORN

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

January 2022 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. 41, No. 1

## *A Winter Night's Sky ...*



Photo by Bill Lefler

*... adding to the natural beauty of  
Sherwood Oaks*

Gentle Readers:

*Happy anniversary to you,  
Happy anniversary to you,  
Happy anniversary, dear ACORN,  
Happy anniversary to you.*

*... and by "you," of course, we mean all the SO residents and staff who contribute to and read THE ACORN so faithfully.*

*You see, the first edition of THE ACORN appeared in January 1982 ... no matter what the current volume numbers might indicate. (Let's face it: there were some problems dealing with Roman numerals over the years – a missed V sort of thing.)*

*Under the name of the new publication, this advisory appeared: "... a supplement to THE OAK LOG exclusively for the future residents of Sherwood Oaks," which opened officially in Sept. 1982, although several residents had already moved in by then.*

*All these details indicate that Vol. 41, beginning with this issue, will include lots of old stories and pictures, lots of silly and important remembrances, lots of names of folks who made it all work, and lots of names of folks who are still making Sherwood Oaks work. If you have reminiscences and ideas to share, please contact THE ACORN staff.*

The Editors

**Addendum:** A resident has suggested that we let the editors know our answers to these questions: (1) What did we bring with us to Sherwood Oaks that we wish we had *not* brought, and (2) What did we *not* bring with us that we wish we had? Please leave your comments in the Acorn cubbyhole, and we promise to use them in a future issue. Thanks!

## JANUARY CALENDAR

New Year's Day	Jan. 1
Epiphany	Jan. 6
Three Kings Day	Jan. 6
Orthodox Christmas Day	Jan. 7
Orthodox New Year	Jan. 14
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Jan. 17
Arbor Day	Jan. 21
Holocaust Remembrance Day	Jan. 27

## THE ACORN

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

**January 15, 2022.**

## IN MEMORIAM

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

*Margaret Edwards*

*November 18, 2021*

*Jeannette "Griff" Griffin*

*December 3, 2021*

*Russell Rychek*

*December 17, 2021*

## MICHAEL AND JANET DESKO - #210

By Harriet Burress - #112



Photos by Mike Mills

The entry hall of Michael and Janet Desko's patio home is filled with awesome pictures of different sizes, beautifully framed and displaying many of the destinations they have visited in their travels. At these points of interest, Michael's backpack filled with his photography gear might have weighed 65 lbs. The largest photograph is of the breathtakingly beautiful upper waterfall at Yellowstone Park, while one of the smaller ones is of a wrought-iron gate at a mansion in the Hudson Valley. Hawaii, Alaska, et al. were represented in the grouping, which illustrates Michael's "eye" for exceptional subjects in extraordinary places. "We used to drive; now we go by Lenzner bus," Janet laughed.

Janet and Michael have been married for 16 years, although they met at his cousin's annual picnic 35 years ago. "We became good friends; then better friends; we went together; and Michael finally proposed," she said. "I was too busy teaching – first, special education, and then 2nd grade – all in Avalon, where I grew up as an only child." She taught in the same school she had attended when it was the high school. "There was a feeling of loyalty to the community, and the school district hired a number of us former students as teachers. It was not a job; it was a career. I taught

alongside Ann Ferguson for most of 40 years, and Michael and I were grandparents to her dog, Lexi."

Michael's home was in Coraopolis/Robinson Twp. His parents owned a restaurant on Neville Island, and he and his sister grew up very familiar with "all things cooking." He has so many interesting stories to tell about his career as a chef, which began at the old Holiday Inn on Rte. 22-30, where he was hired as a sous chef. He then worked at the rather elegant Sgro's Restaurant on the Parkway West; indeed, he was there when the management finally decided to admit ladies in pantsuits! His favorite foods are part of French cuisine. "Veal was so expensive that I developed a favorite – Chicken Française – using the same recipe as for Veal Française. We would prepare trays of it. My college was *LEARN ON THE SPOT.*"

Michael spent many years wintering and working in Florida, returning to Pittsburgh in the summers. In Boca Raton, he was a chef at the Royal Palm Country Club. "The 540 members kept us very busy, but were certainly generous, gifting us a week's salary for every year we worked. It is a pleasure now to give forward to the Employment Appreciation Fund for the servers and chefs who are so kind, and to the maintenance crew who have been so helpful." Other winters were spent at the Captain's Table in Delray Beach. "We served 2000 people on Mother's Day, but sadly, a hurricane destroyed the building. I lived at an interesting address: 1313 13th St and 13th Ave."

Janet and Michael, who have moved from their "forever home" in Franklin Park, are so happy to be here. "We drive through the gate, and the stress level goes down, as there are so many here to take care of us," Janet said. Our best wishes and a warm welcome to Janet and Michael.



## DIAN SHANDICK - #229

By Jean Henderson - #611



Photo by Mike Mills

*“Bloom where you are planted”* – a well-known quote used by many writers: St. Francis deSales, Paul in I Corinthians, artist Mary Englebreit, and even Paul Harvey. But I want to introduce you to a new resident who personifies that quote: Dian Shandick. During her whole life, she has bloomed where she was planted – in the Quaker Valley, along the Ohio River.

Dian was born and raised in Sewickley, attended school in the Quaker Valley School District (1959), and was married to Richard in 1961 for 50 years until his death in 2011. They planted themselves in Crescent Twp. in the same house, where she blossomed as a mother to two sons and their families – one son an engineer in Butler, and the other a supervisor with PA in Wexford. She adores her four grandchildren – all living close by.

Dian has bloomed as a long-term caregiver for family members and friends in need, including a soon-to-be 100-year-old cousin in Bridgeville (whom she cares for at least once every week), two sisters, and many other relatives.

Riverdale Presbyterian Church is a strong and long recipient of Dian’s faithful planting: she has served as an elder, a deacon, a youth Sunday School teacher for 50 years, and a volunteer with several mission projects, as well as the Food Pantry at the Church.

In addition, resident Stewart Lawrence and I both benefited from Dian’s blooming when she planted herself at the Sewickley Presbyterian Church for 20 years, serving as Stew’s secretary and my administrative assistant during my 16 years there. What a blessing she was to us! Her job blossomed into a specialized ministry appreciated by staff and church members alike.

Though the Quaker Valley area remained her home, she enjoyed travel – Ireland, England, Hawaii, California (she loved the Rose Bowl Parade trip!), Florida many times to visit family, and Canada via train through the Rockies. She also lived for a year at Fort Bragg, where her husband was stationed with the US Army when they were first married. Mention a cruise to Dian and her bags are packed – twice to Alaska!

Now Dian has a new place to bloom where she is planted – Unit #229! She’s looking forward to playing card games, working puzzles, swimming, using the library, and getting to know her neighbors as they become new friends – just as my former work colleague has become one of *my* best friends!

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*Why is ‘dark’ spelled with a k and not a c? Because you can’t see in the dark.*

*Why is it unwise to share your secrets with a clock? Well, time will tell.*

## WHY SWITCH TO EMERGENCY HEAT?

By Terry Neely - #351

Our patio home heat pumps are what the HVAC industry calls Air-Source Heat Pumps. This simply means that they draw heat from the air that is blown over the outside heat exchanger coils by the fan. A refrigerant circulating in the outside heat exchanger coil is used to absorb the heat from the air, which is then compressed and sent into your home via the attic air handler.

This heat exchange process works very efficiently until the outside temperature gets down into the 30s. Then, the heat pump is taking so much heat from the outside air that ice can form on the outside heat exchanger coil and block the flow of air, so the heat pump can't do its job.

Switching to emergency heat turns off the outside heat exchanger and turns on the auxiliary heating coils in the attic air handler to keep your home warm. (1) Simply press the bottom right button on your thermostat until it says "EmHeat," and stay warm this winter!



(2) Next is a photo of a normally operating outside heat exchanger coil that is free of ice.



(3) Below is a photo of a partially iced-over outside heat exchanger coil that is struggling to heat the home.



(4) And, finally, this is a photo of an outside heat exchanger coil that is completely iced-over and unable to heat the home. Note that this much ice could damage the unit.



Do your part and stay warm this winter!



## A MIRACLE?

By Warren Howe - #337

Brodie was sick, no doubt about it. On Thursday evening, our 10-month-old golden retriever suddenly seemed listless, taking his usual evening treat reluctantly, eating it slowly with hesitation that was totally out of character. Friday, he seemed a bit brighter, but refused breakfast and moped around without his usual enthusiasm, eating and drinking very little. The vet claimed a full schedule, so, as we couldn't have him checked out, we spent the day providing pats, strokes, cuddles, and encouragement. He did take a little supper and then turned in early for the night, forgoing family time in the TV room.

Saturday morning, we awoke to an absence of the usual "dog-at-play" noises from his "room." Looking in, we saw Brodie lying on the floor, mouth open, tongue hanging out, eyes open, but otherwise not moving and looking awful. At that point, he'd had little food and no water for the better part of a day. He couldn't or wouldn't come when called, moved very little, and didn't seem able to stand up. Frankly, he looked moribund. I tried giving him sips of water with a spoon, and he weakly took a little. It was obvious that he needed to have a veterinary evaluation immediately, so at 8:10 I called again, insisting that Brodie be worked into their schedule. "We're really booked solidly, but we can squeeze him in at 9:30," they told us. "Great! We'll see you then!" But how were we going to get this nearly immobile 65-pound dog to the car?

Thank goodness we live at Sherwood Oaks! I called the Main Desk and reached Ann Delille. After she listened to

the problem and voiced concern for this dog that she loves to see every day, she suggested involving Security, in the person of "Jim Rekowski, who has dogs and will know what to do." A few minutes later, there was a knock on the door, and there was Jim. He came in, and, as we were talking, *mirabile dictu*, there was Brodie! He had sensed someone new in the house and roused himself to investigate. We were incredulous and felt a bit foolish, since this was not how we had described Brodie's condition. We were also very happy to see this revival.

Brodie walked to and jumped in the car, and we got to the vet's. Careful evaluation revealed only "possible low back tenderness." Lab work and x-rays revealed no abnormality. Brodie remained active and behaved essentially normally.

With a prescription for pain medication and advice for a bland diet, we took Brodie home, and he's now back to his normal self. We'll probably never know for sure what ailed him. But we do know that, since Jim walked in the door, Brodie's improvement has been steady and remarkable.

Looking back, we're not sure what transpired, but we're willing to attribute a miracle to Jim Rekowski. Do doggie resurrections count on the road to sainthood? If so, Jim's on the way! Regardless, Hedy and I, as well as Brodie, are ever so grateful that Jim was there on that Saturday morning to provide just what was needed in a difficult and scary situation. What he did and the way he did it encapsulate what the Sherwood Oaks staff and administration do for all of us on a daily and ongoing basis. Living here is, we think, a miracle in itself.

## 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, January 2

Rev. David Gieschen  
Sherwood Oaks

### Sunday, January 9 - Communion

Rev. Dean Ziegler  
Coraopolis United Methodist

### Sunday, January 16

Rev. William Pugliese  
Retired

### Sunday, January 23

Rev. Greg Cox  
Ingomar United Methodist

### Sunday, January 30

Rev. Amy Michelson  
Hope Lutheran Church

*It is only with gratitude that life becomes rich. – Dietrich Bonhoeffer*



## A REMINDER FROM THE SHERWOOD OAKS PLAYERS

By Lorraine Commeret – #131

Happy holidays to all from members of the Sherwood Oaks Players! As you may recall from our last notice, our new dates for the performances of *Check Please* are **Friday and Saturday, January 14 & 15**. Those who previously secured seats for the Friday Dinner Theatre performance need not sign up again. Please let Jesse know if, for any reason, you cannot attend that night, and he will contact those on the waiting list.

We will have a matinée the following day, Saturday, Jan. 14, at 1:30 in the afternoon. There is no charge, but seating is again limited; unless Covid restrictions have changed by then, we will have a capacity of about 82. Please watch for instructions re reservations on Channel 900 at the beginning of January.

If you think you might enjoy acting, improvisation, reading plays, and/or just learning more about theatre, please consider joining our Drama Club. Although our December meeting was cancelled to give members an opportunity to experience all the holiday events, we will resume meeting on **Tuesday, January 18, at 1:30** in the Auditorium. All are welcome.



## HAPPINESS

Submitted by Georgia Trostle - #398

Happiness is a butterfly  
which, when pursued,  
is always just beyond our grasp,  
but which, if you will sit down quietly,  
may alight upon you.

~ Nathaniel Hawthorne



## **WORTH A LOOK: BOOKS NEW TO OUR LIBRARY**

By Barbara Christy - #237

*The World Played Chess* by Robert Dugoni. Fiction. In 1979, Vincent Bianco is a summer laborer on a construction crew. Newly graduated from high school, he only wants to have fun before going to college. He is assigned to work with two men who happen to be Viet Nam veterans, one of whom suffers from PTSD and has written about his experiences. Vincent is asked to read his book so he can grasp the way war changes people. Forty years later, his own son is about to go to college, and the lessons of that summer come roaring back to Vincent. F DUG

*Verses for the Dead* by Douglas J. Preston and Lincoln Child. Fiction. A new A.X.L. Pendergast book. In this one, the famously independent agent is required to work with a junior agent, Special Agent Coldmoon. Together they go to Miami Beach to solve a series of gruesome murders in which the perpetrator leaves body parts on the graves of female suicide victims. F PRE

*Game On* by Janet Evanovich. Fiction. Stephanie Plum is on the trail of fugitive Oswald on Wednesday, when she discovers that a colleague, agent Diesel, is also searching for him. Oswald is eliminating, one by one, a group of amateur hackers who have invaded his network. Not sure whether Diesel is friend or foe, and not the swiftest computer geek herself, Stephanie finds herself in danger as she tries to lure the murderer into the open. F EVA

*The Judge's List* by John Grisham. Fiction. Three years after convicting a corrupt judge who was taking millions in bribes from the mafia, Lacy Stolz is leaving the Florida Board on Judicial Conduct. Approaching mid-life, she is looking for a

change, when she meets Jeri Crosby. Jeri's father was murdered 20 years ago, but his case was never solved. Obsessed with it, she has meanwhile found other victims and believes she knows who the killer is. But she has no proof. He is cunning and knowledgeable about the law and police procedures – indeed, he is a judge and in Lacy's jurisdiction. F GRI

*The Persuasion* by Iris Johansen. Fiction. When a painting is stolen from a Scottish castle, the thief leaves behind a pool of blood and a photograph of Jane MacGuire. The Scottish lord whose painting it was wonders if it is her resemblance to one of his ancestors that is the fascination. Beautiful and talented, Jane is the daughter of forensic sculptor Eve Duncan and her husband, ex-Navy Seal Joe Quinn, who are in Africa on assignment. Unaware of a budding romance between them, they ask a friend, Seth Caleb, to ensure her safety. F JOH L.T.

*The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles. Fiction. It is 1983 in Froid, Wyoming, and teenager Lily is intrigued by her next-door neighbor, Mrs. Odile Gustafson. Locally, she is known as The War Bride, but she is old, widowed, and reclusive – just the person to fascinate a lonely, isolated girl. They meet accidentally at the old lady's mailbox on Lily's way home from school. An invitation to tea follows, and then Mrs. Gustafson is asked to look after Lily for a brief time while her father takes her mother to the emergency room. What follows is a touching and charming story of WWII courage, resistance, and ingenuity. as Odile recounts her experience saving the Paris Library from the Nazis. F CHA

*Lightning Down* by Tom Clavin. Non-fiction. Joe Moser is a twenty-two-year-old farm boy from Washington state and a successful WWII combat pilot flying over



occupied Europe, when he is forced to bail out of his crippled, burning plane. Captured and sent by train from Paris to Fresnes Prison, then to Buchenwald and on to other locations, Joe joins about 170 other Allied airmen in a journey into hell. Enduring horrific conditions but surviving until liberated in April of 1945, Joe's true story is told in graphic and unforgettable detail. 940.54 CLA

*The Ride of Her Life: The True Story of a Woman, Her Horse and Their Last-Chance Journey Across America* by Elizabeth Letts. Non-fiction. With no money, no family, a brand-new diagnosis of cancer, and having just lost her farm to bankruptcy, 63-year-old Annie Wilkins is told by her family doctor to retire to a rest home in the country to live out her remaining days. Instead, she decides to see the Pacific Ocean before she dies. She has no map, no car, and no experience beyond rural Maine. But she believes that Americans treat strangers with kindness. So she buys an old gelding and takes him, along with her beloved racehorse and dog, on a 2-year, 4,000-mile trek adventure that could happen only in America. 910.92 LET



## **WHAT'S NEW WITH SORA? (SO Residents Association)**

**By Jean Henderson, Secretary, - #611**

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

Data from minutes for the December 7, 2021, monthly board meeting:

SORA Treasurers: Memorial/Special Projects Fund balance is \$117,003.20. The Employee Appreciation Fund balance is \$159,648.25. Donations from

79% of residents have been received and distributed to our employees. Gifts to employees will be 38 cents per hour worked – up from 33 cents in 2019. The SORA bank balance is \$71,891.95.

Program: JAZZplay will perform on **Thurs., Jan. 27 at 7:15 p.m.**, while Anna Singer will join us on **Thurs., Feb. 24, also at 7:15 p.m.** in the Auditorium.

Living with Loss: A workshop for the Death Preparation Packet will be held on **Thursday, January 27, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Auditorium.

Sherwood Gifts: Financial review has been completed. Candy costs have increased. A new threshold for the Annex door is being purchased.

Maintenance Committee: Members are assigned to review our 3+ miles of walkways.

Continued Learning: Weekly speakers have been secured for March 1-April 12. Channel 901 offerings have been finalized.

Resident Art Wall: A new display will be hung in February.

Drama Club: Rescheduling the dinner play is planned for January.

Executive Director: Census: IL – 204 units with 259 residents; SNU – 42/43; PC – 37/42; OG – 28/30. Vaccine boosters continue to be offered. Please follow ALL pandemic guidelines. Thanks to all who presented the Veterans' Day program.

New Business: The Civic Affairs Committee is now designated an Activity. A committee to plan for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SO is being formed.

Next Board meeting: **January 4 at 1:30 p.m.** All residents are welcome.

## LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE

By John Bridges - #122

My wife Sheila and I often found ourselves living in a different country and learning a new language sufficiently to enable us to converse with the local people and learn of their customs and ways of thinking. Now we find ourselves at Sherwood Oaks, where Y'all have welcomed us with open arms, as we learn to appreciate the subtle differences expressed by the phrase "two countries separated by a common language."

We learn that *grits* are not spread on an icy road to prevent slipping, and that corn is maize and not wheat. Biscuits (otherwise known as *cookies*) are not *twice cooked*, but soft and fluffy rather than crisp and thin. We are introduced to new items such as sweet potatoes and the vast variety of American ice creams (England seems to have just three colors: pink, white, and brown.)

We also learn that there are *servers*, but not waiters and waitresses. We thank them for putting soup bowls or coffee cups at our places without spilling a drop, while in reply they say what we hear as "Your Welcome," which sounds strange to our ears.

Italian wedding soup often appears on the menu of our excellent dining room, but a little research shows that this is not served to every blushing Italian bride but is rather the blending of two or more vegetables. (The English translation of *blending* [or union] is "marriage"!)

Our chef often has a vivid imagination when naming some of his delicious concoctions. *Duck a l'orange* is easy, but much head-scratching and puzzling occurs when we meet *Tuxedo Torte* or *Tiramisu*.

We learned, upon entering a French restaurant, that the greeter is expected to welcome all the patrons with a cheerful "Bonsoir, mesdames et messieurs," but not to converse further with them.

We've also learned that it is usually best to avoid politics and often to delay entering the field of religion, where people sometimes have very strong ideas. Listen, by all means, but avoid comments that might appear innocuous to you but inflammatory to them.

Is the position of the little finger important when holding a teacup? Or is it bad manners to grasp a mug without using the handle? Does it give offense to carry a coffee cup for a refill without using its saucer? These are small details in some countries, but big indicators in others.

Meal times vary from country to country. In the Isle of Wight off the English coast, the farmers rise early to milk the cows and perform other duties before returning to the farmhouse around 9 a.m. for "Nammett," a sort of second breakfast. In Colombia, we were once invited to a friend's house and arrived about 8 p.m. to find a houseful of guests enjoying snacks and drinks set on small tables. About 11 p.m. we said "thank you" to our hosts as we prepared to leave. "Oh, no!," they said, "We are about to serve dinner!"

Greetings vary from a casual "Hi" to a long-winded Spanish inquiry as to your health and that of the rest of the family. These differences are even more important in writing letters. Whilst I was capable of putting my thoughts on paper, I preferred to use a secretary and Dictaphone when writing from Colombia to other countries in Latin and South America. At the very least, this avoided glaring spelling and grammatical errors!

## FROM THE ARCHIVES ...

By Joe and Peg Rychcik - #297

As we approach the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sherwood Oaks, historical elements of our campus exist, although they may be hidden in plain sight.

For example, the prominent display of a hex sign in the foyer of our Community Center is one of those historical elements. It was originally attached to a barn on the Gettings family farm of eight acres along the southwest corner of Sherwood Oaks. When we purchased the farm in 1984, the hex sign was saved, along with ten or twelve barn boards after the barn was demolished.

Frank Hess handed the hex sign over to Carl Hogberg, a resident of Sherwood Oaks, whose woodworking hobby provided the expertise and tools to restore, frame, and mount the hex sign on the backboard. Carl said, "In spite of the fact that the hex sign had two bullet holes, was warped, flecked with paint, and faded from years of exposure on the north side of the barn, we decided it was worth saving. Rather than simply refinishing it, which would have changed the sign, we restored it so that the historic emblem is much the same as when we discovered it."

The most weathered and deeply grooved barn boards were chosen for the backboard. These boards, thought to be 100 to 150 years old at that time, were meticulously worked from their warped and weathered condition into an attractive backboard cut in a hexagonal configuration.

Subsequently, a circular mirror with a gold-leaf frame was found stored in the crafts room. With permission from its

owner, resident Anna Sloan, the frame became a perfect fit for the hex sign. Thin, non-glare glass was added to the frame. To prevent breakage from possible pressure from the warped sign, a strip of plastic sponge adhesive and a ¼-inch plywood disc were inserted behind the sign. Carl said, "When we worked on this, we hoped that the steps taken in the execution of the project would ensure that it would serve for many years as a reminder of an interesting bit of history of our immediate Sherwood Oaks locality."



Accompanying the above sign is another, which references the blue scallop designs along the circumference. Just as the oak itself symbolizes strength, so the border symbolizes the ocean. The second sign reads as follows:



May we all experience "smooth sailing" as we move on through our lives!



## THE DOUBLE JOINT

By Charles Partee - #220

Although many people hearing his name think of a child's modeling compound, Plato was the world's most outstanding advocate of the life of reason and the architect of the Western intellectual tradition of division and generalization. In the *Phaedrus* (266a), he famously insisted that nature should be carved at its joints – a metaphor meaning that every subject has a natural division that should be recognized and respected.

Granting all honor to the rationality of that recommendation, as a lifelong contrarian who normally chews off more than he can spite, I am intrigued by joints that can be equally carved in opposite directions. For example, I enjoy walking up to a married couple and asking the male, "Why is it that ugly guys always get to marry beautiful women?" The man can respond to *ugly* or *beautiful*, and it is a delight to watch him struggle to decide. The question is a complimentary insult or, if you prefer, an insulting compliment.

My trauma as a kid was listening by radio to the Texaco-sponsored Saturday matinee broadcast of the Metropolitan Opera, and realizing that I would never be able to emulate the intermission quiz members who could hear three notes and name the opera, composer, and singer. For me this was a woe never to be gone. However, in partial compensation, I fancy myself somewhat well-acquainted with old Billy Shakespeare. Inevitably, I am embarrassed when, like Guildenstern, I know no touch of it. But with Lord Bassario and his gentle lady, I experience all the joy you can wish when I do.

Among my fondest memories is gently suggesting to a college professor that the three witches are not found in *Hamlet*, as

he had just asserted, but rather in the Scottish play. Of course, avoiding direct mention of *Macbeth* was an additional snarky thespianism, which I still think was not bad for a freshman philosophy major.

Nevertheless, and sadly, I have now experienced a double joint myself. Digging away at an immensely learned book with an immensely frustrating author, who seems to have read and remembered everything, I am especially annoyed that he does not bother to footnote references, since he assumes that his reader (me) will recognize them, which I mostly don't – a situation delivering a lesson in humility whereof the need for which I also mostly don't admit.

Last week I was required to look up:

*We petty men  
Walk under his huge legs, and peep about  
To find ourselves dishonorable graves.*

For mine own part, it was Cicero speaking Greek to me, but if the author had given me the line before or the line after, I assured myself that I would have been able to identify Brutus in *Julius Caesar*. You may call your executioner, although all difficulties are but easy when they are known. Thus for the traditional grandfatherly challenge at the next family meal, I thought it was safe to offer \$20 for the "petty men" quotation, which failing I would add the previous "Colossus" reference at \$10, and, failing that, the succeeding "underlings" line at \$5.

In the event, as I was reading the mystery quotation, I paused at *huge legs* to look up, expecting family stupefaction, only to see my 16-year-old granddaughter reaching for the \$20 bill as she recited the lines with a tiny, prim, ladylike smirk on her face. Obviously, the joint was hopping, and the stupefaction was mine. The question remained: "Was this a moment of prideful humiliation or one of humiliating pride?"

## TIME TO “GET AROUND TO IT”

by Jan Wendt – #158

You may remember that, about six months ago, you received a packet of materials about end-of-life planning from the Living with Loss Team. Many noted how helpful these materials seemed to be. Human nature being what it is, you actually might find it hard to put your hands on them now.

So, the Living with Loss Team is planning a “get them done” session on **Thursday, Jan. 27, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Auditorium.

Bring your packet with you, or pick one up at the meeting. The materials will be reviewed, and your questions answered. Stations around the room will offer assistance in filling out the various forms.

You'll leave with true peace of mind, knowing that you have “gotten around” to completing this important and often difficult task. Your only remaining job will be to share them with whoever you have designated to complete your final arrangements. Remember, this may be one of the greatest gifts you can give them.

## PLAYING HAND AND FOOT

By Catherine Wagner - #731

Four different players play Hand and Foot (a form of Canasta) every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Fireplace lobby. We hope to resume playing the first week in January 2022 and hereby invite anyone interested to join us. We will happily instruct you if you are unfamiliar with the game, as it is easy and fun! If you are interested but don't wish to commit to a regular playday (Tuesday or Thursday), you can become a sub for occasional play. Please call me at 724-591-8926 for more information and a copy of the play instructions if you are interested.

## FOCUS ON THE WORLD

By Rosemary Frelke - #348

*Light in My City*

Erik Wiesemann, Founder

Erik Wiesemann started his journey of founding the nonprofit Light in My City with yoyos. Yoyos? Yes, yoyos. Eric introduced a yoyo to his Upper St. Clair elementary school class when they expressed a desire to learn the techniques. A club – Baker's All Wound Up Yoyo Club – began meeting, and a mission – to raise money for international and local nonprofits – was chosen. One of the local nonprofits was an organization called Blankets over Pittsburgh, a group that helps the homeless in various ways.

When Erik was invited by the group's founder to see how his donations were helping, he met some of the homeless, whom he considers his neighbors, and saw that they had no lights; indeed, they were literally in the dark at night, often not being able to see to eat. After having this experience and doing some research, he founded the nonprofit Light in My City to make sure that his homeless neighbors had light during the dark hours of the night or whenever needed. Light in My City is totally dependent on donations, which are applied directly to buying lanterns and other essentials needed by the homeless.

Please join us on **Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022, at 7:15 p.m.** in the Auditorium, to meet Erik Wiesemann and learn more about his journey.

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*One minute you're young and fun. The next, you're turning down the car stereo to see better.*

*I'd grow my own food if only I could find bacon seeds.*

## COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #715

Throughout 2021, this column has been concerned with the effects of humanity on the increasing pain and suffering caused by the climate crisis. An analysis of some 88,000 peer-reviewed climate papers finds that 99.9% of them find human-caused actions as the source of the increasing intensity of weather-related events (*Cornell Chronicle*, October 19, 2021).

So much of 2022 will be spent looking at solutions to the climate emergency we are facing. Last December, *Kiss the Ground* put a spotlight on how soil management can play a significant role in capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

This month, an edition of PBS's NOVA from 2015 focuses on how much we've learned about the earth's natural forces as observed from space by our many weather and climate satellites. *Earth from Space* will be shown on Channel 901 on **Mon., Jan. 10, at 10:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.** The variety and precision of satellites looking down on our planet are extraordinary, allowing us to "connect the dots" among the many natural systems that exist on Earth.

The groundbreaking two-hour special reveals a spectacular new space-based vision of our planet. Produced in extensive consultation with NASA scientists, NOVA takes data from earth-observing satellites and transforms it into dazzling visual sequences, each one exposing the intricate and surprising web of forces that sustains life on earth.

### Current "Carbon Tax" Legislation

Learn more about the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend bill, with 91 co-sponsors, at <[www.energyinnovationact.org](http://www.energyinnovationact.org)>. For constantly updated information on the climate crisis, follow @CCLSlipperyRock on Facebook.



## EARTH FROM SPACE

2015 NOT RATED

114 min.

## DOCUMENTARY

This is a groundbreaking two-hour special that reveals a spectacular new space-based vision of our planet. Produced in extensive consultation with NASA scientists, NOVA takes data from earth-observing satellites and transforms them into dazzling visual sequences, each one exposing the intricate and surprising web of forces that sustains life on earth.

**WATCH ON CHANNEL 901  
FROM THE COMFORT OF  
YOUR OWN HOME!**



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

Bewitched - Season One		c. 2005	F BEW DVD
A Big Hand for the Little Lady		c. 2007	F BIG DVD
Black Ice	Thor, Brad	c. 2021	F THO
Blood & Beauty: The Borgias	Dunant, Sarah	c. 2013	F DUN
Burke's Law - Season One		c. 1994	F BUR DVD
The Dick Van Dyke show - Season One		c. 2009	F DIC DVD
Fight Night	Toews, Miriam	c. 2021	F TOE
Finished Off	Fields, Jan	c. 2021	F FIE
Florence Adler Swims Forever	Beanland, Rachel	c. 2020	F BEA
Foul Play	Woods, Stuart	c. 2021	F WOO
Garden Variety Crimes	Adams	c. 2021	F ADA
I Couldn't Love You More	Freud, Esther	c. 2021	F FRE
It's Better this Way	Macomber, Debbie	c. 2021	F MAC
The Last Green Valley	Sullivan, Mark T.	c. 2021	F SUL p.b.
The Man from U.N.C.L.E., Season One		c. 2015	F MAN DVD
The Map in the Attic	Sharp, Jolyn	c. 2016	F SHA
Painting the Light	Gunning, Sally	c. 2021	F GUN
A Question of Betrayal	Perry, Anne	c. 2020	F PER
Rag Doll in the Attic	Fields, Jan	c. 2020	F FIE
Twisted Twenty-Six	Evanovich, Janet	c. 2019	F EVA
The Waving Girl	Meyer, Gabrielle	c. 2021	F MEY
The Wish	Sparks, Nicholas	c. 2021	F SPA
The Woman in the Mirror	James, Rebecca	c. 2020	F JAM

## **NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES**

Einstein's Relativity and the Quantum Revolution: Modern Physics for Non-Scientists	Wolfson, Richard	c. 2000	530 WOL DVD
Lost Civilizations: A History of Vanished Empires and Forgotten Cultures	Price, Bill	c. 2019	909 PRI p.b.
Rick Steves' Europe – England & Wales, Ireland & Scotland		c. 2012	914.04 STE DVD
Shade: A Tale of Two Presidents	Souza, Pete	c. 2019	352.23 SOU p.b.
Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty	Cooper, Anderson	c. 2021	929 COO

## **THE GREAT AMERICAN ROAD TRIP**

By Gussie Dimick - #160

Have you taken any road trips lately? Well, neither has anyone else. But the season of staying home is ending, and we can plan adventures while perhaps recalling some trips of years past. If you have some memorabilia from past trips, we would love to see them in the curio cabinets.

By the way, "American" here means North America, so Canada and Mexico count. too. We will tag your mementos with their locations of origin. It should be interesting to see all the places we've visited.

Please bring items to the Lobby on **January 6 between 10-12 a.m. and 4:30-5:30 p.m.** Thank you – we couldn't do this without your participation!

# Winter Images and Haiku



the creek flows through an  
unbroken hillside of snow  
not a footstep seen



radiant blue above  
trees mark a winter's contrast  
to the river's path



snow-filled silence brings  
a world of black and white  
winter's special treat



asleep on the job?  
just a short afternoon's nap  
before playing resumes



bright kiwi eyes  
a carrot nose and orange mouth  
a scarf and hat for warmth