

THE ACORN

SHERWOOD OAKS NEWSLETTER

100 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

www.sherwood-oaks.com

March 2026 "For the residents, by the residents" Vol. 45, No. 3

IT'S BEEN A KILLER OF A WINTER . . .



(See Page 6 for more)

Photo by Jan Wendt

Dear Reader –

Can you feel it? To me, it's an almost imperceptible rumble under our feet, as the daylight lengthens, Lent and the march toward Easter are underway, and we realize that most of this very old-fashioned Winter is behind us. We are upon the season of fish fry dinners, garden dreaming, and vacation planning.

Pictures and poems within these covers attest to the weeks of bitter cold and beauty we witnessed. We heave a sigh of relief, and offer loads of gratitude to our dear friends, the many Sherwood Oaks employees, who have helped keep us plowed out, warm and fed. Yes, we are fortunate!

As we emerge from our seasonal sequestration, you'll read that we have concerts, lectures, plant sales, fairs, classes, and other activities to engage us in the warming days ahead.

You'll note there are no new resident Bio Profiles in this issue. Our newest neighbors are moving in with abandon; many have just asked for a chance to catch their breath before being interviewed.

We can certainly do that. In the meantime, when you spot a newcomer in your path, introduce yourself and offer a welcome.

~ Jan Wendt



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.

MARCH CALENDAR

Meteorological Spring	March 1
Women's History Month begins	March 2
Purim	March 3
Daylight Savings Time	March 8
St. Patrick's Day	March 17
Spring Equinox	March 20
Palm Sunday	March 29
Cesar Chavez Day	March 31

THE ACORN

Editor

Jan Wendt

janicewndt@gmail.com

Staff

Ruth Becker

John Hennon

Kathie McCormick

Production Editor

Tabby Alford

Ex Officio

Mark Bondi

Submissions for the April issue must be sent to the Editor no later than

March 15, 2026.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Margaret Glavin

February 3, 2026

'JAMMIN' HONEY' TO PERFORM

By Maggie Bennardo - #211

The Entertainment Committee is proud to announce the return of Jammin' Honey. Three friends founded the group in 2019 to share their sheer joy in performing old time American folk music. They blend fiddles, keyboards, and percussion, striving to keep alive tunes derived from Old European folk-dance music.

This fiddling trio, dedicated to sustaining American Folk Music, is returning to the Sherwood Oaks on Thursday, March 26, at 7:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar now, and plan to attend for an evening of toe-tapping music and fun right here in our Auditorium.



JAZZ TRIO RESCHEDULED

By Jno Hunt - # 308

We had to cancel The Thomas Wendt Trio in January due to the snowstorm. The good news: we have been able to reschedule for Wednesday, March 18th at 7:00 p.m. Hope you can join us!! Along with Thomas, on drums, we'll hear the smooth sounds of Mark Strickland on guitar and Chris McGraw on bass.

Tom is an active member of the current jazz scene and teaches jazz history at Duquesne University. He is also a member of the Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra.

Don't miss this evening of smooth and relaxing sounds!

"COLLECTIONS" FOR CURIOS

By Janet Desko - #210

I think that we hit a home run with the "Sports Memorabilia" theme in the last curio display! Your overwhelming participation helped to fill the cabinets with precious and thought-provoking items.

Please pick up your "Sports Memorabilia" items on **Tuesday, March 17** from **10:30 – noon** and from **4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

Our next theme will be "Collections". We have so many new residents with wonderful things to share. Though we have shown our collections before, I believe it is worthwhile to do so again.

Gather your crafts, artwork, tchotchkes, seashells, miniatures, china, pottery, etc. and bring them to the curios on **Thursday, March 19** from **10:30 – noon** and from **4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** Please remember the size of the cabinets and plan accordingly.

Thank you for your support and let's continue to make the Curio Cabinets a part of life at Sherwood Oaks.



Kindness doesn't need a stage. It shows up in parking lots, late texts, warm food, tired eyes, and people who pause just long enough to make everyone else feel seen. It's everywhere if you still know where to look.

~ Seen on Facebook

ONE FOR THE

The weekend of January 24th-25th, 2026 is not one we'll soon forget. Nor the bone-chilling days that followed. Mid-day Sunday, the snow began and continued unabated for over twelve hours, sometimes at a rate of one-two inches an hour. If you live near a parking lot or can see Norman Drive from your window, you knew that our Grounds Crew kept the plows going almost non-stop into Monday.

We learned that some staff in the nursing units, kitchen and Maintenance/Grounds stayed here overnight to insure we would have food and adequate care. They were, quite literally, our lifeline.

I am told that some employees walked to work, went out of their way to transport others to campus, and sometimes stepped out of their usual work areas to help where needed. Their supervisors are justifiably proud of them, and we residents are so very grateful.

This is simply another example of why Sherwood Oaks is not a facility; it's a community. THANK YOU, ALL STAFF!



Photo by Oak Grove Staff

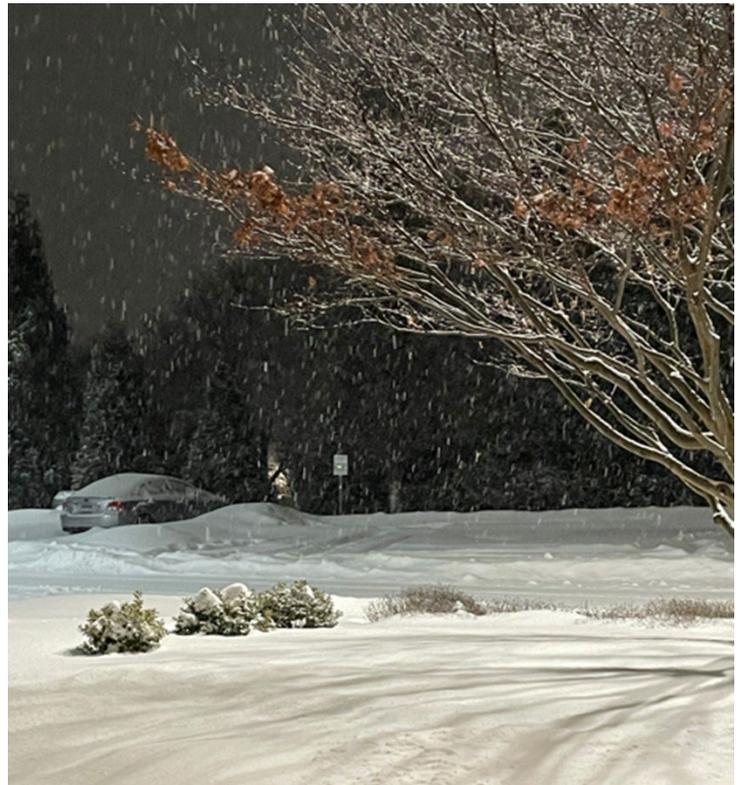


Photo by John Hayter



Photo by Jan Wendt

RECORD



Photo by Jan Wendt

BOOKS



Above - Photo by Peg Rychcik



Photo by Joni Pun



R – Photo by Donna Artz

SHARING OUR JOURNEYS TO SHERWOOD OAKS

Alick Kennedy, Jane Lohman, Bob Millward, Donna Moul, William Moul, Terry Timblin, George Steffey, Nancy Steffey, and Rita Bean

The members of the Writing Your Life's Story class decided that one of their final assignments would be to address the questions: Why did I choose to live at Sherwood Oaks? What do I like about living here? Each person wrote a piece for their own book, and then the group participated in a team writing experience. In this March issue of *The Acorn*, we share our reasons for selecting Sherwood Oaks. Stay tuned, because in the April issue we will describe our thoughts about what makes living here so special.

Why We Selected Sherwood Oaks (SO)

A gift to the family - Sherwood Oaks is a top-notch non-profit facility – the good food, continuing medical care, a comprehensive fitness center (with pool), huge library, and a well-trained staff are some of the benefits of living here. The take-away is that by choosing SO, we have given our families relief from worry about our safety and care.

Security - Having the security gate gives us a sense of safety. The Security team is always quick to respond, whether to a health emergency or to other issues. Security also operates the buses which enable us to get easily to many places (e.g., churches, medical appointments, concerts, shopping centers, or from a patio home to the Community Center).

The location - Sherwood Oaks is one of the prettiest retirement communities around. The 84-acre community is a green space where we can enjoy the outdoors, even on the cold days of winter. It is also conveniently located, with shopping and restaurant choices of all kinds, from discount to high end. Residents who want health care can get it at SO itself or at many nearby medical facilities.

Resident voice - We value the fact that residents are involved in making decisions about almost everything that happens at SO. The Residents' Association has a seat on the SO Board and oversees committees that provide, and in many cases implement, ideas for transportation, activities, food, and so on. Residents contribute to scholarship funds for employees who are continuing their education and to other SO - related charitable funds.

You may have chosen Sherwood Oaks for these reasons or for others – what a great conversation starter at dinner!

COVER PICTURE – Mr. Sterling Silver, victim of murder at our “Clue” themed Birthday Dinner in February, seems to embody how we feel about this winter's extended freeze and heavy snow. One local weatherman noted it will go down as the fifth coldest winter on record in Western Pennsylvania. As we head into March, we are ready to see more above-freezing days ahead.

PAPERBACK PONDERINGS

By Jean Henderson - #346

We exist by your donations, so thanks for giving us these new titles:

Serle, *In Five Years*
Penrose, *The Triangle of London*
Morgan, *The Book Club Hotel*
Gruen, *Water for Elephants*
Foley, *The Invitation*
Hillerman, *Dance Hall of the Dead*
Card, *Ender's Game*
Walker, *To Kill a Troubadour*
Backman, *My Friends*
See, *The Island of Sea Women*
Kline, *bird in hand*

Remember to put a checkmark inside the back cover and drop in the return box in the main library. Thanks!



CORRECTIONS

(Editorial Confessions...)

Although we proofread and proofread, mistakes and omissions occur. In the February *Acorn*, "What's New with SORA", a regular feature, was mysteriously absent. The SORA Secretary submitted it on time, but the Editor inadvertently omitted it.

Also, our magnificent Wimbledon Garden, in front of the putting green and croquet court, was referred to as the "Westminster Garden". Again, an editorial blooper. Apologies!

FREEDOM HOUSE REVISITED

By Jean Henderson - #346

I've received two comments from residents in response to my article in last month's *Acorn* about the Freedom House EMT program.

SO Resident Dr. Warren Howe was able to meet Dr. Peter Safar, father of CPR, who helped create the FH EMS program. The two were attending a meeting of the Critical Care Society in Las Vegas in the '80s when Dr. Safar was its leader. Warren found him a dynamic speaker and leader.



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Janie Naylor's husband, Geoffrey, was one of the first volunteer EMTs for the Elf-inwild VFD. He was in the first class of paramedics trained by Dr. Safar and later set up paid paramedic programs for several local areas. Geoffrey also knew Dr. Nancy Caroline, medical director at the Freedom House, and helped her write her textbook for training paramedics.

"March is the month God created to show people who don't drink what a hangover is like."

~ Garrison Keillor

COME TO THE (ACTIVITIES) FAIR

By Bruce Cooper - #735

On Tuesday, March 24th, starting at 1:00 p.m., many of SORA's committees and activities will display information about and examples of their mission in the Auditorium/Card Room during the biennial **Sherwood Oaks Activities Fair**.

Come and learn about the abundance of interests that our residents support and enjoy. Who knows? – there may be one or two that you'll want to add to your calendar.



Come to the Fair!



VOLUNTEERING – IT'S WHAT WE DO

By Joni Pun - #223

Those of us who have lived in Independent Living for a while know that we do not have a paid activities director here. Instead, we rely upon resident volunteers from our own community and a handful of people from outside the campus who offer their time. For newer residents, especially, you'll be amazed at the variety of outlets for your interests, energy, and talents!

First, there is SORA, the Sherwood Oaks Resident Association, which oversees these activities. We each pay \$60 at the beginning of the year to help fund its activities. It also receives some funding from other sources, including sales from Sherwood Gifts and Granny's Attic. SORA has a Board of Directors, elected by residents; each Director serves a two-year term and each acts as a liaison to one or more committees/activities.

Some of the more visible activities and groups are Sherwood Gifts and Granny's Annex, the Book Club, and Bible Studies. And where would we be without those who write and edit our Acorn monthly newsletter?

Each Winter, a Great Decisions course is offered for eight weeks to provide a forum to study international issues of interest.

And it is resident volunteers who contribute to the day-to-day management of our extensive Library.

We are grateful for the tech volunteers who help to make sense of our computers and phones as well as managing lighting and audio in the Auditorium. A small, dedicated group manages slides and information on the in-house 950 TV channel.

Others guide us in researching our ancestors, writing our life stories, or accompanying us through loss when a loved one dies. The Chapel Committee supplies pastors for every Sunday afternoon chapel service. One committee organizes Trips and Tours provides us with buses to various venues.

Some residents knit hats and scarves for children and needy groups. We recently started a group that likes to make crafts and donates them to the Gift Shop for sale. Members of the Recycling Committee meet weekly to sort plastic bags; their effort helps the environment and rewards us with Trex benches that adorn the campus.

Volunteers are busy outdoors, too. The Landscape Committee oversees maintaining the numerous gardens and wide variety of trees and shrubs that enhance the campus. In short, if you are looking for something to do, consider all the above. You'll be able to make lots of friends.

RESIDENT POETS

MARCH SNOW

By Mary Bouwkamp – #601

The birds are frantic at the feeder,
Squabbling and fluttering in their urgent
quest for food.

The just-returned robins seem tentative
and confused

While the veteran cardinals chase them
off in a blur

And flocks of chickadees mass the
perches.

They know what's coming.

Suddenly they're gone.

With the last of the suet cake in their tiny
furnaces,

Stoked against the cold,

They've fled to the shelter of the woods
behind the house

And all is breathlessly still.

The cold descends like a biblical plague,
grim and relentless,

And the only sound is the creaking of the
trees.

Minute snow crystals sift down in the
millions,

Barely seen in the hush,

Building slowly, inexorably into

Glittering mountains of powder

As my world goes deaf to the sounds of
Spring.

Seeing the daffodils

Stretching their necks

Through the drifts by the front door,

I stand as bewildered as the robins.

3/11/11



Photo by Peg Rychcik

WHERE DID THE YEARS GO?

By Diane Horn - #203

I am eighty now but how can that be?
Just yesterday I was a bride, you see.

Where have the years gone? Did I blink
and lose track?

How I wish I could blink them back.

I would worry much less and enjoy those
days more

With my spouse and our children in our
nest of four.

The patchwork of life surrounds me today.
Memories, trinkets, and pictures on
display.

God has a plan for each of us I see.

So I will follow along fearlessly and free.

I will strive to put all worries aside,

To find joy and peace in the rest of this
ride.

TO CORN OR NOT TO CORN? OR IS THERE CORN IN CORNED BEEF?

By Mary Kretchmar - #287



While I was in the Dining Room when corned beef was on the menu, the question came up: “Why is corned beef called corned beef?”

Full disclosure, I pronounce it “cornbeef” and usually order my Reubens with turkey, not corned beef. I do not accept it when someone tells me that what I want is a Rachel. Although Rachels are made with turkey, coleslaw is used instead of sauerkraut, and I like sauerkraut. But I digress. Back to the question.

Several theories were discussed. One being that beef are raised on a corn diet. Another, that somehow corn is used in the cooking process. No one knew for sure.

So, I asked Chef Rick, who is often serving at the hot foods buffet, if he knew. He told me how it was made – beef brisket submerged in a brine. Still not answering the question. However, a couple of days later while eating lunch, and to my surprise, he brought the answer in a two-page article that he had printed out.

I shortened it to the following: a long, long time ago, people used the word “corn” to describe a *small hard particle*

like salt. Later, when preserving meat or other food with “corns” of salt came into being, it was known as “corning it.” Thus, the name corned beef.

And I might add, Sherwood Oaks makes delicious corned beef.



LOTS OR WOTS IN A NAME

By John Bridges - #222

Our menu recently contained “Black and Bleu Steak.” This mixture of languages set my mind wondering. My commuter quickly explained that this was a typical Pittsburgh dish in which the steak was cooked quickly so that the outside became black whilst the inside remained cold (blue).

I presume to introduce this simple dish to more expensive restaurants (haute cuisine?), the “blue” was translated and has remained through the ages.

One of our cooks gave me another explanation: That the steak was always served with a cheese sauce made with “Fromage Bleu” (blue cheese).



COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #735

Antarctica is experiencing rapid and alarming changes due to global warming. These changes include significant ice melting, collapsing ice shelves, and shifts in ocean circulation. Scientists warn that these transformations could have severe global consequences, including rising sea levels and threats to ecosystems.

KEY CHANGES IN ANTARCTICA:

Ice Melting and Sea Ice Decline

The West Antarctic Ice Sheet is at extreme risk of collapse, which could raise global sea levels by over three meters. Recent studies indicate that Antarctic sea ice is shrinking at an unprecedented rate, leading to potential tipping points in the climate system.

Rising Sea Levels

The melting ice sheets could contribute to significant sea level rise, threatening coastal cities and communities worldwide. Changes in ocean currents and weather patterns may lead to more extreme weather events and altered rainfall distribution.

Climate Feedback Loops

The loss of sea ice exposes darker ocean waters, which absorb more heat, further accelerating warming and ice melt. This creates a self-reinforcing cycle that could lead to irreversible changes in the Antarctic environment.

Urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is necessary to mitigate these impacts and prevent further destabilization of Antarctica's ice and ecosystems.

Watch *Antarctica's Alarming Changes* on Channel 950 on Monday, March 9, at 10:00 AM. Encore presentation on Wednesday, March 11, at 3:30 PM.

SAVE THE DATE: SUNRISE SERVICE

By Kate Donovan - #293

On Easter Sunday, April 5, at 8:00 a.m., a sunrise service of worship will take place in the pavilion at Sherwood Oaks Park.

Buses will begin pickups at 7:30 a.m. and offer returns after the service and social hour.

Signup sheets will be posted in the Mailroom. Call Kate Donovan at #8293 if you'd like to help.



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ORDER EASTER PLANTS

By Diana Schulties - #312

Just a reminder: place your completed order form and payment (either cash or check payable to SORA) in cubby #312 by Thursday, March 5th. This sale is sponsored by the SORA Landscape Committee.

Pickup will be Thursday, March 26, in the late afternoon (time and place to be announced).

If you have any questions, call Ann Ferguson at #8269.

HEALTH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE NOTES

By Warren Howe, Chair - #337

At its meeting on January 16th, the Health Committee considered and acted on several important items, including:

Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs). There are currently 5 of these lifesaving devices on campus, and another soon to be installed at Sherwood Park. A committee representative toured the various locations, noting that they are not well marked for rapid visibility and access in emergency. The committee has asked Administration to investigate improving the availability, signage and visibility of the AEDs. We're also wondering whether residents would like to have a non-certifying presentation to familiarize us with how these, and other resuscitation measures, should be employed when needed.

Fitness and Wellness: Bill Burtner, Health and Wellness Manager, met with us and described all the excellent offerings for residents in his department. There are fitness classes, fitness equipment availability, three eager fitness interns anxious to counsel and assist residents; wonderful opportunities to improve our physical fitness and, amazingly, at no charge for residents.

Radon testing: Administration is investigating testing in several representative residences around

campus to be sure that exposure to radon gas (unfortunately common in Western Pennsylvania) is not part of our environment. If unacceptable levels of radon gas are detected, the problem can be reduced, and its ill effects lessened. Further information about this will be shared as it develops.

Transport home from Emergency Department visits: transport home from the ED is available, so you need not feel stranded after your evaluation and treatment there. The ED nurses have the information about transport, so ask them if you need a ride.

The Health Affairs Committee could use a couple of additional members. Health-related experience is not necessary, only an interest in health matters and a desire to work on improving health and wellness at Sherwood Oaks. We'll have a table at the upcoming Activity Fair, so please drop by and check us out.

Be careful about reading the fine print – there's no way you're going to like it.

The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.

Remember. . .politicians and diapers should be changed often and for the same reason.

CONTINUED LEARNING

By Jno L. Hunt - #308

We are pleased to offer seven outstanding presentations this spring. The series will be on **Mondays, starting on March 9 and run through April 20. All will take place at 1:30 p.m. in the Auditorium.**

Our first speaker on March 9 will be Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent of the Seneca Valley School District, talking with us about the current activities and challenges there. (As many of you know, most of our servers in the evening are students at Seneca Valley High School.)

Other presentations are:

March 16: Sid Baxter and Shirley Poduslo introducing us to the world of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how we can use it.

March 23: Mike Fialkovich, President of the Three Rivers Birding Club—The Interesting Lives of Swans

March 30: Jno Hunt presenting the story and music of Verdi's comic opera, *Falstaff*

April 6: Carlos Keans presenting the craft and stories behind the profiles and scenes on our currency—The Art of Money

April 13: Dr. William Ayoub—When Joints Speak: Understanding Arthritis

April 20: Marcus Rediker presenting The Life of Benjamin Lay, a firebrand Quaker abolitionist from the 18th century

In the meantime, enjoy our presentations on Channel 950. Initial airings on Tuesdays are at 10:00a.m. and encore presentations are on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.

March:

Tues., Mar. 3: "BBC Great Composers—Puccini". Encore on Thurs., Mar. 5

Tues., Mar. 10: "Solar System—Wandering Worlds". Encore on Thurs., Mar. 12

Tues., Mar. 17: "Steel Links". Encore on Thurs., Mar. 19

Tues., Mar. 24: "The Holy Land Revealed—Lectures 21 & 22". Encore on Thurs., Mar. 26

Tues., Mar. 31: "The Amazon Rain Forest". Encore on Thurs., Apr. 2

WINTER FOOD BANK DRIVE

By Bruce Cooper - #735

The Winter drive for the Lighthouse Foundation Food Bank produced over 200 pounds of food and close to \$2,000 in cash donations. Many thanks to those who participated.

Watch for the Spring drive in April.

GIRL SCOUT COOKIE UPDATE

The Old Girl Scout Cookie Organizers – Jane Lohman, Fran Smith, and Jean Henderson - thank you for your support for our cookie sale this year. We sold over 150 boxes this year compared to 100 last year.

Local troop #52619, which long ago held its meetings here at SO, will benefit from the sale. Thank you!



WINTER REMEMBRANCES

By Monika Dalrymple - #200

We have not had Winters like this one in this part of the country. A few, yes, but this one won't leave us alone.

Oftentimes, I do recall the Winters of my childhood quite vividly, though: snow so high that I could not see over the piles of snow along the roads. I remember building snowman after snowman when the snow was heavy and sticky.

I remember the beautiful ice crystal forming on our windows and long icicles hanging from the gutters above. I remember the long cold walks to school when my nostrils froze shut by just taking in a breath.

I remember the sledding hill nearby and careening downhill with neck-breaking speed. We screamed and laughed downward not even aware of some lurking dangers. We went down on large wooden sleds and dragged them uphill after every one of those gleeful downhill runs. We were breathing so hard

that we created large puffy clouds and had stiff fingers despite heavy gloves and layers of clothes. I remember sweat running down my face and turning into rivulets of icy crystals. Yes, it was very cold then, very cold indeed. But we didn't mind the cold if we were able to get home to a warm hearth and hot chocolate served in big cups with little sweet treats for all the extra calories we burned. We never looked at those winters as cold, just a lot of snow for having fun.

Now I look at snow and cold temperatures from a more dismal point of view. However, my nostrils don't freeze shut when inhaling even when the temps are as cold as we experienced this winter!

I find it rather wonderful to talk about the weather since we are not able to change a lot of it. However, remember that these cold blasts are a reminder that global warming is making an impact. What we are feeling this Winter is a warning connected to climate change. The cold temperatures are created by the jet streams forming unusual patterns which are pushing these Arctic waves south.

So yes, global warming is a factor concerning our current weather conditions, and yes, we might not find out how this will affect the planet; but our next generations will be very much affected. Think of your next generations and what they will say when faced with all erratic weather conditions caused by us.

Just a little food for thought.

WHAT'S NEW WITH SORA?

(SO Residents Association)

By Thea Stover, Secretary

Note: Complete minutes are available for review on the SORA Bulletin Board in the mailroom and in the SORA binder in the library.

The Board met on February 3, 2026, with the following information shared:

Finances: Memorial/Special Projects Fund balance is \$28,804.23 and Employee Appreciation Fund balance is \$51,687.80. The SORA balance is \$94,916.40.

Gift Shop: The HOLD POLICY for the gift shop is one week and for the Annex is two weeks. Customers will receive a courtesy phone call reminder; if items are not picked up and paid for, they will be placed for sale again. Total sales for the month were \$4,000. The committee agreed on another \$5,000 donation to the Memorial Fund.

Library: Several committee members' terms are expiring. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Jeanette Lawrence at #238.

Maintenance: A new Maintenance Director, Mark Sutkowski, has been hired. Aside from managing Maintenance, he will also oversee the Housekeeping Department. All parts to repair the lake fountain are in, but the weather needs to improve for the repair.

Games: Games continue every Wednesday at 2:30 in the Cranberry Lake Fitness Center.

Trips and Tours: There will be a cut-off date two days before all trips. Cancellations must be made two days before or, without good reason, the individual will

have to pay the bus fare. Also, if people fail to show up at bus time, they will be charged the bus fare.

Landscape: There will be a plant sale on either March 26 or 27 featuring tulips, "frost chasers," lilies, and hyacinths. The rock garden needs a resident to oversee its maintenance. Leaves on sidewalks are an ongoing problem. Jim Harris is aware of this. Purchasing a leaf sweeper was discussed.

Security and Transportation: It was confirmed that AED's can be used on a patient with a pacemaker, just not right on top of the pacemaker.

PARC: SO has joined PARC (PA Alliance of Retirement Community Residents). There are 36 retirement communities in PA that are members.

Administrative Report: Discussions continue with Armstrong on a new cable TV/internet/telephone package which should decrease costs and improve services. The Senior Director search is progressing with a good group of candidates. Mark Bondi will continue to work until a new Director is appointed.

Nominating Committee: Joe Schulties is the chair. Kathie McCormick will serve as the Board Representative and 3 more at-large representatives will be elected in March.

Local CCRC's Officers Meeting: This group has not met in recent months, but they hope to convene this spring or fall.

Next Board Meeting: March 3, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the Cardroom.

Next Residents Quarterly Meeting: March 10, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium.

Activities Fair: March 24, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Auditorium.

WORTH A LOOK
Books New to Our Library

By Barbara Christy - #237

The Strategists: Churchill, Stalin, Roosevelt, Mussolini, and Hitler - How War Made Them and How They Made War by Phillips Payson O'Brien. Non-fiction. This book is for history buffs who like knowing about the people who made the history. Author O'Brien begins by describing the childhood/early life of the five leaders with an eye toward how those experiences influence their later wartime strategy decisions. The second section is given over to the early careers of these future wartime strategists: Churchill climbing the ladder in Parliament; Hitler's failed art career and his turning to the military and authoritarianism; Mussolini's egotistical connection with Italian nationalism; Stalin's pragmatism and Roosevelt's love affair with naval power. The final section reveals how these mindsets and prejudices influenced the manner in which they approached military leadership. The book covers the familiar territory of WWII battles but from the perspective of how personal strategy choices affect (or don't affect) the reality of combat. 940.53 O"BR

Memorial Days by Geraldine Brooks. Biography. Non-fiction. This is a beautifully written but personal book dealing with sudden death and loss. On Memorial Day, 2019, Pulitzer Prize winner Tony Horwitz, journalist and author, dropped dead on the streets of Washington, D.C. Geraldine Brooks, author of *Horse, March, People of the Book* and *Caleb's Crossing*, was alone on Martha's Vinyard when she received the call that her

husband had collapsed on the street in Washington, D.C. Since her sons had just left, one for Australia and one for boarding school, Brooks immediately began organizing their transportation home, her trip to D.C. to deal with the body, and the arrival of family and friends. She had no time to process her loss. The narrative switches between Martha's Vinyard and Flinders Island, Tasmania, four years later. Brooks describes her experience of being notified (on the phone by a doctor with a cold, emotionless voice) through dealing with the press and the funeral and grappling with the financial complexities of sudden widowhood. Flinders Island becomes her place of refuge and the site where she can finally mourn her loss. Brook's prose is spare and uncompromising but deeply moving. Her narrative is personal but there are important lessons shared for all her readers. BIO BRO

The Black Wolf by Louise Penny. Fiction. This is the latest in the Inspector Gamache series. The story is a continuation of its predecessor, *The Grey Wolf*, available in our library. The Chief Inspector is dealing with the fallout from a thwarted domestic terrorism plot which he now believes was only the first step for a larger conspiracy. Gamache, recovering from the wounds received in the last book, is operating underground from the Village of Three Pines. Using two notebooks and a tattered map, plus an obscure phrase from the *Black Wolf* as clues, Gamache and his team begin to

realize that the terrorists must have powerful allies in many places. F PEN

Godwin by Joseph O'Neill. Fiction. Two brothers (half-brothers), Mark and Geoff Wolfe, leading separate lives in Pittsburgh and London, come together to search for an elusive soccer phenom named Godwin. Mark is living a semi-satisfying life as a technical writer-cum-techie wannabe, in Pittsburgh and his workplace is becoming toxic. Glad to take a leave, he is asked by his brother, laid up with a broken leg, to be the mobile half of a duo searching for the soccer star of a brief video shot "somewhere in Africa." Geoff is a struggling sports agent who wants to sign him and collect the agent fees. Their adventures reveal to them that colonialism is not dead in Africa, only renamed, and that family ties mean all. F O'NE

The Quiet Librarian by Allen Eskens. Fiction. Hana is a Bosnian refugee, settled in Minnesota, with a farm, three cows and a job in the local library. One day a police detective comes to the library in search of her. Her best friend, Amina, another Bosnian, has been tied up and beaten, her apartment searched. Amina escaped her ties, threw herself out of a glass door and over the balcony to prevent her grandson, coming home from school, from walking into the scene. She does not survive. As Hana tries to find Amina's killer, she also relives her past in the Bosnian-Croatian war and looks for evidence that her violent past has come back to haunt her. Hana was the only member of her family to escape an attack

by her Serbian neighbors. In search of revenge, she joins the Serbian resistance and becomes the Night Mora, sought after because she is a successful sleuth and assassin. Twenty-five years later, there is still a price on her head. Despite her efforts to hide in plain sight, has she been found? Is her life in danger? Will she be able to keep her promise to Amina to care for her grandson? F ESK, PB

American Sirens by Kevin Hazzard. Non-fiction. Centered on the life of John Moon, Atlanta-born, orphaned at age 7, footloose and unmoored until age 22, this book is an eloquent and moving account of the founding of Freedom House Paramedic Rescue service. In a program started by Dr. Peter Safar of the University of Pittsburgh, forty-four young black men were recruited to become the first men ever trained to provide emergency care during the ambulance transport to the hospital. Although only half finished the training, they went on to revolutionize pre-hospital care and demonstrate the life-saving success of these programs. What was astonishing to those who supported it (and especially to those who didn't): these newly minted and newly named paramedics were black men. They were men defying all the stereotypes to prove the value of this new type of health care. However, their success was so total that, as paramedic programs spread across the U.S., the story of Freedom House as the first program has been virtually erased from history. This book is overdue in correcting this oversight. 362.188 HAZ

THE COLETTA MCKENRY LIBRARY ACCESSIONS
FICTION, INCLUDING LARGE TYPE AND DVD's

* Reviewed in this issue of The Acorn

<i>Evensong</i>	O'Nan, Stewart	c2025.	F O'NA
<i>An Inside Job</i>	Silva, Daniel	c2025.	F SIL
<i>The Judge's List</i>	Grisham, John	c2021.	F GRI
<i>Like Family</i>	White, Erin O.	c2025.	F WHI
<i>Queen Esther</i>	Irving, John	c2025.	F IRV
<i>*The Quiet Librarian</i>	Eskers, Allen	c2025.	F ESK P.B.
<i>Real Americans</i>	Khong, Rachel	c2024.	F KHO
<i>She Didn't See It Coming</i>	Lapena, Shari	c2025.	F LAP
<i>The Sicilian Inheritance</i>	Piazza, Jo	c2024.	F PIA
<i>Still Life: A Three Pines Mystery</i>		c2013.	F STI DVD
<i>A Time for Mercy</i>	Grisham, John	c2020.	F GRI
<i>The Viper</i>	Meltzer, Brad	c2026.	F MEL

NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES

<i>*American Sirens: The Incredible Story of the Black Men Who Became America's First Paramedics</i>	Hazzard, Kevin M.	c2022.	362.188 HAZ
<i>Beethoven</i>	Cooper, Barry	c2000.	BIO BEE
<i>City of Steel: How Pittsburgh Became the World's Steelmaking Capital During the Carnegie Era</i>	Kobus, Kenneth J.	c2015.	338.4 KOB P.B.
<i>The Commonsense Cowboy's Guide to Life</i>	Dorinson, Patrick	c2026.	817 DOR
<i>Eat Your Ice Cream: Six Simple Rules for a Long and Healthy Life</i>	Emanuel, Ezekiel M.D.	c2026.	613 EMA
<i>The Hundred Years' War on Palestine</i>	Khalidi, Rashid	c2020.	956.94 KHA
<i>Killing the Rising Sun</i>	O'Reilly, Bill	c2016.	940.53 ORE
<i>*The Strategists: Churchill, Stalin, Roosevelt, Mussolini, and Hitler</i>	O'Brien, Phillips Payson	c2024.	940.53 O'BR
<i>Things in Nature Merely Grow</i>	Li, Yiyun	c2025.	813.6 LI



TAIZÉ LENTEN SERVICE

By Jean Henderson - # 346

A new discipline for Lent is being offered on Monday, March 2, at 1:30 p.m. in the Card Room. It is a quiet meditative service called Taizé.

Begun in Taizé, France in the 1940s, this ecumenical service includes singing, readings, silence, and prayers to bring us closer to the heart of God. It will last less than an hour.

Roberta Breninghouse and Jean Henderson will lead the service. All are invited to attend.



“UNION AND HARMONY”

Submitted by Deb Jacobson-Deeley #136

Resident Deb Jacobsen-Deeley is a follower of the Baha'i faith. On Thursday mornings, she often attends a prayer gathering of Baha'i adherents and wants to share a favorite unity prayer:

If you wish joy, happiness, and composure of the spirit. . ., strengthen the bonds of union and harmony amongst yourselves so that all of you may become the waves of one sea, the drops of one river, the flowers of one garden. . .soaring in the atmosphere and breaking forth into one glad song.”

CHAPEL NOTES

By Gary Brandenberger - #602
For the Chapel Committee

Services at 2:00 P.M. in the Card Room

Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend.

Sunday, March 1

Rev. Liddy Barlow
Christian Associates
Pittsburgh, PA

Sunday, March 8

Rev. Jeff Sterling
St. Paul's UMC (Retired)
Allison Park, PA

Sunday, March 15

Rev. Jim Gascoine
Dutilh UMC (Retired)
Cranberry Township

Sunday, March 22

Rev. Ron Hoellein
St. Paul's UMC (Retired)
Allison Park, PA

Sunday, March 29

Rev. David Park
Calvin Presbyterian
Zelienople, PA

“A man of quick temper acts foolishly, but a man of discretion is patient.”

Proverbs 14:17



MAY THE ROAD

rise up to meet you.

MAY THE WIND
be always at your back.

MAY THE SUN
shine warm upon your face;

MAY THE RAINS
fall soft upon your fields,
and until we meet again

MAY GOD HOLD YOU
in the palm of His hand.

TRADITIONAL GAELIC BLESSING 