

THE ACORN

SHERWOOD OAKS NEWSLETTER

100 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

www.sherwood-oaks.com

May 2025 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. 44, No. 5

CAN YOU FIND THE SUMMERHOUSE?

(The Gettings Farm before Sherwood Oaks)

Read more inside



Photo submitted by Peg Rychcik

Dear Reader –

“Tra La, it’s May, the lusty month of May!” sang Guinevere in *Camelot*.

While our lusts may not lean so much to the carnal as they once did, we can find lots of evidence of nature’s robust renewal all around our campus.

It was a long, drawn-out winter, folks; thus, we find ourselves charged for warmth, travel, and reunion, or just plain fun.

On May 8th, we’ll gather to celebrate the opening of the renovated and re-named Sherwood Oaks Park, which is so much more than the former Summer House.

Inside this issue, you’ll learn about the fascinating history of the “house” itself and the options the renovated park space offers for exercise, picnics, family gatherings, running the dogs, gardening, playing pickleball or just savoring the abundant natural beauty.

In a time when Sherwood Oaks is revitalizing its marketing efforts, we hope the Park can provide a focus in that endeavor. Few, if any, retirement communities can boast such an asset.

~ Jan Wendt

Memorial Donations and Remembrance Cards

Did you know? Donation envelopes and remembrance cards are on the memorial table in the lobby. The donation envelope lists many options to choose from when contributing in memory of a resident or a loved one. Remembrance cards can be filled out and placed in Cubby #346; they will be collected and given to the spouse/ family.

MAY CALENDAR

Kentucky Derby	May 3
Cinco de Mayo	May 5
Mother’s Day	May 11
Nat’l Apple Pie Day	May 13
Armed Forces Day	May 17
Victoria Day (Canada)	May 19
Memorial Day	May 26

THE ACORN

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Submissions for the June issue must be sent to the Editor no later than **May 15, 2025.**

IN MEMORIAM

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

Eleanor Hood April 4, 2025
Barbara Foster April 6, 2025

ASGHAR AND RETTA AGHBAR - #712

By Rosemary Coffey - #113



Photo by Security

The Aghbars – originally, he from Iran, she from the Philippines – met in Chicago, at a TESOL (Teachers of English as a Second Language) conference in 1988; they were married in 1989. Retta then moved from New York to Indiana, PA, where Asghar was teaching.

Asghar visits his six nieces and nephews, who are very dear to him, in Iran from time to time. Retta tops that number, as she has *twelve* nieces and nephews currently living in the Philippines, Australia, and Taiwan.

Asghar's PhD was earned in English Linguistics from Georgetown University in Washington, DC. He taught at Indiana University of PA for twenty years, before retiring as a Professor Emeritus of English. He also taught immigrants English as a second language in Pittsburgh as a volunteer. He is proud to have been involved in revising a modern translation of the Bible in Persian.

Retta earned a Master of Education degree in science in her home country as well as a master's degree in math education in the US. She taught in both

countries, including teaching English and cultural orientation to refugees from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia in the Philippines and middle school math in the US.

After Asghar retired from Indiana U of PA, they lived in Murrysville, PA, for ten years and then in Shadyside, Pittsburgh, for another ten years. The latter location was convenient to that of the Religious Society of Friends of Pittsburgh (commonly known as Pittsburgh Friends Meeting), of which they have both been members and where they both have had important responsibilities. Asghar is currently a Clerk of PFM. Retta has, together with others, started and maintained a pollinator garden. She is also a member of the Pittsburgh singing group, The Raging Gran-nies, which strives for social justice.

One of the attractions of Sherwood Oaks for them was its founding by Quakers, among others, and its continuing monthly Meeting for Worship (on fourth Sundays) in the lower-level Chapel. The Aghbars personally knew Margaret McCoy, a Quaker and one of the founders of SO, and had made many visits out here over the years. Other resident F/friends were the late Lila Cornell and Rusty Sweitzer. They have also kept up-to-date with SO activities through interactions with current Quaker residents Rosemary Coffey (me!) and her partner Bill Lefler.

Some of Asghar's interests are reading, cooking, card games, nature, theater, opera, movies, and travel. Retta mentioned gardening, painting, cooking, reading, singing, and traveling, so there is considerable overlap! They have visited many countries, as well as traveling to national parks and other places in the US. Welcome to Sherwood Oaks, Asghar and Retta!

JOHN STULL - #712

By Rosemary Coffey - #113



Photo by Security

John Stull, our new resident in patio home #281, has disproved Thomas Wolfe's book title: "You Can't Go Home Again." Although John was born in Pittsburgh, at age 3 he moved to Cranberry Township. His family farm was on Glen Eden Road, just about 3 miles 'down-the-road.' He enjoyed farm life with chickens, horses, cows and even drinking goat's milk. As a youth, he attended Haines School, which was a one room schoolhouse at that time, heated by a potbellied stove. Now he has returned to Cranberry Township to make Sherwood Oaks his home.

After attending Edinboro University, then Edinboro State College, he spent 4 years in the United States Air Force and was fortunate to serve that time in Bermuda, California, and Washington DC.

John then began his career with American Express. Being employed there, he was able to travel to Italy, Korea, Thailand, Japan, Turkey, Nepal and other countries around the world. He ended his time with American Express as Director

of Account Development/USAF. When he and his wife retired, they lived in Washinton DC, Delaware, California, Oregon and Florida.

John and family spent many years sailing on Chesapeake Bay and the Caribbean. His favorite sailing adventure was sailing from Athens to Thailand – at one point, while crossing the Red Sea, they were chased by pirates! In all his travels he has probably traveled all around the world. As proof, John's home is decorated with a beautiful, impressive collection of Asian art. He is surrounded with statues, furniture, pictures, and all manner of object d'art from China, Thailand, Germany, Alaska, and Nepal. He is most grateful to Paul the Organizer for helping him display his art treasures.

John has an enthusiasm for life and wants to continue learning and taking part in our activities. He also loves reading mystery novels. He is looking forward to joining our Book Club. Other pleasures include theater, music, and walking our beautiful campus.

The Stulls had been living near his son in Portland, but the Portland area was not to John's liking. After residing in Florida for a while, and becoming a widower, he came to Sherwood Oaks to be near his brother and family who live in Evans City and a nephew who lives nearby.

In retirement, John and his wife spent 3 years covering 300,000 miles traveling North America in the RV. Now he is ready to continue his interesting life with new friends at Sherwood Oaks.

Welcome

EMPLOYEE SCHOLARSHIP FUND APPEAL

By Warren Howe - #337

May brings spring's bright flowers, green buds, warmer temperatures, and renewed optimism after the long winter. It also brings us an opportunity unique to Sherwood Oaks: the chance to support the educational efforts of our dedicated employees by donating to the Sherwood Oaks Employee Scholarship Fund.

Thanks to the generosity of Sherwood Oaks' residents, 50 employees were awarded tuition grants of \$3,500 each last year. These employees, many of whom we see daily and some who work behind the scenes and are not immediately visible, are pursuing professional qualifications in many fields, such as education, the arts, health, law enforcement, or expansion of the skills they use in their work on our campus. Our investment in their efforts returns big dividends, not only to us directly, but to our larger community and the nation.

In April, all residents received a letter from the Employee Scholarship Committee explaining the program, reviewing its previous results, and detailing how to make tax-deductible contributions to the Sherwood Oaks Employee Scholarship Fund in 2025. Please review that letter carefully and respond quickly. We hope each resident will give generously toward this very worthy educational effort.

The Employee Scholarship Committee includes Charles Cullen (Chair), Ruth Becker, Warren Howe, Shirley Peduslo, Donald McBurney, Elinor Castle, and David Gieschen.

MARIJUANA TALK RESCHEDULED

By Warren Howe - #337

Dr. Antoine Douaihy has asked me to convey to the residents of Sherwood Oaks his regrets at having to postpone his April 3rd talk on "Medical Marijuana for Seniors" because of illness. We residents certainly understand how such things can and do happen and wish him well.

The good news is that we have been able to reschedule the presentation for Monday, May 5th at 1:30 PM in the Auditorium. Do watch for further reminders and plan to attend.



'SPRING FLING' CONCERT

Handbells and Chorus
By Jean Henderson # 346

Plan to join the Sherwood Oaks Chorus and Handbell Choir on Wednesday, May 7th for their spring concert. It will be at 4:00 p.m. in the Auditorium.

'Spring Fling - Songs of the Heart and Soul' will feature both groups performing a heart-warming program of familiar songs and spirituals. Lyn Marsh is the longtime director of both ensembles. At its conclusion, you can whistle and hum your way into dinner as the melodies linger.

2025 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

By Dan Cindric - #107
Civic Affairs Committee

The Municipal Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, May 20th. County offices on the ballot will be: Two (2) Common Pleas Court Judges; Sheriff; Controller; Coroner; and Clerk of Courts.

Cranberry Township offices on the ballot will be one Supervisor and the Judge of Elections. There will be no Seneca Valley School Directors on the ballot this year for our School District Region 2.

If you are voting in person, our Voting Precinct is Cranberry West 2 and is in the Municipal Building in the Senior/Teen room. See the mailroom bulletin board in the Civic Affairs section for copies of the Sample Ballots.



SHERWOOD OAKS PARK – THE FACELIFT STORY

By Frank Finley - #615

In March 2023, the SORA directors chose the Summer House from a list of suggested improvement projects and President Gary Brandenberger asked me to form a task force and prepare a proposal for improving it and the surrounding grounds. Task force members are Frank Finley, chair; Larry Brown, Kate Donovan, Betty Eichler, Ann Ferguson, Jane Rittelmann, Joan Reynolds, and Frank Weiss. We asked a retired architect friend to help us decide whether replacement or renovation for the Summer House was in order. He found the structure to be sound and recommended renovation.

We selected a small architectural firm and discussed our renovation ideas: replace the main door, facing the shuffle board courts, with a pass-through window eliminating the step down entry hazard; replace one of the garage doors with a main door and ADA wheelchair ramp; replace the other garage door with an electrically operated door; install two restrooms accessed from the outside; provide an ADA water fountain with a water bottle filling station between the two restroom doors; create a new counter and sink; replace the hot water heater with an instant water heater under the counter; replace the cabinets, stove, refrigerator and microwave oven from Sherwood Oaks inventory and cover the exterior with new siding.

The grounds improvements include: a pavilion with a concrete floor; electric outlets and tables and chairs; a pickleball court; a dog run; new playground equipment with chopped rubber surface and fencing; a new irrigation system for the gardens and a new golf driving net.

Funding for the work included three grants from the Sherwood Oaks Fund and grants from the SORA Memorial/Special Projects Fund and the Landscape Committee's Protected Fund.

A dedication celebration is planned for May 8, 2025. Beverages, snacks, and round-trip shuttle bus service will be provided. We hope to see all residents, who are able, at the celebration.

**TOUR OUR
BEAUTIFUL
PARK GROUNDS
ON MAY 8
AND OFTEN!**



**Above- Pavillion and Arbor
Right - Birdhouse
Below- Dog Park**

Photos by Acorn staff



SUMMER HOUSE – THE BACKSTORY

By Peg Rychcik - #297

In 1984, the Gettings farm consisting of 7.9 acres was acquired by Sherwood Oaks. This property included a 90-year-old farmhouse in disrepair that was offered to the fire department for fire-fighting exercises, the partially collapsed barn from which the Hex sign displayed at the Sherwood Oaks Center was rescued, and a 14-year-old concrete block garage about 24 x 25 feet in size. The residents saw potential in this building and in 1989 began renovating the garage into the Summer House to be used for picnics and summer parties.

The community garden was one of the first projects undertaken on the Summer House property. The 7 x 7-foot garden plots were plowed to give resident gardeners their own space.

In October 2012, the Memorial/Special Projects Committee Fund provided a \$31,000 expenditure for development of the Conger Gardens and a walking path of fine limestone in the field near the Summer House.

In the Fall of 2012, resident volunteers planted some 700 bulbs. In the spring of 2013 pansies were planted in two of the eight beds. A variety of annuals were planted in four of the beds during the month of May.

By the Fall of 2014, the Summer House Gardens were in their second year, displaying variety and color. Landscape Committee members adopted one or more gardens to tend. The flower beds provided distinct displays: the Ornamental Grass Bed, Tropical Garden, Monochromatic Garden, Butterfly Garden, Rock Garden, Arbor Garden, Four Seasons Garden and,

in 2015, the development of the Herb Garden. Andy Moran, Grounds Supervisor, provided the Rain Chain feature in the Arbor Garden. The Wind Chimes near the Tropical Garden were a gift from Lew Hoover in memory of his wife, Fran.

For visiting grandchildren, Anne and Bob Williams donated the original playground equipment near the Summer House for families to enjoy.

Dave Moon was instrumental in making the Summer House area a recreational destination on campus for bocce, shuffleboard, horseshoes, volleyball, badminton, golf practice, basketball, football, soccer, and Frisbee use. In January 2013, the Memorial/Special Projects Committee approved \$6,000 funding to up-grade the shuffleboard courts, to move and improve the horseshoe pits, to refurbish the bocce court and to purchase new games, balls, and scoreboards. The equipment has been available in the Summer House for resident use. It was also Dave's idea to schedule game competitions and bi-weekly summer bonfires with sing-alongs, storytelling, and s'mores. Dave and his wife, Sandy, packaged the s'more ingredients for the residents who attended.



OUR MOTHER'S PINK GERANIUM

By Joanne Weiss - #154

Our mother's pink geranium
Bloomed again this year.
It calls to mind her many gifts,
Her presence I feel near.

She had the greenest of green thumbs
Although a city girl.
She coaxed and nurtured all her plants
Their beauty to unfurl.

Her cooking, sewing, needlework
Were praised by one and all.
She fed and clothed her family
When hard times came to call.

A victory garden was her way
To help in time of war.
Her poetry paid tribute to
Our troops away so far.

Air Raid Wardens, she and Dad
Kept all our neighbors safe.
The added burden on her life,
It never seemed to chafe.



Photo by Frank Weiss

She pitched right in for food and clothes
Collected at our Church.

She wouldn't let those overseas
Be left there in the lurch.

And through the years her office skills
Had never let her down.

So off to work she went to work again
In busy Pittsburgh town.

Our mother's pink geranium
Bloomed again this year.
And I must end this little rhyme
Before I shed a tear

HAIKU AND PHOTO

By Julie Eden - #190

bright purple blooms
welcome spring colors
robins peck for food



AWAKE FROM WINTER'S NAP

By Diane Horn- #203

The grass is turning green again
And the blades sparkle when it rains

The birds are chirping loud and clear
And the bunnies are darting
from one bush to another

Oh, how I love the sounds and sights of
spring

The world seems reborn all around me

The gloom of winter recedes in my mind
And every bud that opens brings me joy

What a glorious time of year
As I watch the awakening of spring

INTELLIGENT DOGS

By John Bridges - #122

Our dog in Gibsonia was called Mwenzi, which is the Swahili for “friend”. My wife, Sheila, somehow taught him to always reverse into long grass whenever he had the urge to “go”. Thus, we never had to clear his droppings from mown grass or footpath. We just had to accept that wild animals such as deer and rabbits had not been trained in this manner.

We had also taught him never to put a foot on the vegetable bed, but to walk around it so that delicate seedlings or plants would not suffer. One day he was chasing a rabbit until it rushed in terror across the vegetables. Mwenzi stopped, with a puzzled look on his face as if to say “Hey! That’s cheating! You’re not allowed to go there”.

Mwenzi enjoyed trips to Lake Arthur where he would gambol in the cool water on a hot day and lap the water to quench his thirst. When we moved to the Congo, he was often taken to the beach where he found it difficult to learn that sea water was not drinkable.

When I was growing up, the Milkman gave me a puppy which was promptly named Dinah after the popular song of the era “Dinah! Is there anyone finer?”

Her mother was a working sheepdog and taught her pups many things or passed on intelligence by her genes. This meant that Dinah automatically could round up cows, excitedly barking and nipping at hooves and tails. Tell her to move a flock of sheep and she would run around barking, but never biting, automatically knowing that their wool was valuable. Instruct

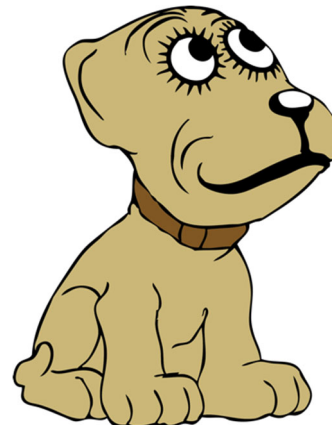
her to put the hens to bed in their hen-house and she would walk sedately behind them without barking or any action that might frighten them and thus cause them to lay fewer eggs.

She quickly learned to obey all the usual commands of “sit”, “lie down”, “come” or “shake hands”. And she got to know several of our spoken words.

One evening the family was sitting round the fire with Dinah apparently asleep in a corner. My father happened to quietly say, “I think there’s a cow in the garden.” Immediately, Dinah was up, at the door, and ready to give chase.

Perhaps this is the time to also mention that she was a bilingual dog. If she wandered off by herself to the village, any villager who could not speak English could shout “Dos Oma” or “Dos a di weli” and Dinah would know that she had been told to go home and lie in her basket.

There was one trick I mistakenly taught her, to climb a step ladder up to the loft above the garage. This is where I spent many a happy hour building model airplanes or playing with my trains. This trick was a mistake, since there was no way she could see to place her paws to go down by herself. So, each time she came up, I had to carry her down in my arms.



QUARTET RETURNS

By Jane Lavender - #253

The BEO String Quartet (BEO - Latin for: “to make happy”) will be entertaining us again on Tuesday, May 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium.

They are an internationally known quartet that plays classical, contemporary, and (sometimes) rock music. We are fortunate because we will hear the “pre-premiere” of a program that has its real premiere in Boston in May. This year they have added a flutist for their tour.

Put it on the calendar and come to enjoy.



SENECA VALLEY STUDENTS TO VISIT OUR CAMPUS FOR WORKDAY

By Jean Henderson - #346

On Thursday, May 22, in the morning, we will be hosting about 25 intermediate school students and staff from Seneca Valley as they participate in their annual “Community Grown Day.” We are grateful to our Landscape Committee and Staff for identifying sites for the students to work.

So, if you see them near your home, give them a ‘HELLO.’ SORA has also arranged to offer them bag lunches with marketing items inside as they depart our campus. Rain date is May 23.



Photo by Jan Wendt

TRILLIUM IN THE NORTH WOODS

By Ruth Lasure- #306

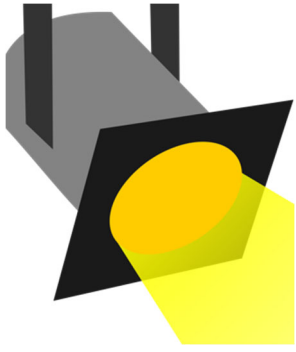
Sherwood Oaks has many special places, but there is one that is extra special, especially in May.

The North Woods (entrance off Parking Lot I) has walking paths and benches, and birdsong, all combining to offer the visitor peace. In May, it also has hundreds of Trilliums in bloom.

Trillium is an endangered species, but our North Woods has been planted with many kinds of these amazing flowers, white, pink, purple, big, little, and tiny!

Look for the banner, follow the path over the bridge and straight ahead. When you get near the fork-in-the-road you will start to see the ground covered with this magical blooming.

Don't put this visit off - they don't bloom for long!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

By Barb DiDonato - #261



Photo by Barb DiDonato

After a recent kitchen tour with Jesse, some of our group commented that there were many of the kitchen staff, who make our dining experience so pleasant, we had never met before the tour.

All it took was a quick call to Jesse to see if this could be changed. Two days later, I found myself in the dishwashing area with several impressive machines and a lovely woman, Roella Boylan. Roe, as she prefers to be called, has been a SO employee for over 7 years. We had a chance to sit and talk.

Roe was born in the Philippines, near the city of Manila. Now, she lives in Avalon. When asked how she likes living in such a different climate, she said she really enjoys the four Pennsylvania seasons, and that she likes snow very much! She is married and has a daughter and two grandchildren, ages 2 1/2 and 1 1/2.

Roe is a person who makes decisions quickly. When she saw an interesting man across a crowded room, she said, "That's the man I'm going to marry," and she did!

And when she was at a UPMC Job Fair, she saw Jesse sitting behind a Sherwood Oaks sign, and thought, "That's where I'm going to work," and here she is.

In the dish room, Roe showed me the details of the giant dishwasher. Trays are filled with dirty dishes and utensils, and then run through the machine, she inspects every tray as it exits, and will send it back through the machine if any dish is not spotless. There is also a pots-and-pans washer that consists of three large stainless-steel tubs.

Jesse said Roe is the BEST at keeping the dish room shiny and clean!
I also learned that Roe makes the BEST pork egg rolls ever.

Occasionally, you might get the chance to meet Roe when she pops out of the kitchen to replenish the buffet line pans. Be on the lookout for a petite lady with a beautiful smile behind the buffet. Say "Hi"- take a moment to meet Roe.

WORTH A LOOK

Books New to Our Library

By Barbara Christy - #237

Leave No Trace by Jo Callaghan. Fiction. Artificial intelligence has come to the world of detectives. The first AI detective, (holographic) AIDE Lock, is paired with (human) Detective Chief Superintendent Kat Frank and together they are moved from the cold case division to an active homicide investigation. A man has been crucified on Mount Judd, a waste disposal center. This is an original, a fun read both about strengths, uses and weaknesses of AI and how people react to holographic forms of humanity. It is also a gripping mystery full of tension and emotion. F CAL

Solito: A Memoir by Javier Zamora. Non-fiction. "The trip" is the event Javier has been hearing about from his aunts and parents in absentia in El Salvador for years. His parents are in the USA, saving money and sending their nine-year-old son DVD's and pictures to encourage him as he waits. He thinks the trip will be two weeks – instead it is two months of heat, dirt, terror, coyotes, and the kindness of strangers. The title *Solito*, which means alone, is only partly accurate because in fact, Javier is also enveloped into the 'family' of fellow migrants, and he describes those people and his experiences with a tenderness and affection that is heart-breaking. 306.230

Heaven's Ditch: God, Gold and Murder on the Erie Canal by Jack Kelly. Non-fiction. We live within an afternoon's drive of the Erie Canal but most of us know al-

most nothing about it. This book is the riveting tale of the inspired construction that made New York the commercial center of America, fostered a new religion, hosted the first "crime of the century," and oversaw the making and breaking of fortunes. This 360-mile waterway was dug by hand, without engineers (because there were no civilian engineering schools in the US), through uncharted wilderness and despite political opposition. But this is not only about the canal – the enthralling lives of the men and women caught up in the excitement of The BIG Dig will entertain for hours. 386.480 KEL

The Last One at the Wedding by Jason Rekulak. Fiction. When Frank receives an unexpected call from his daughter, Maggie, announcing her engagement and asking him to give her away at the wedding he is more than delighted. Estranged for three years, Frank hopes for the beginning of a whole new relationship. But immediately his hopes are shadowed by concerns about Aidan, the fiancé. How is he living in a penthouse apartment on an art teacher's salary? How are they going to afford the lavish destination wedding they're planning? Here's how: Aidan is the son of a tech billionaire, and the wedding destination is the family compound in New Hampshire. But Frank's suspicions are not allayed when he learns that Aidan's history includes a missing, presumed dead, girlfriend. Suddenly, the happy event has become an edge-of-your-seat thriller. F REK

The Astrology House by Carinn Jade. Fiction. Four married couples, wealthy Manhattanites, go on a vacation together

each year. This time, they've booked a weekend at an astrology-themed retreat, with all kinds of new and exciting experiences. Each will get an astrology reading, a couple's compatibility reading, and other zodiac-related activities. The characters are introduced with information about their past, current struggles and worries, all with a zodiac slant. As the weekend progresses, though, their relationships with the other guests reveal that all is not conflict-free. This book is not a hair-raising thriller but more a domestic drama with themes of motherhood and fertility, infidelity, and family trauma. But there are still entertaining plot twists. F JAD



HEALTH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE UPDATE

By John Houston - #618

Hospital Transportation: We learned that when patients are discharged from Passavant in McCandless or Passavant in Cranberry and need a ride back to Sherwood Oaks, they can request such transportation from our Security Department (8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. **only**, depending on staff availability). During evening and overnight hours, you can request a "cab slip" from the discharging R.N. The slip entitles you to a no-charge ride back to campus. The hospitals use Z-trip for this service.

Heimlich, CPR and AED training: The administration hopes shortly to provide Sherwood Oaks residents with training to make them proficient in delivering assistance in emergency situations re-

quiring the use of the Heimlich Maneuver, CPR, or AED.

Driver training: A senior driving course will be given on Campus on August 11th and 12th. The cost is \$18 for AAA members and \$25 for non-members. Several you have already signed up for the course. If you have not signed up for the course and wish to take it, please contact Wally Christy (#237).

Jason Lyle: The Committee recognizes and thanks Jason Lyle for his invaluable help, which allowed the Committee to provide health - related videos to residents via channel 951.



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SINGALONGS AND SNACKS- HELP!

By Jean Henderson - #346

SORA hopes to revive the beloved Summer Singalongs and around a fire pit at our new Sherwood Oaks Park. BUT we need a team to plan and execute the activity which includes music, prepping snacks and the fire pit. Please contact Jean at #8346 if you're interested in serving on the team.

THE TROOP SHIP HOME

Notes from History

By Jim Mauch - #263

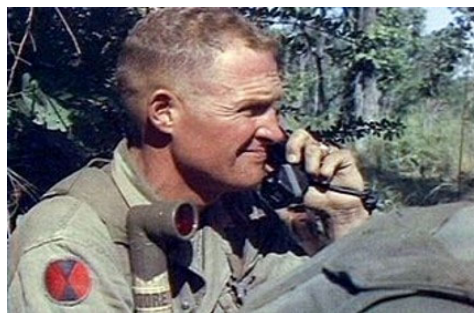
After service in Iceland and Germany in 1955, I was assigned as a member of the guard to join a troop ship sailing to the US. I joined the ship in Bremen. As I walked up the gang plank I noticed the name of the ship, General Maurice Rose. While sailing to the US, I wondered about the name; who was General Rose? This is what I found.

Maurice Rose was born into a Jewish immigrant family from Poland. His father was a merchant and a Rabbi, as was his grandfather. Maurice was too young to serve, but he enlisted in the army in World War I by fibbing about his age. After the War, he then attended Officer Candidate School and spent the years between the World Wars in increasingly important Army positions.

General Maurice Rose was commander of the 3rd Armored Division, initially in North Africa, where he negotiated the surrender of the German army in Tunisia. Then he continued leading his troops in combat in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and France.

His tanks were among the first armored units into Germany, among the first to crack the Siegfried line, and among the first to enter Cologne. General Rose was always in front, leading his troops and tanks in battle, and by all accounts, they loved him. He was a great leader, always ahead of the troops, always leading the troops. That is how he was killed, ahead of the troops, in a jeep on a dangerous reconnaissance during the Battle of the Bulge. He was surprised by a German

tank hidden on a back road. It fired on the jeep, killing General Rose.



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HOSPITAL BED TIP

By Peg Rychcik - #297

When I was recently in the hospital, my bed had a mattress with a “pothole.” This is not uncommon since the hospital mattress is used so much. I found that I repeatedly would end up sinking uncomfortably into that mattress pit.

You’ve probably had a similar experience during a hospital stay. Our son, Mark Rychcik, provided a solution which made a significant difference in my ability to rest. He said to put a hospital pillow in the “pothole” and cover it with the bed mat. That suggestion significantly smoothed out my bed and made a huge difference in my comfort.

No one wants to be in a hospital, but hopefully his suggestion can make your hospital stay more comfortable.



PWHAT'S NEW WITH SORA?

(SO Residents Association)

By Rosemary Coffey, Secretary - #113

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

Excerpts from minutes for the **Apr. 8, 2025**, monthly board meeting follow:

SORA Treasurers: The ending balance as of Mar. 31, 2025, for the Memorial/Special Projects Fund was \$26,584, and the balance for the Employee Appreciation Fund was \$17,414. The total SORA checking account balance came to \$97,660.

Liaison Reports:

Security & Transportation: John Lesjack will become its chairperson effective July 11, 2025. We are waiting for confirmation from UPMC that SO Security will no longer be responsible for emergency calls at the Lemieux Center.

Sherwood Oaks Park: Three cameras currently cover areas around the Summer House.

Farm Gardens: The list of needs developed at the last meeting was given to Maintenance for its action.

Health Affairs: Members remain concerned that the administration help avoid falls by marking sidewalks with uneven patches or bumps. Meanwhile, Skilled Nursing maintains its 5-star rating.

Drama Club: Meetings continue on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Chapel Committee: Easter week services were being planned.

Technology Committee: A motion to allocate up to \$400 to buy a new Inkjet color printer for the computer room was carried unanimously. Residents were asked to see Jason Lyle if interested in joining this committee.

Dining Committee: The Dept. of Health has found no deficiencies in the dining room.

Sherwood Gifts had total sales in March of \$825, with expenses being only \$72, providing a profit margin of 91%. Some new jewelry remains on sale at half off the original price.

Maintenance: The three model units to be used by the Marketing Dept. will have a "half wall" between the kitchen and the living room. An estimate has

been received for priming and painting 156 garage doors. Kitchen appliances and cabinets are being installed in the Sherwood Oaks Park building.

Outdoor Games will have games set up and available for residents to try at the Sherwood Oaks Park dedication in May.

Bells and Chorus members will be presenting their final performances of the year on May 7, beginning at 4 p.m.

Continued Learning: Seven speakers have already been booked for the Fall.

Library Committee: The library now has more than 8,000 books, not including paperbacks; more than half are fiction. Average usage in 2024 was about 150 books per month.

Administrator's Report: Our current census includes 189 inhabited IL units, with 243 residents. Year-to-date we've had 145 inquiries from prospective residents. An annual resident satisfaction survey will be distributed in May. SORA is asked to encourage civility in communications with staff. Meanwhile, we are making progress in staff recruitment.

Old Business: The 2025 Nominating Committee has completed its slate of committee members; it will be presented at our Annual Meeting in June. Re our Wish List update, please note that an updated staff list will now go out regularly with the new resident lists; in addition, a response to the need to address how to get people out of the apartments in case of emergency is currently in process, as well as consideration of a respite care site. Approximately 20-25 Seneca Valley middle school students will be on campus on Thurs., May 22, working alongside their teachers for 2-1/2 hours; we will offer each participant a bag lunch with marketing materials to share with parents and grandparents.

New Business: The start-up of Singalongs with s'mores at the Park by July 1 **needs an organizer**. A T-shirt sale to raise money for Wish List items will happen at the dedication (see below).

Announcements: The Sherwood Oaks Park dedication will be on **Thurs., May 8** (rain date: May 15).

Future Board Meetings: The next Monthly Board Meeting will be held on **Tues., May 6, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Card Room. The next Annual (Quarterly) Meeting will be on **June 10 at 7 p.m.**

COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #735

Man-made Climate Change is NOT a Hoax

As I am writing this column, early in April, both houses of Congress have passed a budget resolution which will allow them to work toward passing a budget using a budget reconciliation process that, unlike in 2022, will be in control of the Republican party with Democrats having little say in what the legislation will eventually contain.

Our congressman, Mike Kelly, is the chair of the Subcommittee on Tax within the House Ways and Means Committee, which means that he is a key player in the process that will eventually decide what is included in, and excluded from, the final budget legislation sent to the Senate.

The main goal of this budget reconciliation is to extend the tax cuts that were passed in 2017 while minimizing the increase in the national debt. So, every source of funds that can be cut from the current budget will be seen as contributing to that minimization.

Those of us who realize that migrating to a clean energy economy is the only way to keep the planet habitable for future generations are pushing hard to keep in place the green energy tax credits that were included in the Inflation Reduction Act to hasten that migration.

If you would like to join in that effort, the best way is to contact Congressman Kelly's office by phone - (202) 225-5406 for his Washington office - or by email: <https://kelly.house.gov/contact> - and ask that the green energy tax credits not be ended to pay for extending the tax cuts. I would be happy to provide more information and help as I meet with Mike or his staff at least twice a year. Let me know - let's go green.

CHAPEL NOTES

By Gary Brandenberger - #602
For the Chapel Committee

Services begin at 2:00 p.m.
in the Card Room

Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend.

Sunday, May 4

Rev. Karen Slusser
St. Paul's UMC
Allison Park, PA

Sunday, May 11

Rev. Leonard Finn
All Saints Anglican
Cranberry Township, PA

Sunday, May 18

Rev. Amy Wagner
St. Paul's UMC
Allison Park, PA

Sunday, May 25

Rev. Todd Allen
Park Presbyterian
Beaver, PA

"How good it is to give thanks to you, O Lord, to sing in your honor, O most high God."

Psalm 92: 1



A SPECIAL CELEBRATION OF THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK

By Jno Hunt - #308

The Entertainment Committee invites you to join us at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 22 in the Auditorium for a special celebration of the Great American Songbook performed by the group Small Hours.



Small Hours is a lively acoustic tribute to swing era greats such as Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan. Vocalist Margot Jezerc (granddaughter of Frank and Joanne Weiss!), mandolinist Bryce Rabideau, and upright bassist Jason Rafalak use their unconventional instrumentation to breathe new life into beloved songs and celebrate a century of American improvised music.

The result is a sonically inventive trio with a singular sound. When they're not performing as Small Hours, Margot, Bryce, and Jason are often touring the country with the Pittsburgh-based folk band Buffalo Rose.

SORA SLATE COMPLETE

By Bruce Cooper - #735

The 2025 SORA Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate to fill positions for the 2025-2026 fiscal year:

Jean Henderson, to fill her last year of eligibility as President

Bruce Cooper, to fill his last year of eligibility as Vice-President

Patsy Grant, to fill her first year of eligibility as Treasurer

Rosemary Coffey, to fill the position of Secretary

Lois Greer, to fill the second and last two-year term as a Director

Jno Hunt, to fill the second and last two-year term as a Director

John Lesjack, to fill a two-year term as a Director

Nancy Smith, to fill a two-year term as a Director

The chair of the Committee wishes to thank Vice-Chair Peter Broeren and members Denton Bond, Carol Harvey, and Jane Lavender for their diligence and hard work in finding worthy candidates to fill these important SORA positions.

MORE THAN A BOX

By George Steffey - #275

One odd little dilemma older people struggle with is the debate to save an empty box or to discard it. "It's a really good box," we say. "It would be a shame to toss it out."

I think this is something we can all identify with, and maybe it's also a metaphor for other things in our lives, such as the acceptance of mental and physical changes.

What do we hang onto and worry obsessively about, and what things do we just let go, like that box? It's something for us to ponder as changes come into our lives.

THE COLETTA MCHENRY LIBRARY ACCESSIONS **FICTION, INCLUDING LARGE TYPE**

The Astrology House *	Jade, Carinn	c. 2024	F JAD
The Big Chill		c. 1998	F BIG
Welcome to My Living Room	King, Carole	c. 2007	F KIN/DVD
Coco	Coco	c. 2018	FCOC/DVD
Creation Lake	Kushner, Rachel	c. 2024	FKUS
Dark Hours	Jordan, Amy	c. 2025	F JOR/
Homeseekei	Chen, Karissa	c. 2025	F CHE
Leave No Trace *	Callahan, Jo	c. 2024	F CAL
Lies He Told Me	Patterson, James	c. 2024	F PAT
The Lost Passenger	Quinn, Frances	c. 2025	FQUIpb
The Man Who Listens To Horses	Roberts, Monty	c. 1997	F ROB
Northern Exposure: The Complete Series		c. 2020	FNORDVD
Paranoia	Patterson, James	c. 2025	F PAT
Sleepless in Seattle		c. 2023	F SLE/DVD
Small Things Like These	Keegan, Claire	c. 2021	F KEE
Star Wars		c. 2013	F STA/DVD
The Underground Library	Ryan, Jennifer	c. 2024	F RYA
The Waltons		c. 2002	F WAL/DVD
We All Live Here	Moyes, Jojo	c. 2025	F MOY

NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES

Behind the Yoi: The Life of Myron Cope, Legendary Pittsburgh Steelers Broadcaster	Joseph, Dan	c. 2024	BIO COP
A Christmas Celebration: Send Round the Song		c. 2023	781.7CHR DVD
Galapagos: The Islands that Changed the World		c. 2007	592.9GAL DVD
History of the Eagles: The Story of an American Band		c. 2013	782.4 EAG DVD
The Invisible Front: Love and Loss in an Era of Endless War	Dreazen, Yochi	c. 2014	355 DRE
Joseph Campbell: The Power of Myth with Bill Moyers		c. 2012	291 MYT DVD
Joseph Campbell: The Hero's Journey		c. 2006	201.3 CAM DVD
Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith	Lamott, Anne	c. 2005	813.54 LAM
A Remarkable Run: The Story of the 2004 Pittsburgh Steelers		c. 2005	796.3 STE DVD
Solito: A Memoir *	Zamora, Javier	c. 2022	305.230 ZAM

*designates books reviewed in Worth a Look in this issue



SIGNS OF SPRING, ALL AROUND



Photo by Kathie McCormick



Photo by Kathie McCormick



Photo by Kathie McCormick

Ducks on the loose...

Photo by John Hennon

