

THE ACORN

SHERWOOD OAKS NEWSLETTER

100 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

www.sherwood-oaks.com

Summer 2025 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. 44, No. 6

DOWN THE SUMMER PATH . . .



Photo by Carol Harvey

Dear Reader –

“What I Did on My Summer Vacation” was an oft-assigned essay topic when we were in grade school. In our current season of life, we are on a continuous vacation of sorts, and our time is mostly our own.

Even so, the rhythm of the seasons is hard-wired in us, and the onset of the summer solstice brings with it thoughts of family visits, a beach holiday, maybe a picnic now and then.

If the frailties of age limit the range of your experiences, you can still find a way outside to enjoy the colors of a sunset or inhale the special perfume of a summer morning.

However you relish the season, do it fully. *The Acorn* is on vacation, too. We'll see you in September and look forward to hearing what you've been up to!

~ Jan Wendt

SUMMER CALENDAR

Flag Day	June 14
Father's Day	June 15
Juneteenth	June 19
Independence Day	July 4
Senior Citizen Day	August 21
National Dog Day	August 26

THE ACORN

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Submissions for the September issue must be sent to the Editor no later than
August 15, 2025.

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.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Norman Ferguson April 28, 2025

Kathleen Millward May 12, 2025

Carole Fletcher May 13, 2025

NANCY ELLIOTT - #118

By Jan Wendt - #158



Photo by Jan Wendt

Nancy Elliott readily admits to having an idyllic, if somewhat old-fashioned, childhood. Growing up in New Castle, PA, she was one of 11 children of Italian immigrants. She describes her father as “old school” in his belief in family, hard work, and a women’s place in the home.

She recalled how her Dad, born in Italy, came over to work in a tin mill in Indiana, then moved east to New Castle. He found he had a knack for repairing cars and eventually set up a flourishing auto repair business in New Castle, which the family still runs.

Although it was a strict upbringing, she recalls fondly the pleasures of growing their own food, pulling up the rug to jitterbug with her siblings and friends on Saturday night, and creeping in on squeaky floorboards after curfew with her Dad looking down from the top of the staircase.

She remained in New Castle for most of her life, finding work, sometimes in Pittsburgh, as a secretary and a nanny. She

worked with one family of 3 children for 5 years, and relished cooking spaghetti for them and wearing them out by the end of the day.

She has been married twice, and is the mother of a daughter, who lives nearby in Cranberry Twp., and a son in Charlotte, North Carolina. Four grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren complete the family. Nancy is a twin (“her nickname is “Twinny”) and her sister lives in downtown Pittsburgh.

She traveled some with her second husband, and especially enjoyed seeing Hawaii.

Nancy’s favorite hobby is cooking, and she especially loves preparing Italian dishes for her longtime companion, Carl Robertson, who has been a resident in our Skilled Nursing Unit for nearly a year, following a stroke. The two shared a duplex for many years in New Castle. Here, she can wheel him over to her patio home for a home cooked meal.

Although having moved in only a month ago, Nancy has set up her fitness evaluation with Bill Burtner, and has provided some cat-sitting for a hospitalized neighbor. She is settling in, and glad to be closer to her daughter.

Be on the lookout for Nancy’s friendly face around campus and welcome her to our community.



KIT SNEAD - #138

By Jean Henderson - #346



Photo submitted by Kit

“Around the World in 80 Years” could be Kit Snead’s theme song! What unique adventures with amazing people she’s experienced. Come travel with her on some of those adventures:

EDUCATION – BA at Baylor, M. Ed. At Texas Women’s University, teaching certificate at Central Pan American University of Texas – trained as an educator and school counselor.

PROFESSIONAL LIFE – Actress for 7 years after college in Texas, NYC, WY, trained classically by the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in MI; Teacher and Counselor in Dallas for 20 years – famed psychologist Carl Rogers lectured at TWU when she was there; Professional Exhibition Photographer for decades focusing on Traditional Tarahamara indigenous people in central Mexico – admirer of photojournalist Margaret Bourke-

White. Kit used her slides as teaching tools after summer breaks on the road. Later, she quit teaching and studied photography with Douglas Hall in NM.

ACQUISITIONS – Stepping into her home is like visiting two museums: art and history! A dozen Mexican masks and her framed photographs on the walls, lovely rugs from all over the world, an amazing book collection – her home is a feast for the eyes and soul.

TRAVEL – Dozens of trips to Mexico with guide James Barnaby; visits to every continent except Antarctica and over 30 countries, British Isles while at Baylor, most all European countries, the ‘darker’ countries of South America and Africa and Asia. In a few months she and her travel buddy are going to Mongolia for 18 days.

So how did she end up at Sherwood with her Texas accent?!? With no living relatives, Kit is now near her god-daughter and emergency contact who lives in Sewickley. Her contact’s mother and Kit met when they were five.

Kit regrets not having her dear dog Wylie here at Sherwood. Wylie died recently at age 14. She appreciates that Sherwood welcomes pets on campus.

Our exercise programs are already on her schedule; she has interest in drama as well. Her residence before SO was at a senior living facility in Dallas where she was VP of the Resident Council.

Kit is a true resident of the world! And we welcome her to our SO world.

Beware of Tick Bites!

By Warren Howe - #337
For the Health Affairs Committee

Our North Woods and other beautiful spaces beckon, but know that spring and summer are the months when deer ticks are in abundance in woody or grassy areas, looking for animals, including us humans, to bite. Those bites can transmit Lyme disease, which you definitely want to avoid.

If you're venturing into "tick country" take precautions against being bitten. Wear clothing with long-sleeve shirts and long pants, tucking pants legs into your socks, and tuck your shirt in at the waist. Light-colored clothing makes it easier to spot the insects. Stay on trails and avoid brush and tall grass. Consider using tick repellent (permethrin on clothing; picaridin or IR3535, both of which may be somewhat preferable to DEET, on exposed skin) applied according to package directions. Be sure pets are being given tick preventive treatments and check them for attached ticks after potential exposures.



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When you get home from a woodsy outing, thoroughly check your clothing and body for ticks. If a tick is loose on skin or

in clothing, brush it off quickly. If it is attached to skin, it must be removed, carefully and completely, with tweezers. Get help from others, or Community Nursing, if necessary. The sooner it is removed, the less likely it will transmit disease. Putting clothes in the dryer for 5 minutes on "high" will kill any hidden ticks.

Symptoms of Lyme disease may include fever, fatigue, and body aches. Sometimes a red, round, or oval rash which enlarges slowly over several days may occur. To minimize complications, this disease should be promptly treated, so do not hesitate to consult your primary care physician if you have such symptoms or are concerned. In reality, many Lyme disease patients do not recall the tick bite that infected them.

With these relatively simple precautions, we can more safely explore the beauty that nature provides us. Enjoy it and stay well!

CORRECTIONS

Apologies to Connie Brandenberger and John Stull. Connie was the interviewer and writer of John's new resident profile in the May issue of *The Acorn*.

The byline incorrectly named Rosemary Coffey as the writer, and listed John's residence as #721, but you will find him in #281.

In addition, Julie Eden's unit was incorrectly identified as #190 instead of her real address, #290.

We appreciate all our bio profilers, who work month after month to introduce us to those new to our community. Sorry, Connie and John!

TRIPS & TOURS CORNER

By Maggie Bennardo - #211

Welcome to our '**corner**' of *The Acorn* where you will find news, updates, and information about future events. The T&Ts SORA Activity committee members are tasked with proposing, planning, promoting, and hosting events for Sherwood Oaks residents' enjoyment.

The Activity is basically self-funded. Participating residents pay their own way (tickets, meals, entrance fees) and the cost of transportation is divided among those attending the event and charged to their monthly statement.

We posted an "Interests and Suggestions" sheet some time ago and many of you responded. Your suggestions did not fall into a black hole; we are working through the list. We look at potential events with an eye to compatible accommodation, reasonable cost, availability, distance/time, and potential interest from residents. Unfortunately, some ideas and suggestions don't make the cut; nevertheless, we continue to make an effort.

A trip to Rico's Restaurant in mid-April was well attended and well received. Mid-May found our group in Jamestown, PA at The Gibson House, one of the safe houses on the Underground Railroad. After a tour and lunch, we traveled back home on a sunny late spring day.

Dinner at Elias Mediterranean Grill, just down the road in Warrendale, was a treat for a bus load on the 20th. And a tour of Old Economy Village rounded out the month of May.

Coming up in June, members are planning a dinner trip to the Longhorn Steak House as well as a jaunt to The Carnegie Museums in Oakland. In July, we will take a cruise on The Gateway Clipper.

The Acorn is on break until fall, so to keep up with our activities, check our board in the mailroom and postings on Channel 950.

We would love to have you participate in our events.

Ready, Set, Go! The Ukes are Coming!

By Carol Harvey - #235

The Steel City Ukes are coming to entertain on Thursday, June 26, at 7 p.m. The toe-tapping, hand-clapping, finger-strumming group will have you smiling, singing, and wishing you could dance – which you can if you want. The members range in age from 10 to ???



Since you'll know most of the songs, you will enjoy singing along, and you just may see some familiar faces in the group, too.

CUSTOMS AND HABITS

By John Bridges - #122

When I first went to Kenya, I stayed in a moderately priced hotel with the grandiloquent name The Mayfair. It was owned by Indians who had carried exaggerated ideas of English Customs across the oceans so that the menus included 5 - course lunches and 7 - course dinners including separate plates for salad, soup, fish, meat, dessert, cheese, and coffee. The latter was served in metal pots with matching cream jug and sugar bowl, to be poured into delicate china cups. Unfortunately, I found the handle too hot to hold and took to carrying a pair of pliers to solve that problem. One day a friend was dining with me and was horrified to see me produce a pair of pliers in such an elegant setting until he reacted with an "Ouch! Can I borrow them please"?

Sometimes there is a real reason for the habit, sometimes not. In England if a knife or fork falls off the table on to the floor. it is often nonchalantly picked up and used. In the States, this would probably be regarded with horror and considered a danger to health. The reverse is true in the way many Americans almost encourage a dog to lick their faces, which would be looked on with horror in England and considered disgusting and a danger to health. Admittedly there is a difference in that English dogs are usually free to roam whereas many American pets are kept on a leash for walks and thus less likely to eat or lick unpleasant things.

As an example, our dog accompanied my mother when she walked down to the shops. Along the beach and across the

village green, all without thought of a leash. Not wanting to subject it to the tantalizing sights and smells inside the butcher's shop, she bade him sit outside and "Wait". In the afternoon she realized that the dog was nowhere to be seen and found him patiently waiting in the same spot 5 hours later, waiting for the commands of release.

When entering a restaurant in any small French town or village, it is considered polite to greet all the seated customers at least with a simple "Bon Soir Mesdames et Messieurs". No further entry into conversation is expected, but a silence would be met with stony glares and the new arrivals thought to be rude and stand-offish. If, on the other hand, a foreign accent is detected, an attempt will probably be made to make you feel welcome. I do not know of this need for salutation by the visitor, rather than the host, in any other country.

It is interesting to consider how mealtimes vary from country to country based on climate and work habits. In England where farmers had to rise early to milk their cows, they developed a habit to return around nine for sustenance. This "meal" was called Nammett in the southern counties but is unknown outside this area.

Whilst the English Breakfast tended to be a substantial meal to "break the fast", the French "Petit Dejeuner" consisted of just a coffee and croissant and could be translated as "A little something to start the day". Germans and Danes started their day between these two extremes with sausage or cheese filling the gap.

English mothers and children would often break their mornings with a cup of hot cocoa and a biscuit (cookie), and this would be referred to as “Eleveneses”.

In Chile many English and German wives gathered in the afternoon for cake and sandwiches. This was referred to as “Las Onces” which translates as “Eleveneses” because it was held at 5 o’ clock in the afternoon - which in tropical areas, is regarded as the eleventh hour of the day.

After an energetic Saturday afternoon, English families will often want something more substantial than the delicate sandwiches and offerings of a typical “English Tea Party” so Pork Pies, “Sausage and Mash” or similar items will be served as part of “High Tea” around 7 p.m. In Spain there is an equivalent in the “tapas” served in bars, consisting of plates of food served to be enjoyed (and nourished) by 3 or 4 people, who won’t get a substantial meal until much later.

Spain is not a tropical country, but the summer sun can make for very hot and dry conditions: a “siesta” is almost compulsory. This means that a full 8 hours sleeping at night is not necessary, so that an evening’s revelry can continue until the early hours of the morning and the evening meal taken at 10 or 11 p.m.

An example of this happened in Colombia where Sheila and I were invited to a friend’s house. We arrived about 7 p.m. to find a room full of guests circulating around tables covered with plates of food and drinks. About 10 p.m., we prepared to leave and thank our hosts; they replied “But you can’t leave! We are about to serve dinner.”

COOPER’S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #735

Man-made Climate Change is NOT a Hoax

According to the International Energy Association, “The world’s electricity consumption is forecast to rise at its fastest pace in recent years, growing at close to 4% annually through 2027 as power use climbs in a range of sectors across the economy. . . . In the United States, a strong increase in electricity demand is expected to add the equivalent of California’s current power consumption to the national total over the next three years.”

Today’s process for adding capacity to the U.S. electrical grid is lengthy and drowning in red tape, a very real bottleneck to the migration to clean energy sources. Over 95% of the projects waiting in the permitting queue would add solar, onshore, and offshore wind, geothermal, and/or nuclear capacity to the grid.

In July 2024, chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee Joe Manchin introduced the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024. It would have greatly reduced both the time and red tape of bringing energy projects, including those for fossil fuels, to fruition. With the unsubsidized cost of renewables, especially solar and wind, now cheaper than fossil fuels, the migration to a clean energy economy would be market driven.

Unfortunately, in the rush to get other “pet projects” passed before the end of the congressional term, Manchin’s bill never made it to the floor of the Senate for a vote.

If you care about putting a clean energy economy in place for your children and grandchildren, let me know. I would be happy to assist in making your wishes known to those who have the power to make it happen

KITCHEN SUPPLIES NEEDED

By Kate Donovan - #293

Our Sherwood Oaks Park is dedicated and open for business. Now, we need to focus on getting the Summer House kitchen well-appointed for a wonderful summer season and into early fall. Most of the prior kitchen inventory that had been in storage is no longer suitable for use.

We need and are accepting donations for the following items:

- large pots and pans, preferably with lids
- cookie sheets
- large serving bowls
- pitchers
- snack baskets
- large serving trays
- blender
- cocktail shaker
- battery operated wall clock

Let's restock our kitchen! Call Kate Donovan at #8293 if you have something to contribute.



AGING

Inspired by Meryl Streep

Submitted by Jean Henderson - #346



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Aging is not for the faint of heart.
One day, you wake up and realize
youth has quietly slipped away.
But it didn't leave alone.
It took with it your insecurities, your rush
to please,
your fear of not being enough.
And in its place?
It left you with something stronger:
A slower pace, but a steadier step.
The wisdom to say goodbye
without fear.
The grace to cherish those who
chose to stay.
The power to be you,
unapologetically.
Aging isn't about losing –
it's about letting go.
It's about learning to accept,
to release, and to truly see
that beauty was never just in the mirror.
It lived in every story, scar, and
silent strength we carried within.
Aging is a gift. Wear it with dignity.

PAPERBACK PONDERINGS

By Jean Henderson - #346

Donations keep us alive in the Paperback Room! Special thanks to recent donors that I know of: Helen Haberlein, Christine Coates, Annette McPeck and the estate of Barbara Rankin. Look for the Debbie Macomber books, now on the *Multiple Books by Same Author* shelves. And added to those shelves are 5 new “The Cat Who...” books by Braun.

Additional new donations are 2 more Nicholas Sparks books and ‘Beloved’ by Toni Morrison. Thanks for the donation of ‘Trillium’ by Case, just in time for the blooming of our own trillium! Other new donations include ‘The Pillars of the Earth’ by Follett, ‘Nop’s Trials’ by McCaig – an adult dog story, and 2020 Booker Award winner ‘Shuggie Bain’ by Stuart. Stop in and enjoy!!

Travel Destinations

I've been many places in my life, but I have never been to Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes, I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

People keep telling me I'm in Denial, but I'm positive I've never been there before!

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.



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OUTDOOR GAMES BEGIN - OUTSIDE!

By Gary Brandenberger - # 602

We had a successful winter and spring with corn hole and ping pong, held in the Cranberry Fitness Center. Corn hole was very popular, having two games going on at one time on some Wednesdays. As we move outside, we hope to maintain that momentum.

Sherwood Oaks Park also includes pickleball, which is already active. Check with Denton Bond (412-400-2423). Bocce ball, Two shuffleboard courts, and a golf ball practice net are ready for use. Horseshoes could be added if there is an interest.

We will meet on Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. at the Park. Simply show up and find the games(s) that interest you. We are ALL novices, so just come and enjoy the games and make new friends. You couldn't ask for a more beautiful setting!

We plan on having croquet and putting contests soon. Watch channel 950 to find dates and times. All the Outdoor Games equipment is available to residents and their families anytime. This is your home. All game equipment is conveniently located near the game areas at the Park and near the golf and croquet greens. Check it out. Questions, call me at 724-591-5385.

A LITTLE STORY ABOUT MY VERY RAPID BEGINNING

By Monika Dalrymple - #200

First, a little history.

My father never came home from the war; no one knew where, when, and how he died. He was a “forgotten” soldier. My mother had the Red Cross search for him for 10 years with no result or closure.

I had a very fast and interesting beginning. It took my mother 36 hours to deliver my sister Ingrid. I, on the other hand, couldn't wait to come into this world as fast as possible. My mother took her good old time to get ready for the hospital when starting her labor, because she figured it would be a while for me as well. But oh, no, not me! I couldn't wait to start my life with a bang...bump? As my mother went down the stairs to the car, I was sooo ready and popped out right in the stairwell. Fast and easy. It only took me an hour to start my exciting life. Yep, one short hour!

But danger was right around the corner. In March of 1945 we had to leave our home in Czechoslovakia and find our way to Germany to be taken in by my uncle Hugo and his family. I was one year and six months old and my sister Ingrid was three.

Being in our new home was the easy part! What was perilous was the journey to get there.

Though the trip normally would have taken four hours by train, it took us three long arduous weeks. My mother told us this story many years later when we were able to grasp the concept of this long and dangerous trip. She would tell us that the

train had to stop multiple times due to frequent bombardment. Off the train we went into a shelter and back on again when it was safe. A few times we had to be herded into cold, wet, and dark caves. She said that at times we were sheltered there for days without food and no other facilities. I guess I didn't do so well and got pneumonia and almost died. The only thing which kept me alive was my mother's prayers and hope. She kept me as warm and dry as she could. No drugs were available to treat me.

But what the heck, I was determined to live; after all it was my destiny!

So, I grew up during a very poor and difficult time where my grandmother “Omi” and my mother “Mutti” provided for us as much as they could. I do remember that we were never hungry; we were almost never cold, and my mother was a talented seamstress who made many of our clothes. My grandmother took care of us and our home while my mother found work as an accountant for a few of the shops in town several months after our arrival. The early months were hard though; oftentimes my grandmother went to the nearby farmers to beg for food and my mother, who spoke some English, translated things for the US soldiers who had a base close to home. They compensated her with sweets for us and some direly needed household goods.

The town where I was born was called Gablonz, in the northern part of the Czechoslovakia, close to the Polish border. I was able to visit my birth town in 2003. I saw the house I was born in and noticed that the shop which belonged to my father was still there with many of the same wares my father sold, jewelry and

crystals. My father was a goldsmith. It was a profoundly moving experience. All the things that could have been and never were. I was deeply moved and disturbed that one evil man could change the lives of so many and to be uncountable others. I sat on the sidewalk and cried.

The town I grew up in, however, was in the part of Germany called Tirschereuth. It was in the northeastern part of Bavaria very near the Czech border.

We were able to hike along the border a few times. I remember asking why there was a barbwire fence, and soldiers with guns and dogs. After all, I reckoned, the land over there looked just like ours and the soldiers looked just like us, too. The innocence of youth! Another memory was the extensive library I often visited. It was located right next to the town jail. In all the years I went there for books, I had seen only one visitor who was sleeping off his drunken state. The town had a porcelain factory where very fine porcelain was produced, and my Uncle Hugo was a very talented porcelain painter.

This year I will have a chance to visit my hometown again. I am looking forward to seeing the everlasting pond with the (same?) ducks in it, just before seeing the town located in a broad and shallow valley. I will also see my niece, Karin, my precious child, plus the town of Weiden, where I went to nursing school.

This might be my final time to be transported back to the time of my childhood and young adulthood.

It seems so long ago indeed, but by no means forgotten.

SINGALONG AND SNAX

By Jean Henderson - #346

We're back!! After a long COVID break, Singalong and Snax time is returning! With a new fire pit, new snack bags, new music, and maybe old stories, we'll gather for a fun evening twice a month during the summer at **7:00 p.m.**, in Sherwood Oaks Park.



In June, come to the Park on the **11th** and **25th** for an hour of enjoyment. Bring your friends and neighbors! Watch channel 950 for rain dates and for more summer dates.

See you there!

What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind? A maybe.

I wasn't originally going to get a brain transplant, but then I changed my mind.

A WALK IN THE NORTH WOODS

By George Steffey - #275

I went for a walk this morning
in the North Woods;
It was the middle of April.
I sat on a bench, in awe of the
coming spring -
the trees were beginning to bud,
There was water in the stream cascading
over the rocks

The brilliant trillium plant leaves
were abundant and awesome
They were growing by the hundreds.
Large green leaves along the stream,
their stems getting ready to present
bright yellow flowers.

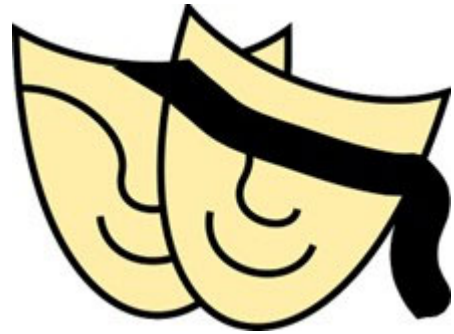
I was surrounded by trees starting to
present their green spring leaves
through a bright blue sky
What an awesome world we live in;
Everything is always new.



Photo by Jan Wendt

DRAMA CLUB APPEAL

By Monika Dalrymple - #200



Hey, folks of Sherwood Oaks: We need people for the Drama Club! Anyone is welcome, but we could especially use more gents!

If you have some experience, that would be great. If you have none, well here is your chance to find out. You may have a talent you never knew you had. However, we have all kinds of positions which require no talent, just a willingness to help in many ways.

You'd be surprised what goes on behind the scenes!

Our productions are popular and well attended. Please come and join us; it is a wonderful experience, really, really!!

~~~~~

*Some of the best memories are made in flip flops. Kellie Elmore*

*Summer- the time when parents realize how underpaid teachers really are.*

- Unknown





# **PARK DEDICATION DAY** *(photos by Roberta Brenninghouse)*



**WORTH A LOOK**  
**Books New to Our Library**

By Barbara Christy - #237

***Catherine, The Princess of Wales: A Biography of the Future Queen*** by Robert Jobson. LARGE TYPE. When Catherine was born, royal marriages were arranged for dynastic or diplomatic goals. Young British girls had little reason to suspect they might become a princess. But our world has changed and with it the political and social landscape surrounding British aristocracy. Catherine and William, now Prince of Wales, knew each other through socializing between their respective private schools but became better acquainted in 2001 at the University of St. Andrews. At first just good friends, gradually they grew closer and managed an eight-year courtship under the radar through their college years, William's military training, and Kate's first jobs.

The author describes Kate's developing relationships with the royal family, her immersion into the media world they live in, and the private world behind the palace doors. He clearly admires her maturity in dealing with all the change and pressure, her vulnerability, her strength, and compassion. As Kate and William's family has increased, and they have endured the multiple crises, including Harry and Megan's departure from the family, Kate has morphed into Catherine, the Princess of Wales. She now has a foundational role within The Firm and is a pillar of stability amid scandal and a calming influence in a sea of political unrest. Anglophiles among us will enjoy delving into

the details of a special royal life. BIO CAT.

***The Husbands*** by Holly Gramazio. Fiction. Ladies, this one is for you. A single woman, Lauren, comes home one night to be greeted by her husband - in her re-decorated apartment. While she's trying to understand this weird turn of events, Lauren is assured by her friends and neighbors that she is indeed married to this very nice man. Then he goes up to the attic to change a light bulb and an entirely different man comes down. Every time one goes into the attic, a different husband comes down. Lauren learns to manage having merry-go-round spouses but by husband # 179 she is ready to try something different, maybe just dating? F GRA

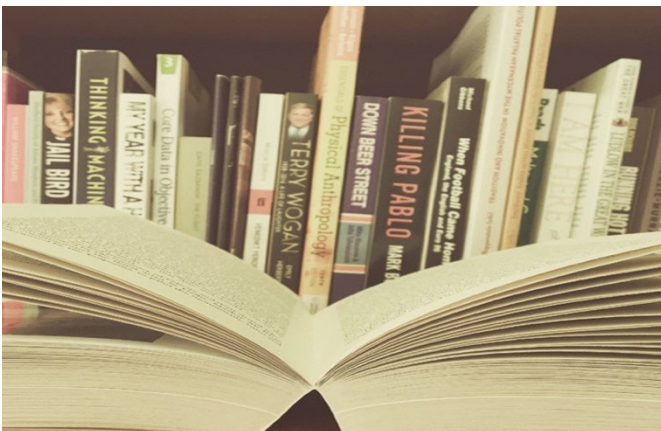
***Lost Children Archive*** by Valeria Luiselli. Fiction. A blended family living in New York is engaged in recording all the sounds of the city, including the more than 800 languages spoken there. A casual meeting with a Trique woman whose daughters are caught in the legal immigration morass leads the mother into a new professional focus - immigration law. Her husband is also changing focus - capturing the soundscapes of the American West. Together they set out, with their children, on a year-long road trip that would change them all forever. F LUI

***This is Happiness*** by Niall Williams. Fiction. The much-anticipated coming of



electricity to a small Irish town creates the backdrop for this lovely coming of age story of 19-year-old Noel. Although the village of Faha has been unaltered by change for a thousand years, the incessant rain stops and the villagers wrestle with the traditions that are challenged by progress. Written in a lyrical, story-telling voice the pastoral beauty of rural Ireland shines while the lives of the characters draw the reader into the warm, enfolding life of the community. F WIL.

***The Demon of Unrest: Saga Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War*** by Erik Larson. Fans of Erik Larson will be glad to see his newest product. This time the subject is the era just before the Civil War. Lincoln has been elected, state after state is seceding from the Union, Fort Sumter stands majestically in Charleston Harbor. The voices of two men and one woman, Major John Anderson, Edmund Ruffin, and Mary Chestnut, drive the narrative, which encompasses Lincoln's struggles and the local day-to-day successes and mistakes of the people living amid this dramatic backdrop. Larson is expert at telling the political horror story from the perspective of the individuals involved. 973.711 LAR



## 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, June 1

Rev. James Benson  
Cranberry Community Presbyterian  
Cranberry Township

### Sunday, June 8

Rev. Nathan Snode  
Lifeway Baptist Church  
Cranberry Township

### Sunday, June 15

Rev. James Shoucair  
Christ Episcopal Church (Retired)  
Ross Township

### Sunday, June 22

Rev. Hollis Haff  
New Community Church (Retired)  
Wexford

### Sunday, June 29

Rev. Dean Ziegler  
Coraopolis U.M.C. (Retired)

*"Wisdom is supreme; therefore, get wisdom."*

*Proverbs 4:7*



## ENSLAVED GIRL

By Jim Mauch - #263

In Colonial Williamsburg's collection there is this portrait of an enslaved girl.



For me it is compelling on several levels. The museum notes that depictions of enslaved African Virginians were rare, particularly images that lacked the usual distortions of caricature and stereotyping.

This portrait in the collection is unusually empathetic. It is likely that the girl was enslaved by one of the important Virginia families. Her name is unknown. The word "Topsy" was inscribed on her apron, though we know not by whom.

The date of the portrait was 1830, and the medium was watercolor, pencil, and ink on paper. The artist was Mary Anna Randolph Custis, the descendent of several powerful and wealthy families in Virginia. The artist was later married to Robert E. Lee.

## CURIO CABINETS FOR JUNE/JULY

By Janet Desko - #210

What a beautiful display of childhood photographs! From June 4 – June 9, come find out the names of the handsome young men and lovely young ladies in the current display. A big thanks to all residents who participated in the **"Who Am I?"** theme. Please pick up your photos on **June 10** from **10:30 a.m. – noon** and from **4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** and learn the name of the contest winner.

In June/July, our theme will be **Arts & Crafts**. So, if you have handmade objects d'art, please share by bringing them to the curio cabinets on **June 12** from **10:30 a.m. – noon** and from **4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** This can be a piece that you created yourself (drawing, sculpture, weaving, jewelry, knitting, sewing, painting, woodworking, etc.) or a piece that you picked up on a trip to a foreign land. Maybe you have a hidden talent that no one knows about that you would be willing to put on display!

Join us for this exciting theme which will showcase all the great creative minds, eyes and hands here at Sherwood Oaks. Please be aware of certain size limitations with placing things in the curio cabinets. Thank you.

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Outside a muffler shop: "No appointment necessary; we hear you coming."

On an electrician's truck: "Let me remove your shorts."

THE COLETTA MCKENRY LIBRARY ACCESSIONS

FICTION, INCLUDING LARGE TYPE

*Indicates book reviewed in Worth a Look

The Big Empty	Crais, Robert	c. 2024	F CRA
Conflict of Interest	Rosenberg, Nancy Taylor	c. 2002	F ROS
Desolation Code: a Clive Cussler Novel	Brown, Graham	c. 2024	F BRO
The Diamond Eye	Quinn, Kate	c. 2022	F QUI
Eleanore of Avignon	DeLozier, Elizabeth	c. 2025	F DEL L.T.
The Hidden Girl	Riley, Lucinda	c. 2024	F RIL
The Husbands*	Gramazio, Holly	c. 2024	F GRA
Last Flight	Clark, Julie	c. 2020	F CLA
Lost Children Archive*	Luiselli, Valeria	c. 2019	F LUI
Nobody's Hero	Craven, M.W.	c. 2024	F CRA L.T.
The Other Mothers	Faulkner, Katherine	c. 2023	F FAU
The Secret History of Audrey James	Marshall, Heather	c. 2025	F MAR L.T.
They're Going to Love You	Howrey, Meg	c. 2022	F HOW
This is Happiness*	Williams, Niall	c. 2019	F WIL
Time of the Child	Williams, Niall	c. 2024	F WIL
Twelve Days of Christmas	Macomber, Debbie	c. 2016	F MAC
The Writer	Patterson, James	c. 2025	F PAT
You'll Never Find Me	Brennan, Allison	c. 2024	F BRE L.T.

NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES

Catherine, Princess of Wales: A Biography of the Future Queen*	Jobson, Robert	c. 2025	BIO CAT L.T.
Cello: A Journey through Silence to Sound	Kennedy, Kate	c. 2025	784.409 KEN L.T.
Chokepoints: American Power in the Age of Economic Warfare	Fishman, Edward	c. 2025	337.73 FIS
The Demon of Unrest: Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War*	Larson, Erik	c. 2024	973.711 LAR
Taking Manhattan: The Extraordinary Events that Created New York and Shaped America	Shorto, Russell	c. 2025	SHO



WHAT'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 **May 6, 2025**, monthly board meeting follow:

SORA Treasurers: The balance as of April 30, 2025, for the Memorial/Special Projects Fund was \$23,490, and that for the Employee Appreciation Fund was \$17,711, for a total of \$41,201. The total SORA checking account balance came to \$94,588.

Committee Liaison Reports:

Sherwood Gifts: Sales for March were \$1,200, with a profit margin of 99%. Sandy Smailer, Annex Manager, thanked the Maintenance Dept. for its speed in moving furniture from the storage garages to the Annex.

Indoor/Outdoor Games: People are needed to help organize bocce ball, shuffleboard, and cornhole; please contact Gary Brandenberger at 724-591-5385 if you can assist.

Civic Affairs: Sample ballots for the coming mid-term election were posted in the Mailroom.

Recycling: 1000 lbs. of plastic bags are needed to earn a new bench; please help the collection by placing your unwanted bags in the trash rooms in the bags hanging on the wall.

Flower Gardens: The 11 gardens are blooming.

Wood Shop: The shop has been busy repairing residents' items.

Bingo: The next session will be on Mon., June 30, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Dog Park: The park has been scheduled for spraying to prevent ticks.

Art Studio: Residents may pick up a key at the reception desk and use the studio as desired. Questions? Contact Barb Dixon at #8335.

Resident Arts and Crafts Wall: Bring in drawings, paintings, needlework, and weavings to

share, including those made by your relatives.

Green Energy Study Activity: The services of the US Dept. of Energy's Communities Program have been enlisted for technical input. The team has also been looking at improving energy efficiency in the remodeling of patio units in terms of windows and insulation.

Pool, Spa, and Locker Room: Committee members will hold a pool party on **Thurs. afternoon, June 5**, to introduce the pool to more people.

SOapp Dispensers/Technology: A new all-in-one printer has been installed and is working well. Moreover, the sound equipment for facilitating campfire sing-alongs at Sherwood Park has been prepared and tested.

Book Club: It is open to all residents and visitors. A motion to reinstate it was carried unanimously.

Administrator's Report: Census: 190 IL units are occupied by 244 residents; we also have 38 residents in Skilled Nursing, 33 in Personal Care, and 30 in Oak Grove. Employee salaries have seen an average 3% increase. Some market-inspired changes have been made to our contract options after a thorough review. The 2025 budget includes a general fee increase of 4%, effective July 1.

Old Business: Jean Henderson provided a Wish List update. A Singalong and Snax at the Park will begin in June. Residents may sign up in the mailroom to show interest in purchasing a Swans T-shirt. Finally, the Nominating slate has been distributed to residents and posted in the mailroom, as required by the By-laws.

New Business: Nine SORA appointments to the SO Fund Board were announced. The new policy for room reservations allows rooms to be reserved up to 18 months in advance by leaders of the event.

Future Board Meetings: The next Monthly Board Meeting will be held on **Tues., June 3, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Card Room. The next Quarterly (Annual) Meeting will happen on **Tues., June 10, at 7 p.m.** in the Auditorium.

YOUNG SEASONAL VISITOR



Photo by Lee Wierman