

# THE ACORN

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

May 2022 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. 41, No. 5



Photo by Jan Wendt

*Sympathy for and Solidarity with Ukraine*

Dear Readers:

The TV anchors warn us every time: "The images you are about to see are disturbing." Maybe, earlier in the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we dared look at the pictures, which were haunting, disturbing, infuriating. Now, perhaps, they exhaust us; they make us sad.

What can we do, a world away, in our secure Sherwood Oaks bubble to make a difference? Along with most of the rest of the world, we stand in awe of Ukrainian solidarity, bravery, and utter commitment to maintaining an independent democracy.

If you walk around our campus, you will spot some Ukrainian flags, large and small, flying on porches, on lawns, and in windows. When you fill up your gas tank, the total takes your breath away, but, if you're able to see it as a small way to support the ban on Russian oil, it hurts a little less.

As always, there are ways your financial gifts can help, such as donating to World Central Kitchen or, closer to home, the Brother's Brother Foundation. Allegheny County also invites you to visit its website ([www.alleghenycounty.us/ukrainedonations](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/ukrainedonations)), where you can contribute travel sizes of hygiene items to make kits to donate for refugees.

Maybe you'll plant sunflower seeds this summer, to grow the national flower of Ukraine. Our birds would enjoy the seeds, and the blooms would be a reminder all season long of Ukrainian courage.

Whatever you choose to do as your part, be grateful every day for the comfort and security we enjoy here. In its own way, that helps, too.

For the Acorn staff,  
Jan Wendt

## MAY CALENDAR

May Day	May 1
National Teacher Day	May 3
Cinco de Mayo	May 5
National Fitness Day	May 7
Mother's Day	May 8
National Armed Forces Day	May 21
Memorial Day	May 30

## THE ACORN

### Editor

Rosemary Coffey  
[rosemarycoffey@aol.com](mailto: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 June issue must be sent to the Editor no later than

**May 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.*

*Jeanne Davis  
March 23, 2022*

*John Ward  
April 1, 2022*

*Dorothy Corbin  
April 14, 2022*

*Thomas Manley  
April 21, 2022*

## CHRISTINE COATES - #339

By Jan Wendt - #158



Photo by Jan Wendt

Christine Coates was born on September 11th, turning 59 on the day the Twin Towers came down. Devastated, she decided never to celebrate another birthday on that date. She'll tell you her age holds at 59, and it just may be that this mindset contributes to her youthful appearance!

Born in Monessen, PA., she lived in nearby Belle Vernon for many years after her marriage. (Her junior-high friend, Loretta Pospistle, figures in her later choice of Sherwood Oaks.) Before having two sons, Christina graduated from Robert Morris College and went to work for the Social Security Administration. When her second child was a toddler, the SS called her back to help with the deluge of black lung claims that were swamping offices in the Mon Valley. She stayed at that job for 40 years.

During married life, she and her husband often traveled to Las Vegas, where they didn't gamble, but used the destination as a base from which to see many National Parks, including Bryce, Yellowstone, and Christine's favorite, the Grand Canyon.

Interestingly, their status as devoted fans of the group Moody Blues led them to England twice to see the group in concert and visit nearby sites. To their surprise, they encountered lots of other Americans who were making the same pilgrimage.

Perhaps their most unique adventure, "one of a lifetime," was to South Africa. Having been fascinated by the "Shaka Zulu" TV series, they headed to Johannesburg and then on to visit the set of the show. Modern-day Zulus met them on the road, as they were seeking their B&B, and gave them directions for the last leg of the trip.

On Christine's sofa is a pillow with the image of a beautiful rabbit. It turns out that it's an homage to "Wildfire," a bunny she found outside her home. Sensing that the animal was someone's pet who had gotten lost, Christine's husband was able to catch him and bring him inside. He lived with the family for 8 years, taking a number of road trips with the couple. If you've ever considered a bunny as a house pet, talk to Christine – she'll convince you of the benefits!

After her divorce, Christine found fun in ballroom dancing, swimming, and watching women's gymnastics. She also spends time at her grandsons' football and baseball games. Now living closer to the PA Turnpike, she is handy to her Ohio grandsons as well as the granddaughter in Pittsburgh, so will be found in the stands at their games.

Determined not to saddle her sons with caring for her as she had for her own mother for six years, Christine looked at a lot of retirement communities when the time came. Having visited the Pospistles here a number of times, she found Sherwood Oaks to be the best choice.

We welcome this easy-going and friendly new addition to our community!

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

Jean Henderson, Secretary - #611  
(#346 after May 11)

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

Summary of reports and actions for the  
**April 5, 2022**, board meeting:

TREASURERS: Memorial/Special Projects Fund balance is \$117,295.66, which includes a \$3000 donation from Sherwood Gifts. Employee Appreciation Fund balance is \$15,352.18. The SORA bank balance is \$66,561.26.

### LIAISON REPORTS:

Continued Learning. In-house programs are being planned for October and November.

Sherwood Gifts. Plans for remodeling the gift shop are underway.

Programs. Monthly in-person programs in the auditorium will now begin at 7 p.m., not 7:15 p.m.

Dining Services. New policies are in effect and have been distributed to residents.

Health Affairs. Vicky Tremblay is our new Director of Community Nursing.

Quilters. Dutilh Church has quilted three pieces, now being completed with backing by our quilters.

Art Gallery. Currently featured are SO landscapes by former and current residents.

Maintenance. Windbreak repairs are ongoing. The Lobby Grandfather clock is

now functional. The new fountain was installed in the middle of the lake.

ADMINISTRATION: Annette McPeek reported. Census: IL 200 units, with 250 residents; SNU 42/43, with one male bed on hold (29 rooms are private, and 7 are semi-private, for a total of 43 beds); PC 33/42; and OGC 29/30. Three homes are under contract. The Butler County current Covid positivity rate is 3.72%. Because SO is a healthcare facility, visitors/families are to be masked and screened at entry. Residents should not have visitors in SO public areas, e.g., lobby, dining room, billiards room, auditorium, or chapel services. A plan for a 2<sup>nd</sup> booster shot is being reviewed. The Meeder developer has agreed to redirect the location's water flow from flowing onto our property. The architects will soon meet with our Auditorium Task Force. Annette is currently meeting with all employee shifts. The new CURA chef, Michael Pfarner, was to start here on April 11.

OLD BUSINESS: Plans are in progress for our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Bids have been received for WiFi installation in the Health Center. The slate for election of officers and directors (2022-2023) was presented.

NEW BUSINESS: A motion to increase the annual Activity Fee from residents from \$40 to \$45 was passed. The increase will help fund the annual SORA budget, currently only 60%-funded by the fees received.

VISITORS: Fourteen residents attended.

*The next SORA Board meeting is **Tues., May 10, not May 3**; the annual residents' meeting is **June 14, 2022**.*

## PRIMARY ELECTION INFO MAY 17

By Dan Cindric - #107

For the Civic Affairs Committee

For the May 17 Primary Election, Sherwood Oaks Security will be providing transportation to our polling location in the Senior/Teen Center at the Cranberry Municipal Building. Buses will be leaving the Community Center at the following times: **9:30 a.m., 11:45 a.m., 1:45 p.m., and 4:15 p.m.** There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the mailroom.

## MILK DELIVERY MEMORIES

By John Bridges - #122

Although I was born in England in 1928, the items mentioned by youngsters in your recent article about the history many of us recall brought back many memories. Yes, I do remember milk being delivered in glass bottles, but, also before that, from a single churn in a horse-drawn milk float. Ladles were hooked around the inner rim of the churn to dole out half-pint, pint, or quart quantities into the jug held by a waiting housewife. Not all of the houses in any one street were customers of that milkman. But the horse knew and would amble forward, alone, and stop outside the house of the next customer, while the milkman finished dealing with the first.



## THE 1619 PROJECT: A NEW ORIGIN STORY

By Jno Hunt - #308

The 1619 Project is an ongoing initiative by *The New York Times Magazine* that began in August 2019, the four-hundredth anniversary of the beginning of American slavery. It is led by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones.

Her efforts have evolved into a collection of nineteen essays that explore the legacy of slavery in present-day America, focusing on thirty-six poems and works of fiction that illuminate key moments of struggle and resistance. The essays show how the inheritance of 1619 reaches into every part of contemporary American society, from politics, music, diet, traffic, and citizenship to capitalism, religion, and our democracy itself.

This book, which can be borrowed from the Sherwood Oaks Library, speaks directly to our current moment, contextualizing the systems of race and caste within which we operate today. It reveals long glossed-over truths around our nation's founding – and the way that the legacy of slavery did not end with emancipation but continues to shape modern American life.

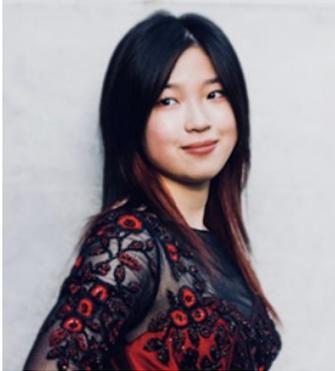
Although at times controversial in their conclusions and assertions, the essays in this book are essential to enhance our understanding and appreciation of the frustrations and aspirations of our fellow citizens who happen to be African Americans.



## HARP CONCERT ON MAY 12

By Jane Lavender - #253

The Program Committee is happy to welcome two very talented young harpists to Sherwood Oaks. Both are students of Gretchen Van Hoesen, principal harpist of the PSO.



Sophia Jho



Juliana Matteo

Sophia Jho, currently a sophomore at Shadyside Academy, is a member of the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony. She has won a position with the 2022 National Youth Orchestra 2, which will be performing works by Rachmaninoff, Gershwin, and Montgomery, under the direction of conductor Mei-Ann Chen, at The New World Center in Miami, FL.

Juliana Matteo, a 15-year-old harpist, is currently a sophomore at Penn-Trafford High School. Juliana has been studying harp for the past seven years. She is also a member of the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra and performs with the Youth Chamber Connection Program. She previously performed with the Three Rivers Young People's Orchestra.

The program will begin at **7:00 p.m. on May 12** in the auditorium. Please mark it on your calendars, so you won't miss hearing these exceptional young women.

## ACES AWARD WINNER

By Tabatha Alford,  
S.O. Administrative Assistant



Evening receptionist Raymona (Mona) Stine has been named a 2021 UPMC ACES Award winner. Mona was nominated by her peers for going above and beyond for her kind words when speaking to an Oak Grove Center resident on the phone. Mona's actions speak true to her personality and dedication to treating the residents as family. A surprise celebration was held for Mona at which she was presented with a cake, flowers, balloons, and a \$500 check. We are lucky to have such an outstanding employee. Congratulations from all of us, Mona!

## HEALTH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

By Kathleen Sarver - #242

"Make a Friend Day"

If you see new residents or folks you haven't met yet sitting alone at lunch or dinner, please join them! You will find the experience rewarding ... we promise!

## **SORA NOMINATING COMMITTEE CANDIDATE LIST**

**For Election Consideration at the  
June 14, 2022, Annual Meeting**

### **CONSIDER FOR ELECTION**

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

**Vice President – Jean Henderson –**  
1st 1-year term; eligible for 1 more  
year

**Secretary – Dolly O’Toole –** 1st year;  
no term limit

**SORA Treasurer – Peter Broeren –**  
1<sup>st</sup> year of 2<sup>nd</sup> and final 3-year term

**Board Members –** 2nd and final 2-  
year term

Nancy Marshall

**Board Members –** 1st 2-year term

Kathy McCormick

Peggy Rubel

Dan Cindric

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

**SORA Operating Treasurer – Beth  
Brown –**1st 3-year term ends June 30,  
2024; eligible for a final 3-year term

**Immediate Past President – Frank  
Finley –** 2-year term ends June 30,  
2024

#### **Board Members**

Bruce Cooper – 1<sup>st</sup> 2-year term;  
ends June 30, 2023; eligible for 2nd 2-  
year term

Diane Neely – ditto

Judy Pinyot – ditto

Barbara Scruggs – ditto

Al Brahm – 2<sup>nd</sup> and final 2-year  
term ends June 30, 2023

Frank Weiss – ditto

## **GRATITUDE TO THOSE LEAVING THE BOARD FOR THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE**

Mary Lou Fox

Jane Paul

Lee Wierman

### **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.

### **CURIO CABINETS**

By Gussie Dimmick - #160

This is the Platinum Jubilee year for  
Queen Elizabeth II, who is celebrating her  
70th year on the throne. Even her  
detractors have to admit that Elizabeth is  
a remarkable woman in terms of her  
steadfastness and devotion to duty. Her  
realm – England, Scotland, Wales, and  
Northern Ireland – has been a destination  
for many of us. Here is a chance to recall  
time spent there, by sharing items of  
relevance and honoring the Queen, who,  
at the age of 96, is still "carrying on" in the  
best British tradition.

Thank you to all who contributed to the  
Horses display.

Please pick up Horses items on **Tuesday,  
May 3, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and  
4:30-5:30 p.m.** in the Community Center.

Please bring items regarding Queen  
Elizabeth and the United Kingdom on  
**Thursday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to 12  
noon, and 4:30-5:30 p.m.**

## FROM THE ARCHIVES . . .

By Joe and Peg Rychcik - #297

The main tributary for our lake runs behind and through the North Woods, which is almost two acres of hardwood forest with its entrance near Parking Area I.

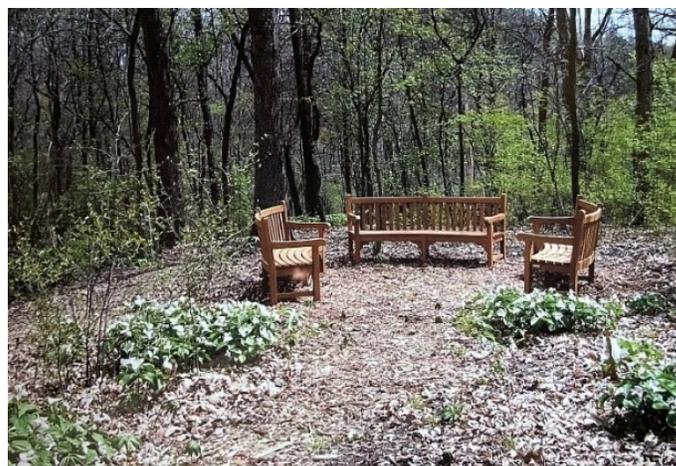


Time and time again, the Sherwood Oaks community has benefited from what residents have come to call our campus home. The beginning of the North Woods is no exception. In 2009, Vi Nutter left \$50,000 in her will to the Sherwood Oaks Residents' Association, with no specific designation. When the SORA Board announced in October 2009 that funds from the Nutter estate were available for projects on a first-come, first-served basis, there was no process in place to evaluate proposals. Gertrude Stewart then designed a "Proposal Form" for submitting requests to SORA, suggesting that some of the funds be used to preserve what remained of the original wooded portion of Sherwood Oaks. John Davis proposed trails to connect four plant communities in the North Woods. Joining their common interests, they submitted a single proposal on March 16, 2010, titled "Restoration of the North Woods, A Landscape Committee

Proposal for Development of the North Woodland." They received \$17,000.

A Task Force was formed to develop suitable plans; it was led by Deane Lavender and Gertrude Stewart, who were given professional guidance by John Totten and Linda Kramer from GARDENS! LLC. Members of the Task Force were Ralph Peabody, Al Schartner, Lila Cornell, and Rusty (Jean) Sweitzer.

Work began in the early spring of 2011 with the planting of Blazing Star and Orange milkweed in a meadow near the perimeter road. The Task Force also installed a total of 153 plants in the North Woods in the fall of 2011. John and Linda established a rocky area with plantings between the entrance path and the road. Tom Shepard created the North Woods entrance sign along the perimeter road. Lila Cornell made small gray metal signs with black lettering to identify the plants.



Three benches were placed in a semicircle for a gathering location. Three others were placed along the paths. Two residents, Catherine Radcliffe and Winnie Lipton, who came to Sherwood Oaks from wooded areas, brought Trillium plants for the campus when they moved here. In the fall of 2012, 26 Trillium of 12 different varieties were planted in the North Woods, making it the largest collection of Trillium species in western Pennsylvania.



May is a delightful month in which to walk along the wood bark trails of the North Woods. The Trillium will be blooming . . . so pause on a bench and appreciate how former residents created such a beautiful and peaceful woodland retreat on our campus for our enjoyment today.



Gertrude Stewart in the North Woods

Permanent protection for the plants was provided by Mrs. Radcliffe's son, who established a \$5,000 endowment fund, The Radcliffe Trillium Preservation Fund, to care for the Trillium after her passing.

**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, May 1

Rev. Karen Slusser  
St. Paul's UMC

Sunday, May 8

Rev. Joe Toomey  
Life Point Alliance

Sunday, May 15

Rev. Craig Gyergyo  
Christ Church Grove Farm

Sunday, May 22

Rev. Graham Standish  
Samaritan Counseling

Sunday, May 29

Rev. Todd Allen  
Park Presbyterian

*"Let your words be the genuine picture of your heart."—John Wesley*



A short loop trail to the right of the entrance bridge was begun in the fall of 2012. The North Woods Task Force was given an additional \$7,000 in 2013 from SORA to plant woodland shrubs and understory trees along the trail. During the winter of 2012-2013, the Grounds Crew ran a permanent water line into the woods to three locations to facilitate watering the plantings. In the winter-spring of 2013-2014, extensive new plantings were placed on both sides of the intermittent stream, above and below the arched bridge.

## FURRY FELINES OF SHERWOOD OAKS: PART 4

By Kathie McCormick - #188

**REESIE** resides with Terry and Diane Neely in #351, along with their canine companion, Claire:



Diane tells the story of Reesie as follows: "I adopted Reesie from the owner of four cats, who was about to marry a man who was allergic to cats. I agreed to take two of them: Reesie and Calley. The latter passed away a year later. She was the alpha cat and always got to sit on my lap, while Reesie could hop up on the table next to my chair and get some attention. Now Reesie gets my lap. She resides in the sunroom, so she can see the birds outside. Claire, our dog, wants to chase Reesie whenever she appears, so I have to go out into the sunroom for lap time. In the evening, Claire goes into her bedroom, and I bring Reesie into the living room. We sit and watch TV for a while. At 10:00 p.m., I say, 'Time for bed!' and she jumps up and heads for the sunroom."



Deborah Darnbrough and Dan Cindric in #107 have a furry companion named **NEKO**. Of course, she has her own story, which goes like this:



"We rescued our seventeen-year-old cat, Neko, and her sister, Tortuga, eleven years ago, from Animal Advocates in Pittsburgh's West End. Tortuga passed away three years ago, before we moved to Sherwood Oaks. Because Tortuga had been the dominant cat of the two, grooming Neko and scolding her with loud meowing, Neko rarely made a noise, allowing her sister to deal with the humans they owned.

"After she lost her sister, we were concerned about how Neko would adjust to taking care of herself. But soon she began grooming herself, learning that she could also meow loudly when her food bowl was low. The humans did respond with fresh food and water!

"We also were concerned regarding whether Neko might not like our new home, because the two cats had had the entire third floor of our previous home as their own. We were worried that Neko would have difficulty adjusting to our much smaller patio home. The first day we brought her there, however, she examined each room, apparently finding them all to be satisfactory, as she immediately went to sleep in her cat bed. Needless to say, we were relieved!

“Neko, which means ‘cat’ in Japanese, likes to sit at the patio enclosure door and look outside. Last summer she made a friend – Chippy the chipmunk – who lives in our backyard. Neko will patiently wait at the door until her friend appears, whereupon they will look kindly upon each other.”



Four-year-old **LIBBY** lives with Judith Shifrin in #231:



She has been with Judith for two years and clearly likes her life here at Sherwood Oaks. She’s especially fond of the screened doors in the sunroom. The outside smells are inviting, and a special treat is the chipmunk who lives under the wall! Sometimes he comes up to the screen. The only bad things are the very noisy tractors and maintenance trucks.

She is very sweet, but is a scaredy cat. Whenever someone comes to the door, she hides under the bed!

Meanwhile, she has a very busy schedule and likes her daily routine. She starts the day with an hour in the sunroom, sits in the rocking chair, eats breakfast, sits on the ottoman to supervise Judith’s activities, hides, has

a morning nap in the bedroom, rumples the blankets, scratches the comforter, chases fingers, hides in her tunnel, swipes at Judith walking by, and has a nap on a chair in the sunroom. By late afternoon, it is time for the sofa, which offers a grooming session and a cuddle. Then it is time for bed. Her last game is to hide under the blanket. You can see that that means lots of naps for busy Libby!!!



## **SHERWOOD OAKS SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

By Donald McBurney - #206

Many of us can remember working our way through college. And we have all benefited from the help and encouragement we received in our educational journeys. I remember being told that an education is something no one can ever take away from us. Here at Sherwood Oaks we have a particular way to pay it forward through our Scholarship Fund.

Each year residents give generously to our employees who serve us in the dining hall, maintenance, and nursing, as well as other employees who seek continuing education. Last year residents and their families gave \$117,640, for a median (middle) gift of \$550. Together with our endowment, this allowed us to make 68 awards of \$2,200. These are paid directly to the institution for tuition and fees.

Please make your checks payable to The Sherwood Oaks Fund, with Scholarship Fund in the memo line. You may leave the checks at the front desk to the attention of Tabby Alford. All contributions are fully tax-deductible. Let’s pay it forward!

## MANDY AND THE MOUSE ...

Oops – *MICE!*

By Rosemary Coffey - #113

On Thursday, April 14, I was working at my computer in the den, when I was startled by my cat, Mandy, racing toward me ... chasing an obviously live mouse. They went around the desk and under the bookshelves, while I tried to follow. Then the mouse ran out into the living room and disappeared.

I went to dinner, followed by a concert in town. When I returned, I found Mandy settled down in front of the piano, watching the floor area carefully. When I got a broom and ran it under the piano, the mouse ran out and hid under the desk in the corner. In due course, we chased it under the couch. I gave up and went apprehensively to bed.

In the morning, I alerted the Maintenance Dept. to my situation. Then I headed toward the enclosed porch. On the way, under one of the chairs in the living room, I saw a very dead, and very dusty, mouse. I disposed of it immediately.

The rest of Friday and most of Saturday were quiet enough. Then, on Saturday evening, when I got home after the movie in the auditorium, I heard noises on the porch, and ... sigh ... Mandy was chasing *another* mouse. I disturbed it by moving containers along the outside wall to the right, but could not catch it. Again, I gave up and went to bed.

Then, lo! On Sunday morning, there was *another* dead mouse, this time out on the porch. It, too, made it into the trash. Maintenance has installed two mouse traps, but I have to wonder: Will this ever end? And, even more important, how did they get into my unit in the first place?!

## RESIDENTS' ART WALL

By Joni Pun - #304

By the time you receive this *Acorn*, we should be putting up the new exhibit on the Residents' Art Wall. I have had a lot of responses, and it looks very promising. May and June are both dedicated to displaying artistic objects that residents have been given by their parents and other family members. I think we will have a lot displayed, so do take a look.

I have been mentioning that, as a part of Sherwood Oaks 40th anniversary, we will be exhibiting paintings of our homes and areas, which may also include people going about their various activities. This exhibit will take place in the whole gallery – both the Art class wall and the Residents' Wall – and may contain old or new paintings, sketches, or other media. The work does not have to be done by you. Some people have indicated that they have old paintings that they purchased from a person who is no longer with us, and these can be displayed as well. Let's make this an impressive showing, so that, when visitors view the display, they will see some of the beauty that is Sherwood Oaks!

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## OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES...

By Joan McBurney - #206

For her second birthday, Grandpa built Anna a sandbox. She was very excited about it. As she stepped into the new sandbox, she exclaimed, "This is just what I *always* wanted!" Anna spent many hours in the sandbox, making what she called "ingredient soup," by mixing sand and water with leaves, sticks, flowers, and berries. She once said, "This soup needs egg shells – not the egg guts – just the shells!"

## WELL ... I DON'T KNOW.

By Dennis Lynch – #335

Back in 1996, I retired as an Assistant Dean at Ithaca College. We moved from upstate NY to Pittsburgh, where all the sisters of my then-wife Linda lived, and bought a small house in Glenshaw, which was in need of fixing up. After about a year, Linda thought I should get out and do something useful, her idea of which was for me to volunteer as a Docent at the Carnegie Science Center.

I duly volunteered and, after cursory training, found myself hustling groups of kids on the various floors. There was little teaching involved, and a lot of crowd control. After two years and a very dismal incident (not fit for a family paper), I resigned.

I then went uptown and interviewed for a Docent position at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Oakland. After I was accepted, I began the Museum's serious training: six hours a day, two days a week, for two years. We had to know about everything in every exhibit in the Museum.

After a year, we knew enough to start leading tours. We did not have "scripts." Like Archie Goodwin, we used our intelligence guided by our experience, plus the information sheets the teachers were supposed to send in, which surprisingly few of them did.

Many groups of kids just checked their phones and pulled pigtails, while their teachers had a morning off. But some teachers actually had goals, and their students were prepared to observe and learn.

I remember one dinosaur tour (5th grade?) with particular pleasure. It must

have been an Oakland Catholic bunch. The teacher wrote us what the kids were studying, what she wanted them to see on the tour, and what they were working on especially. Vocabulary was stressed, and two of their new words were "carnivore" and "herbivore."

After a few minutes with my group of six or seven, I knew which ones were with me and which were goofing off, so I focused my attention on the two or three who were trying to learn. I particularly watched one girl, who seemed especially eager and bright, and pretty soon I was giving the tour just for her. Then we got where I could review the vocabulary.

In front of the T-Rex fossil – that huge head with incisors as big as my girl's forearm – I said, "Look at those teeth! She was a hunter! What did she eat?" My protégée easily replied, "Meat." "And what is the special name for a meat eater?" Confident: "Carnivore!" We moved directly to another fossil, with a mouth full of molars like breadboxes.

"Look at *those* teeth. What did *she* eat?"

Certain: "Plants!"

"And what do we call a plant – ?"

She was with me now: "Herbivore!"

She was pleased as punch ... questing eyes, happy and bright. How about *this* question, young scientist: "What about us? We eat meat *and* plants. What do you call *us*?" Her eyes focused out into space, her jaw clenched, her young brow furrowed. You could see the wheels turning. Then she relaxed, returned herself to the Museum, and said – still clearly and confidently:

"Well, I don't know. But it would be some kind of a *vore*!"

## CLOSING THE FOOD LOOP

By Rosemary Frelke - #348

This program will be presented in the Auditorium on **Thurs., May 19, beginning at 7 p.m.**, under auspices of Focus on the World.

How many times have you said, “Oh, what a waste, what a shame!” when told that your uneaten food and all food waste were thrown into landfills?

Students and graduates of Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh founded the startup “Ecotone Renewables” about five years ago. They wanted to show how the food loop could be closed, making food waste useful to communities instead of going to landfills to be harmful.

Ecotone Renewables converts waste food inside a large green trailer called the “Seahorse.” It is filled with a network of pipes and tanks that store and move the food wastes. The “Seahorse,” which uses recycled rainwater, captures the methane gas released in the process to make electricity. The end product is an organic liquid fertilizer called Soil Source, which can be purchased.

Ecotone Renewables has three officers and several interns. It is becoming well known and respected, and is expanding into other communities.

Join us on **May 19** to hear this remarkable story of Ecotone Renewables!

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## WORTH A LOOK

### BOOKS NEW TO OUR LIBRARY

By Barbara Christy - #237

*Never* by Ken Follett. Fiction. Spanning the Sahara Desert, China, and the United States, and including human traffickers, drug smugglers, and nefarious politicians, this novel features a woman president trying to

prevent events from escalating into WW III. Can deft diplomacy and gut-wrenching decision-making save the world? A timely question to be asking this spring. F FOL

*Castle Shade* by Laurie R. King. Fiction. Roumania, 1920s. Sherlock Holmes and Mary Russell have been summoned by Queen Marie, granddaughter of Queen Victoria and Tsar Alexander II of Russia. The beautiful, charming, and determined ruler, who convinced the Paris Peace Delegation to return Transylvania to Roumania, is now frightened by threats to her daughter. Living in a castle given to her personally by grateful citizens, Marie is enjoying the teenage years of the last of her four children, when several mysterious and troubling events cause the villagers to speculate about witches, ghosts and ... vampires. F KIN

*The Women’s March* by Jennifer Chiaverini. Fiction. On the day before anti-suffragist President-Elect Woodrow Wilson is to be inaugurated, veteran suffragette fighter Alice Paul achieves her goal of leading a huge procession down Pennsylvania Ave. This historical novel follows Alice and her compatriots, librarian Maud Malone and journalist-activist Ida B. Wells-Barnett, as they survive oppression, confront danger, and overcome threats of violence in this vivid retelling of an important event in the history of women’s suffrage. F CHI

*Songbirds* by Christy Lefteri. Fiction. Nisha is nanny and maid for a wealthy family on Cyprus in order to send money home to her Sri Lankan family caring for her daughter. Songbird poacher Yiannis wants to marry Nisha and start a new life together. But she disappears mysteriously, and the police refuse to investigate. Inspired by the real-life disappearance of migrant workers in Cyprus, this author crafts a compelling and poignant story of the work life – and private lives – of domestic workers in foreign lands. F LEF

*Murder at Mallowan Hall* by Colleen Cambridge. Fiction. Phyllida Bright is housekeeper at Mallowan Hall – home to Agatha Christie and her archeologist husband, Max Mallowan. Bright and personable, Phyllida enjoys hearing the residents and guests talk about the “mystery, murder and methods” of her hero, Hercule Poirot. When the body of a guest is found on the library floor, and a second victim, in the person of one of her housemaids, turns up, Phyllida turns into sleuth with the help of the village physician and the household butler. F CAM

*The Match* by Harlan Coben. Fiction. Wilde, named that because he was found abandoned in the wilds of New Jersey, has grown up knowing nothing of his family or his background. When he moves back to New Jersey, he has an unexpected hit on a DNA website – a 100% match with his father, who was clueless about Wilde’s existence. Despite his father’s cool reception, Wilde continues his research for his family on DNA websites. When contacts on his sites start to die, Wilde realizes that someone is targeting this community – and that the next victim might be Wilde himself. F COB

*The Horsewoman* by James Patterson and Mike Lupica. Fiction. There are two women, both champion horsewomen but very different people and not very compatible, leading this story. When Maggie breaks her pelvis in a freak accident, Becky is chosen to ride the stable’s prize-winning horse in the leadup competitions before the U.S. Olympic team qualifiers are named. Besides the challenge of getting a new rider ready for the contests, there is another problem: Maggie and Becky are mother and daughter. F PAT

*One Summer: America 1927* by Bill Bryson. Non-fiction. In the nine months prior to the Lindbergh flight across the Atlantic, nine lives, countless hours, and multiple planes were lost in the effort to be the first to fly non-stop from Paris to New York. This account is just the fascinating prologue to a season of even more fascinating notable and notorious events: Lindbergh’s success,

Babe Ruth’s home-run record-setting summer, Al Capone’s reign of terror, the great Mississippi flood, a tax protest that killed 37 children and seven adults, flagpole sitting, the Teapot Dome scandal, the first television broadcasts. All this and much more transpired in one summer, as Bryson narrates the commendable, the catastrophic, and the crazy in one entertaining narrative. 973.91 BRY

*Pittsburgh Then and Now* by Walter C. Kidney. If you’re in the library and have some downtime, pick up this retrospective album about Pittsburgh. Mostly visual, it features photographs, then and now, of buildings, bridges, and streets taken from the same vantage point. Pittsburgh lovers will enjoy seeing the merger of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers, before the spot became “The Point,” the Sixth Street Bridge, and the South Side, pre-gentrification. It’s a pleasant walk down Memory Lane. 974.886 KID

*The Road to Character* by David Brooks. Non-fiction. The conflict here is between achieving fame and fortune versus developing empathy, honesty, and kindness. In this very personal but also deeply philosophical volume, Brooks ruminates on today’s social values, the culture of “Me,” and the developmental experiences of some of the world’s great leaders, challenging himself and us to rethink the priorities in our life. A compelling read. 170.44 BRO

*Humans of New York* by Brandon Stanton. Non-fiction. Calling this work “a photographic census of New York,” the author has created a book of 400 color photos, with quotes and anecdotes from all corners and side streets of New York, from his blog, also called Humans of New York. The photographs, which are fascinating, may lead you to look up the stories associated with them. 974.700 STA



## COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #715



Unit 4 of the Climate Solutions 101 program produced by Project Drawdown is titled "Supporting Sinks and Improving Society." The description of the unit is as follows: "Three cheers for carbon sinks! Get to know these climate solution powerhouses (from the land, sea, and labs) by exploring the best ways to keep them strong. From shifting agriculture practices and addressing human diets to restoring marine ecosystems, this unit delves into the opportunities and limitations of sinks as a tool to reach drawdown. Finally, take a step back to see the critical importance of centering human equality in the race to shift climate solutions to global action." Watch Channel 901 on **May 9**.

On April 4, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published "Mitigation of Climate Change," its latest in a series of more and more dire warnings of climate disaster if we don't drastically speed up our efforts both to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to zero and to remove a large part of those emissions already in the atmosphere.

As reported in the *New York Times*, the IPCC mitigation report states that "(t)he

world needs to invest three to six times what it's currently spending on mitigating climate change if it wants to limit global warming to 1.5 or 2 degrees Celsius." That sounds like a lot; but we must remember that the cost of doing nothing is many times greater and will leave us a planet that is unlivable.

### Current "Carbon Tax" Legislation

Learn more about the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend bill, with 96 co-sponsors, at [www.energyinnovationact.org](http://www.energyinnovationact.org).

## THE LIBRARY LOWDOWN

By Anne Hunt - #308

We would like to purchase a new weekly magazine for the library. Given our limited budget, this means discontinuing a magazine we are presently receiving. We would like your feedback about which magazine subscriptions we might not want to renew. Three of the magazines we are considering for discontinuation are *Popular Mechanics*, *Money*, and *Town and Country*. If you would like to continue to be able to read any of these magazines in the library, please place a note to that effect in the library cubbyhole in the mailroom.

Speaking of a limited budget, we have not renewed our subscription to the *New York Times* for several months; as a result, we have recently had requests for renewal from a few residents. Before considering that move, we would like to know if any residents who currently receive the *NY Times* would be willing to donate it after reading it. If so, please contact Anne Hunt (8308) or Barbara Christy (8237).

Need to access the Sherwood Oaks archives? The key to the cabinets is located in the library office. Please call Anne or Barbara to obtain the key.

## **FOCUS ON FORTY**

By Jean Henderson - #611

For forty years, Sherwood Oaks has been welcoming new residents. Gary Brandenberger recently surveyed current residents to ask why we chose Sherwood Oaks as our retirement home. Over 95 responses have been received! Here are some of the top reasons given:

- 1) Beautiful campus/grounds/homes – 48
- 2) SORA/activities/amenities – 46
- 3) Continuum of care and variety of future healthcare offerings – 45
- 4) Friendliness of community/staff and the atmosphere – 36
- 5) Location close to family and Cranberry Twp. – 28
- 6) Recommendation by others – 16
- 7) Food service offered – 11
- 8) Security/Transportation offered – 6
- 9) Maintenance offered – 5
- 10) Our children won't worry! – 5
- 11) Pets allowed - 4

If you've not yet completed your survey, please do so! We look forward to celebrating our chosen home this 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, both on campus and in our community. Thanks to John Sterling, Director of Marketing, for compiling our responses to-date.

## **ABOUT THE BIRDS AND THE BEES (AND THE BUTTERFLIES)**

By Donald McBurney - #206 and Peggy Rubel - #258

With the coming of spring, many of us are thinking of planting flowers around our units, and some have asked us for suggestions of flowers to attract birds, bees, and butterflies. The short answer is to plant

native flowers that have evolved to attract their pollinators. For example, a native dogwood attracts dozens of species of insects that feed birds, while the popular Kousa dogwood from Asia hosts almost none. There are two small trees outside our (DMcB) window: a native hop-hornbeam, and a Japanese maple. The hornbeam is frequented by all sorts of birds; the Japanese maple, by almost none.

Some flowers suitable for our gardens are various Milkweeds (besides the common variety), Aster, Bee-Balm, Cosmos, Dianthus, Yarrow, Black-Eyed Susan, Marigold, Nasturtium, Lavender, Tall Verbena, and Yarrow. Not native, but suitable, are Lantana and Butterfly Bush. Some of these are perennials, and others, annuals.

A reliable website for pollinators is: <https://homesteadandchill.com/top-23-plants-for-pollinators>

Contrary to popular belief, the annuals are less work. Happy gardening, and do spend some time watching the birds, bees, and butterflies flock to your garden!

## **IT WASN'T ME!**

By Ellen Brierly – 734

Fifty-seven years ago, while helping my three-year-old son dress himself, I took the opportunity to discuss a weightier subject. He had some fears common to little people, and I assured him that he was safe – that not only his mom and dad were there for him, but Jesus was also present. I even told him that Jesus was with us as we spoke and by our side at that very moment.

The conversation was interrupted by his passing some gas. "Oh, who did that?" I asked. He looked rather sober for a few seconds and then said, "I think Jesus did it."

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

Buried Secrets	Meyer, Gabrielle	c. 2021	F MEY
Chicago		c. 2002	F CHICAGO DVD
Cloud Cuckoo Land	Doerr, Anthony	c. 2021	F DOE
Elmer Gantry		c. 2001	F ELM DVD
The Heron's Cry	Cleeves, Ann	c. 2021	F CLE
The Horsewoman	Patterson, James and Mike Lupica	c. 2022	F PAT
How Beautiful We Were	Mbue, Imbolo	c. 2021	F MBU
Intimacies	Kitamura, Katie M.	c. 2021	F KIT
Jingle Bell Heist	Herne, Ruth Logan	c. 2021	F HER
The Last Passenger	Finch, Charles	c. 2020	F FIN
The Lemon Drop Kid		c. 1996	F LEM DVD
The Lincoln Highway	Towles, Amor	c. 2021	F TOW
Murder at Mallowan Hall	Cambridge, Colleen	c. 2021	F CAM
The Noise	Patterson, James	c. 2021	F PAT
Notes on an Execution: A Novel	Kukafka, Danya	c. 2022	F KUK
Ocean Prey	Sandford, John	c. 2021	F SAN
Paint Your Wagon		c. 2001	F PAI DVD
Robert B. Parker's Stone's Throw	Lupica, Mike	c. 2021	F LUP
Total Control	Baldacci, David	c. 1997	F BAL
True Grits	Mehl, Nancy	c. 2021	F MEH
The Vanishing Man: A Charles Lenox Mystery	Finch, Charles	c. 2019	F FIN p.b.
The Wedding Dress	O'Donnell, Mary	c. 2020	F O'DO
The Woman in the Water	Finch, Charles	c. 2018	F FIN p.b.

## **NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES**

The Blue Planet: Seas of Life		c. 2002	551.46 BLU DVD
The Book of Useless Information	Botham, Noel	c. 2006	031.02 BOT
Canary in the Coal Mine: A Forgotten Rural Community	Cooke, William	c. 2021	362.109 COO
The Defense Lawyer: The Barry Slotnick Story	Patterson, James	c. 2021	340.092 PAT
The Essential Wisdom of the World's Greatest Thinkers	Kelly-Gangi, Carol	c. 2016	080 KEL
Fuel		c. 2010	338.2 FUE DVD
Mankind: The Story of Us All		c. 2012	909 MAN DVD
Obama: The Historic Presidency of Barack Obama	Greenberg, Mark	c. 2019	973.932 GRE
Unforgettable Senior Moments	Friedman, Thomas	c. 2006	305.26 FRI



## JULIA WARD HOWE'S MOTHER'S DAY PROCLAMATION – 1870

Arise then ... women of this day!  
Arise, all women who have hearts!  
Whether your baptism be of water or of tears!  
Say firmly:  
“We will not have questions answered by irrelevant agencies,  
Our husbands will not come to us, reeking with carnage,  
For caresses and applause.  
Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn  
All that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.  
We, the women of one country,  
Will be too tender of those of another country  
To allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs.”  
From the bosom of a devastated Earth a voice goes up with  
Our own. It says, “Disarm! Disarm!”  
The sword of murder is not the balance of justice.  
Blood does not wipe out dishonor,  
Nor violence indicate possession.  
As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil  
At the summons of war,  
Let women now leave all that may be left of home  
For a great and earnest day of counsel.  
Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.  
Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means  
Whereby the great human family can live in peace ...  
Each bearing after his own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar,  
But of God –  
In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask  
That a general congress of women, without limit of nationality,  
May be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient  
And the earliest period consistent with its objects,  
To promote the alliance of the different nationalities,  
The amicable settlement of international questions,  
The great and general interests of peace.

*Julia Ward Howe was a prominent American abolitionist, feminist, poet, and the author of “The Battle Hymn of the Republic.” She nursed and tended the wounded during the Civil War, and worked with the widows and orphans of soldiers on both sides of the war, realizing that the effects of war go far beyond the killing of soldiers in battle. The devastation she witnessed during the Civil War inspired her to call out for women to “rise up through the ashes and devastation,” urging a Mother’s Day dedicated to peace. Her advocacy continued as she saw war arise again in the world in the Franco-Prussian War. Mother’s Day became an official US holiday in 1914.*

# *Springtime at Sherwood Oaks 2022*



Photos by Rabe Marsh & Jim Mauch