

THE ACORN

SHERWOOD OAKS NEWSLETTER

100 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

www.sherwood-oaks.com

Summer 2026 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. 45, No. 6



“North Woods Trails”— see more on page 7

Photo by John Hennon

Dear Reader –

Ah, Summer. That golden time of nostalgia, dawdling days and extended evenings. Whether you have a vacation planned or will spend the days just weeding your tomatoes and peppers, it stretches out ahead like a delicious Sunday afternoon nap. There will be much to savor.

Perhaps this July 4th, though, there is a sense of uneasiness in our America. If the Founders showed up at the holiday picnics, they would find us anxiously eyeing Artificial Intelligence and fretting about changing weather patterns, the impact of social media on our grandchildren, and the uncertainty of new global alignments.

How do we make our way to future July 4ths? Likely by doing all the responsible and kind things we have always done: holding doors for strangers, keeping an eye on our neighbors, returning phone calls and library books, calling our congressmen and senators when necessary, donating to the food bank. You know the drill. Individually, it's do-able, and impactful; all together, a better and more civil America.

Meanwhile, enjoy those tomatoes!

~ Jan Wendt

SUMMER CALENDAR

Flag Day	June 14
Juneteenth	June 19
Father's Day	June 21
Independence Day	July 4
Bastille Day	July 14
Parent's Day	July 26
Nat'l Aviation Day	August 19
Susan B. Anthony 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, 2026.**



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.

<i>Bill York</i>	<i>April 30, 2026</i>
<i>Ann Paton</i>	<i>May 2, 2026</i>
<i>William Stout</i>	<i>May 13, 2026</i>
<i>Jean Kabbert</i>	<i>May 20, 2026</i>
<i>Mary K. Whitehouse</i>	<i>May 27, 2026</i>

MEET THE DRESDENS - #617

By Jean Henderson - #346



Photos by Marketing

Our Sherwood Oaks Chorus recently sang the fun song “*Fifty Nifty United States.*” And Keith and Marianne Dresden have lived in or visited most all of them!

Marianne grew up in the North Hills of Pittsburgh and Keith on a farm near Armada, Michigan. He graduated from Eastern Michigan University in business and accounting. They both were raised in the Roman Catholic Church and will be attending St. Ferdinand’s.

Married for 33 years, they met at a “Parents without Partners” dance after their first marriages ended and then blended their two grown families. Keith worked as a manufacturing accountant and controller for Cooper Industries, living in nine states during his career: MI, SC, TX, VA, PA, OH, KY, AL and GA. Marianne enjoyed her career as a part-time Certified Dental Assistant after her daughters were raised.

Marianne has two daughters: one a cardiovascular ultrasound technician living in Decatur, GA and the other a teacher for Pittsburgh Public Schools living in Deer Lakes. Keith’s son, a Navy fighter

pilot for 26 years, now flies for FED EX based in Kalamazoo MI and has three sons, two in college and one graduated. Keith’s daughter is an interior designer, also in Kalamazoo.

They spend about four winter months in Port Charlotte FL and have enjoyed traveling in Thailand, London, Paris, Belgium, Canada, Germany, and individually in California. They especially loved their train trip on the Rocky Mountaineer, as well as other scenic railways.

They are gamers!! Look for them at the outdoor games and indoor table games - they both enjoy those hobbies, as well as reading and walking for Marianne and fixing things for Keith. Get ready for neighbors to be calling you, Keith!! We all have things to be fixed!

As most of us do, Keith and Marianne both deal with a few health issues which are under control or being addressed.

How did they arrive at Sherwood Oaks? Not because they knew anyone here, but because of extensive research! Sherwood Oaks came out on top of all the other continuing care retirement communities around.

We’re so glad that they landed in PA to live with us. Do take time to welcome them.



JUDIE GOOD & BILL STOUT- #723

By Kathie McCormick - #188



Photos by Marketing

Chatting with Judie Good and Bill Stout was a delightful way to spend a rainy spring afternoon. They have been together for forty years after meeting at a “singles” dance at a church south of Pittsburgh. They came to Sherwood Oaks from Glenbrook Drive, all of four miles away!

They have a blended family. Judie has a daughter and two sons—Leanne, who lives in California; Chris, who lives in Maryland; and Jonathan, who lives in Utah. Bill has a daughter, Mariah, who lives in Maryland. Between them, they have 10 grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Judie was an art education major at Penn State and did teach for short time. Then she obtained a master’s in journalism at Penn State. She wasn’t finished yet because she went on to get her Master of Fine Arts in creative nonfiction at the University of Pittsburgh.

She held a variety of positions and was happiest when able to combine her talents and interests in both art and writing. At Slippery Rock University, she served director of the

news bureau. She served as Dean of Public Relations at CCAC. She was the communications director for the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. At California University of PA, she taught advertising, journalism, and other writing courses in the English Department.

Judie also is a talented artist. Her medium is watercolor and several of her delightful paintings are hanging on the walls of their unit.

Bill is originally from Olean, NY, and graduated from St. Bonaventure University with a business degree. He spent his career with Columbia Gas and served in various capacities. He worked in operations in Olean and then went to Ohio as an auditor. While there, he spent a great deal of time traveling to various installations. Later, he was assigned to the Pittsburgh area as a supervisor of auditors.

Bill loves airplanes and obtained his pilot’s license and instrument rating at age sixteen. He doesn’t fly anymore, but he also has a hobby of model airplanes. His collection is quite extensive and so he must be selective in what he can display.

Together Bill and Judy have traveled to many places. They enjoyed many cruises and their favorite one was Hawaii. Scotland was another of their special trips. Japan was a great experience when they were able to visit with Leanne who had a teaching position there. She served as their special tour guide.

Here at Sherwood Oaks, they are enjoying their apartment looking over the lake. They love the view! Welcome to you both.

(Ed. Note - Sadly, not long after this interview, Bill Stout died. It is Judie’s wish that the Bio run as planned).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!

By Bruce Cooper - #735

Aren't we lucky? We get to celebrate the 250th birthday of the beginning of a new country, the United States of America. I can clearly remember the 200th birthday, with my young daughter ringing a bell she could hardly lift.

As citizens of this great country, we have much to celebrate. And celebrate we will here at Sherwood Oaks. Here's the lineup:

Sunday, June 28 – 9:00 am – 3:00 pm – On the hour – **Channel 950**

- Ordinary Americans in the Revolution – Episodes 1-14

Monday, June 29 – 9:00 am – 3:00 pm – On the hour – **Channel 950**

- Ordinary Americans in the Revolution – Episodes 15-28

Tuesday, June 30

- 10:30 am – Trips & Tours – Fort Pitt Museum with Lunch following – Bus leaves at 9:45 am
- 7:00 pm – **Channel 950** – “1776”

Wednesday, July 1

- 1:30 pm – Auditorium – (Ben) Franklin Alive
- 7:00 pm – **Channel 950** – “Hamilton”

Thursday, July 2

- 1:30 pm – Auditorium - Presentations by Bells, Chorus, & Drama Club

Friday, July 3

- 11:00 am – Holiday Picnic under the Tent (costumes optional), featuring a parade of decorated rollators and scooters – featuring a prize for each means of transport

- 7:00 pm – Sherwood Oaks Park – Sparklers, Cake, and Punch

Saturday, July 4 – Channel 950

- 9:00 am – Ken Burns – The American Revolution – Episode 1
- 1:00 pm – Ken Burns – The American Revolution – Episode 2
- 7:00 pm – Ken Burns – The American Revolution – Episode 3

Sunday, July 5 – Channel 950

- 9:00 am – Ken Burns – The American Revolution – Episode 4
- 1:00 pm – Ken Burns – The American Revolution – Episode 5
- 7:00 pm – Ken Burns – The American Revolution – Episode 6

What You Need to Do:

- Make sure you know how to tune in **Channel 950** on your television.
- Watch for the signup for the tour to the Fort Pitt Museum on the Trips and Tours bulletin board.
- Come to the Auditorium to hear what Ben Franklin has to say at 1:30 pm on July 1st.
- Join the Bell Choir, Chorus, and Drama Club for a program at 1:30 pm on July 2nd.
- If you use a rollator or scooter, come up with patriotic decorations and join the parade past the lunch tent on July 3rd to win a prize.
- Finish the outdoor festivities at Sherwood Oaks Park that evening with sparklers, cake, and punch (in the Auditorium/Card Room if it rains – no sparklers).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, U.S.A.!

SCHOLARSHIP FUND UPDATE

By Warren Howe - #337

It is a pleasure to report that the 2026 Scholarship Fund Campaign has realized significant progress over the past month. As of May 15th, a total of \$103,045 has been donated by Sherwood Oaks residents. This represents 138 gifts to the fund; the average gift is just over \$775, and the participation rate is up to 62% of our residents. This is wonderful support for this unique and worthwhile Sherwood Oaks program: congratulations to all those participating!

More than 50 applications have been picked up by our employees, and they are busy completing them in advance of the due date which is June 1st. The Scholarship Committee will review all the completed applications during the period from June 3rd through June 16th and will meet on June 17th to make the final award determinations.

If you are still thinking about donating to the Scholarship Fund, it is not too late, and I urge you to do so. Any donations received by June 16th will go to support the scholarships to be awarded in 2026. Checks, payable to THE SHERWOOD OAKS FUND with "Scholarship Fund" written in the memo line can be dropped off at the reception desk "ATTN: Tabby Alford."

Remember that all donations to this fund are fully tax-deductible and will be acknowledged with a tax letter at the end of the year.

The Scholarship Committee and the recipients of these Sherwood Oaks scholarships are enormously grateful to you all

for your generosity in this effort. Thanks very much!

SPRING PLANT SALE A SUCCESS

By Ann Ferguson - #269

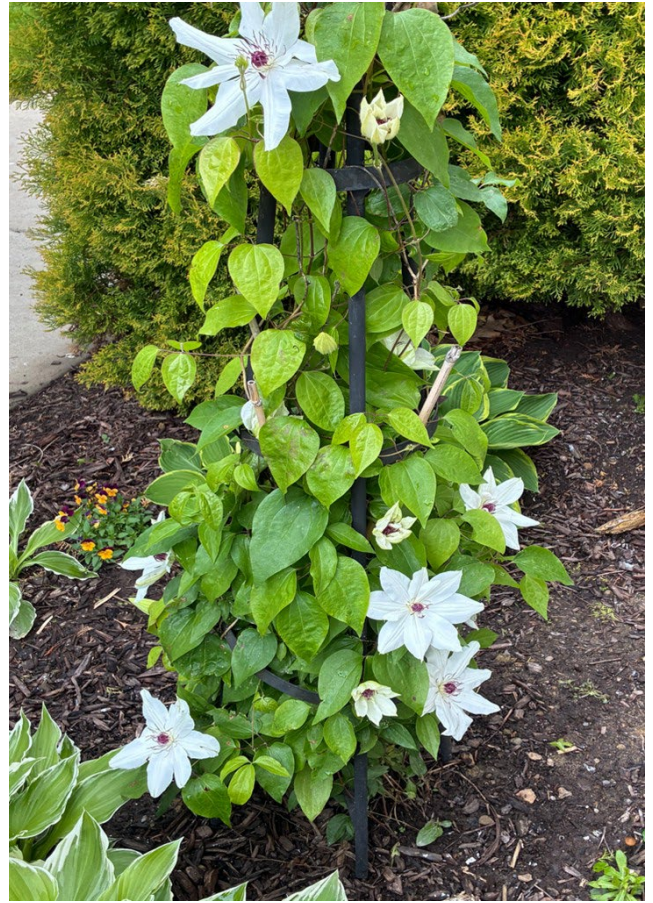


Photo by Jan Desko

A HUGE thank you to the Landscape Committee and residents for the hard work that assured a great spring plant sale.

A special thank you to Diana Schulties for her office-management efficiency and style.

The profit is used to purchase plants for each new season, replace pots, and help with gardening projects. You ordered 159 baskets and pots. We had good reviews about the appearance of the pots.

NORTH WOODS TRAILS

By John Hennon - #165

The hiking trails through the North Woods are an often-overlooked aspect of Sherwood Oaks. The various paths together total over one mile in length. Their surfaces are mostly grass or dirt, with a few sections of gravel. A part of the trail that passes through a stand of pine trees is carpeted with pine needles and the segment within the Wildflower Area is covered with mulch.

The trails are eight to ten feet wide in most places. There are six access points; hikers can choose whether to join steeper or flatter portions of the network. Two footbridges cross scenic streams that feed Sherwood Lake. Deer and other wildlife are sometimes seen in the woods.

The most familiar part of our trail system is the path around the lake. This is a uniformly level area where residents are often seen walking. There are several other level parts throughout the woods, although like most hiking trails, it follows the terrain with regular upslopes and downslopes.

Most of the slopes are moderate with a grade no greater than the sidewalks connecting the patio homes. Some are relatively steeper, though, mainly on the Upper Trail along the fence next to the Meeder development. The section of this trail at the northernmost part of the woods behind the Wildflower Area is very steep, however, and rather difficult to traverse, whether going up or down. Signs reading "Caution. Steep Slope" are posted at the top and bottom of this limestone-covered hill.

The difference between hiking and walking paths is that walking typically takes place on paved, flat surfaces while hiking utilizes uneven, natural pathways, often with elevation changes. Hiking is a more strenuous activity than walking, burning more calories and requiring greater physiological involvement. Some say hiking also provides mental health benefits due to being immersed in nature.

Individuals who require assistive devices such as rollators to aid their mobility would have difficulty on portions of the hiking trails. Others who can easily participate in activities such as, for example, line dancing or pickleball would have no problem navigating Sherwood Oaks' trails.

An essential requirement for anyone hiking through wooded areas is a pair of sturdy shoes, as tree roots occasionally cross the trail and stones are embedded here and there in the path. (In other words, no sandals or flip-flops; sneakers OK.) Hiking poles are an optional tool for aiding with balance on uneven ground as well as for negotiating upslopes and downslopes. Such poles might not be necessary on Sherwood Oaks' mostly level Lower Trail but could be useful on the Upper Trail.

Retirement communities with hiking trails on their campuses are very uncommon and ours are ready for use anytime.

P.S. The finest (and funniest) account of the physical, mental, and spiritual benefits of hiking is "A Walk in the Woods" by Bill Bryson. (Available in the Sherwood Oaks Library.)

HAPPY HOUR AND JAZZ

By Jno Hunt - #308



Photo submitted by Daniel May

Please join us in the Auditorium from 4 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23rd for Happy Hour!

Daniel May and his brother performed for us two years ago to great acclaim, so we thought we would repeat the experience. We will have several tables set up cabaret style for you to come and bring your own beverage and enjoy the show. The tables will be reserved for those bringing their own beverages. We will also have traditional theater seating available for everyone else. Please feel free to come and go as you wish!

Daniel has been one of the premier jazz pianists in Pittsburgh for almost twenty years. He led a combo that performed evenings in the lobby of the Fairmont Hotel for many years. He has led a group at Eddie V's restaurant every

night but Monday for the last several years.

We are excited to have one of his favorite vocalists, Grace Elliott, join him to entertain us here at Sherwood Oaks. Grace is a Pittsburgh-born vocalist, songwriter, and guitarist whose musical roots run deep. Raised by two musicians, she grew up immersed in sound, developing a natural affinity for music from an early age. Known for her smooth, rich vocal tone, Grace combines technical skill with a distinctive musical sensitivity that sets her apart.

Performing since the age of ten, she holds a profound love and respect for her craft. Come and relax with us and listen to an hour of smooth jazz on June 23.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Jean Henderson - #346

The SORA Nominating Committee, comprised of Joe Schulties, Chair; Kathie McCormick; Jan Wendt; Frank Weiss; and Barbara Christy, will present the following slate to be voted upon at the ANNUAL SORA Residents meeting on June 9, 2026, at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium: President: Peter Broeren – 1-year term; Vice-President: Kathie McCormick– 1 year term; Kathy Kozdemba, Mary Petti and Bill Moul – 1st 2-year term; and Joe Schulties, Mary Gail Korsmeyer and Reed Harvey - 2nd 2-year term.

COMMITTEE? ACTIVITY? WHICH IS WHICH?

By Kathie McCormick - #188

What a fabulous array of the Committees and Activities here at Sherwood Oaks was on display at the recent Activities Fair! But what is the difference between a Committee and an Activity???

According to the SORA By-Laws, there are Standing Committees, Operating Committees and Activity Committees. WHEW!

Standing Committees are responsible for the basic administrative functions of the Board and SORA. They deal with such things as finance, by-laws, memorial and special projects.

Operating Committees are designed to be advisory to departments of the Sherwood Oaks administration (dining, health affairs & special needs, landscape, maintenance, and security & transportation). Others provide educational & enrichment programs or services for the benefit of the community (continued learning, recycling, library, program, and welcoming). Members can serve for two consecutive two-year terms. If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, let the chair know. It is important for residents to participate. Look at the SORA postings on the bulletin board in the Mailroom for names of current committee chairs.

Activity Committees, more commonly referred to as ACTIVITIES, are interest groups. Residents at Sherwood Oaks have a myriad of interests and talents. Currently there are at least thirty-nine different activities. We don't have a paid Activity Director for Independent Living.

Instead, we have residents getting together to pursue hobbies, interests, and skills. How can we do this? Our Activity Fee (\$60 for 2025-2026) contributes to supporting all these activities.

If you are bored here, it is your own fault. If you don't find the activity you're looking for, you can start one.

Sherwood Oaks is an amazing place with lots to do and interests to follow, thanks to the many people who give their time and energy to make things happen.



Photo by Lynda Cooper

Above- Markie and Ed McCarthy are crowned King and Queen of the Prom at the April 29 Birthday Theme Dinner.

INTRODUCING A CONCIERGE:

BOBBIE MITCHELL

By Rosemary Coffey - #113



Photo provided by Bobbie

Bobbie has worked at Sherwood Oaks for the past nine months, on a schedule from 3:00 to 7:30 p.m., seven days on and seven days off. (She does pick up additional shifts when they are available.) Her main activities are answering the phone; transferring calls; and booking rooms for events, meetings, and overnight stays. She also distributes the weekly bulletins and other FYIs to residents' cubbyholes in the Mail Room.

At the front desk, she has the opportunity to interact with residents, staff, and visitors, all of whom she enjoys. These interactions, of course, are very different from those she experienced when she was formerly working as a secretary at a dog grooming salon and shop!

In even earlier times, she taught fifth grade at a local school, following her graduation from Geneva College. She also worked in her husband's insurance

office. Now she lives in a townhouse in Mars with her daughter Amy, a dog groomer with her own shop. Another daughter, Kristi, is a speech pathologist with four sons, now aged 18, 16, 13, and 8. Fortunately, they live near enough to their grandmother so that she can see them often.

Bobbie really likes having a part-time evening job, which she found out about when she answered an ad online. This was after she and her husband were divorced five years ago after a marriage of 45 years; she sold everything left in the house that she could and moved to a new place. Meanwhile, since her mother is now 100 years old and still living in her own home, Bobbie and her sister Linda see her regularly and check that she is comfortable and still able to care for herself on her own.

As for company, Bobbie can count on her three dogs (all of them rescues) for regular companionship; one of them, a female toy poodle, weighs four pounds and is now 16 years old.

Those of us living at Sherwood Oaks can also enjoy her company, as we exchange smiles and pleasantries at the front desk.



Democracy is a constant work in progress, requiring constant vigilance to ensure its survival.

~ John Adams

COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #735

In Episode 2 of *Global Warning*, entitled *Against the Tide*, Irish journalist Philip Boucher-Hayes explores how countries and communities are responding to rising sea levels, increased flooding, and more frequent droughts. The Netherlands serves as a case study in proactive adaptation, coming up with innovative solutions in the form of sea barriers and climate-resilient infrastructure. This episode also examines the challenges faced by vulnerable communities in Wales, Bangladesh, and Florida.

This series looks at new climate science and faces the harsh realities of a changing world: collapsing ecosystems, marine die-offs and escalating extreme weather phenomena. But it also explores a positive vision for reimagining economies, landscapes, and infrastructure and practical solutions, ways of mobilizing collective resolve, and challenging humanity to become a transformative force, harnessing innovation to safeguard the future of civilization.

Boucher-Hayes makes the case that the carbon dioxide now in the atmosphere can last 1,000 years and will no doubt cause sea level rise of at least five meters. That will put billions of people at risk of having to move and finding ways to feed everyone on the planet. He indicates that we have all of the tools we need to fight the problem; but, will we?

Those of you reading this who have children and grandchildren must find a way to make them aware of and activated against the climate crisis that has already begun. Global warming will affect everyone on earth. There's no other problem with that reach.

Watch *Global Warning - Episode 2 – Against the Tide* on Channel 950 on Monday, June 8, at 10:00 a.m. Encore presentation on Wednesday, June 10, at 3:30 p.m.

Watch *Global Warning - Episode 3 – Decarbonizing the Global Economy* on Channel 950 on Monday, July 13, at 10:00 a.m. Encore presentation on Wednesday, July 15, at 3:30 p.m.

Watch *Sinking Cities – New York City* on Channel 950 on Monday, August 10, at 10:00 a.m. Encore presentation on Wednesday, August 12, at 3:30 p.m.

CONTINUED LEARNING

By Jno L. Hunt - #308

We have a full series of speakers lined up for September and October on a wide range of topics. More details to follow in September. In the meantime, enjoy our presentations on Channel 950. Initial airings on Tuesdays are at 10:00 a.m., and encore presentations are on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.

June:

Tues., June 2: "How to Look at and Understand Great Art." Encore on Thurs., June 4.

Tues., June 9: "The Brain - What Makes Me?" Encore on Thurs., June 11.

Tues., June 16: "Alaska - Russian America." Encore on Thurs., June 18.

Tues., June 23: "The Holy Land Revealed - Lectures 27 & 28." Encore on Thurs., June 25.

Tues., June 30: "Unique Earth - The Essence of Water." Encore on Thurs., July 2.

CURIO CABINETS FOR JUNE/JULY

By Janet Desko - #210



Celebrating Women was a great way to honor those special women in our lives. Thank you to all the residents who contributed their momentos.

You may pick up your “Celebrating Women” items on **Tuesday, June 9**, between 10:30 a.m.- noon and 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Our June/July theme for the cabinets will be “250 Years of America.” Please bring anything related to patriotism, our country’s history, traditions, culture, artifacts, folklore, and nostalgic items.

Bring those items on **Thursday, June 11**, from 10:30 a.m.-noon and from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Hurray for the Red, White and Blue as Sherwood Oaks shows its enthusiasm for our 250th celebration with a grand curio cabinet display!

“Experience has shown that those entrusted with power have in time and by slow operations perverted it to tyranny.”

TRIPS & TOURS TRAFFIC

By Maggie Bennardo - #211

Apologies to our wine expert. Her correct last name is **Langbell**, not Langdon, as stated in last month’s article.

The group has a number of events planned for the summer. This month we will offer lunch at Andora’s, dinner at The Log Cabin, and a tour of Fort Pitt Museum, followed by lunch. Keep an eye out for more information on our board in the Mailroom, and on Channel 950. July’s anticipated meal venues are Magnolias and Frankie G’s.

“Are you Interested?” will kick off vigorously over the summer. Postings are on the T&T board in the mailroom. If you would like more information or you would CONSIDER participating in our suggested events, put your name and contact information on the sheet, and we will contact you directly. In many cases, the events we will be posting need a lot of planning and coordination. By indicating your interest, we can plan more efficiently.



Photo by John Hennon

A GAME OPENS READING VISTAS

By Sid Baxendale - #345



When I retired at 76, my days lay before me like unmapped lands. Before that, I tended to read books in the sequence in which they were written.

I had spent two years reading all of Charles Dickens' works, followed by all those of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Later, I studied American wars, from the French and Indian to the present. Despite being a Vietnam-era vet, I knew little about America's wars.

While those military histories satisfied my curiosity, the experience left me craving a different kind of journey. Travel no longer interested me, yet adventure still beckoned.

I researched the 50 most popular classic English language novels. Exposure to that list yielded a promising starting point for a post-retirement reading program.

My mind drifted back to a childhood card game, "A Game of Authors." It featured 52 cards with four for each of thirteen authors. Each card featured a specific literary work. By playing this childhood game, I became familiar with thirteen major authors and this game anchored the framework for my new reading program.

I found the list of these authors and their works at Goodreads.com and found most titles at the library. The titles spanned

diverse genres: Poetry, Historic Fiction, Children's Classics, Social Criticism, Gothic Tales, Adventure Stories, and Tragedy.

I had barely begun this ambitious literary journey when the Covid-19 pandemic closed American libraries. I discovered the Mega Reader app to access Project Gutenberg, which provided all 52 titles for free. This digital freedom allowed me tremendous flexibility in achieving my goal.

Poetry made up 21% of the list, featuring Longfellow, Tennyson, Poe, and Scott. Historic Fiction comprised 17%, including works by Cooper and Thackeray and one each by Hawthorne, Alcott, and Scott. Children's Lit comprised 10% of the books.

Four genres: Tragedy, Adventure Fiction, Social Criticism, and Gothic Fiction each contained four works (31%). Shakespeare headlines the Tragedies; Stevenson and Twain anchor the Adventure Fiction; Dickens and Thackeray share Social Criticism; and Irving, Hawthorne, Stevenson, and Poe master the Gothic Fiction.

These classics uplifted me, both morally and spiritually. The authors contrast moral and amoral behavior, championing characters who stood for Judeo-Christian ways.

Refreshingly, the "F" word never appeared in any of the 52 works.

~~~~~

*"Summer afternoon" – "summer afternoon"; to me, those have always been the most beautiful words in the English language.*

~ Henry James

## LET THERE BE (MORE) MUSIC!

By Jason Lyle - #293

The music you hear playing along with the Channel 950 slide show was recently expanded from 65 hours to 109 hours (and 32 minutes) of non-repeating music, consisting of 1,664 individual songs. All this music fits comfortably inside a microSD memory card, smaller than a dime, which plays back in a tiny MP3 music player connected to the Channel 950 TV equipment. There are no moving parts to these devices which could wear out over time. Technical magic, indeed!



The Channel 950 music program plays in a continuous loop, taking four days, 13 hours, and 32 minutes to begin again. For example, a song you hear at 8 a.m. on a Monday morning would not be heard again until Friday evening at 9:32 p.m., and then not again until the next Wednesday morning at 11:04 a.m. You won't hear a particular song more than 6 times a month, should you be able to listen for that length of time.

Whenever possible, the songs are selected to blend (segue) in the same musical key, to allow for easier singing and

humming along. Some selections cross-fade seamlessly as if they had been purposely recorded together, yet decades apart.

The music is a wide variety of genres, including classical, big band, vocalists, smooth jazz, easy listening, film scores, pop music, and instrumental interpretations of modern rock. You will hear everything from Mozart and Beethoven, Glenn Miller and Benny Goodman, Frank Sinatra, and Doris Day, to the Beatles and Pink Floyd, and much, much more. And perhaps, best of all, the music is entirely commercial-free!

Some residents tell me they keep Channel 950 playing at home simply for the background music. With an additional 44 hours of new songs to enjoy, you'll not become bored by hearing the same music over and over.

I hope you will enjoy the program!

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PAPERBACK PONDERINGS

By Jean Henderson - #346

Take a moment to stop in to visit the Paperback Room in the Library, found near the magazines. You'll find a plethora of offerings, most shelved alphabetically:

- Fiction (marked N for novel)
- Non-Fiction (marked N-F)
- Biographies (marked B)
- Spirituality (marked S)
- Recent Donations
- Authors with multiple titles
- Music books of all types

No need to check it out - just put a check mark on the sticky note inside the back cover when you return it. Enjoy!

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

*Reviewed in Worth a Look

<i>Afterparties</i>	So, Anthony Veasna	c.2021	F SO
<i>The Color of Death</i>	Gowdy, Trey	c.2025	F GOW
<i>The Crossroads</i>	Box, C. J.	c.2025	F BOX
<i>The Director*</i>	Kehlmann, Daniel	c.2025	F KEH
<i>The Dogs of Venice*</i>	Rowley, Steven	c.2025	F ROW
<i>Don't Let Him In</i>	Jewell, Lisa	c.2025	F JEW
<i>Finding Margaret Fuller*</i>	Pataki, Allison	c.2024	F PAT
<i>A Gift Before Dying</i>	Kempt, Malcolm	c.2026	F KEM
<i>The Golden Boy</i>	Finn, Patricia	c.2026	F FIN
<i>Good People</i>	Sabit, Patmeena	c.2026	F SAB
<i>The Impossible Fortune</i>	Osman, Richard	c.2025	F OSM
<i>Judge Stone</i>	Davis, Viola	c.2026	F DAV
<i>The Listeners</i>	Stiefvater, Maggie	c.2025	F STI
<i>Murder In The House</i>	Truman, Margaret	c.1997	F TRU
<i>Revenge Prey</i>	Sandford, John	c.2026	F SAN
<i>Same As It Ever Was</i>	Lombardo, Claire	c.2024	F LOM
<i>The Story of Marceau Miller</i>	Miller, Marceau	c.2026	F MIL
<i>Theo of Golden</i>	Levi, Allen	c.2023	F LEV
<i>White River Crossing</i>	McGuire, Ian	c.2025	F MCG
<i>The Witch's Orchard</i>	Sullivan, Archer	c.2025	F SUL

NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES

<i>Q: A Voyage Around the Queen</i>	Brown, Craig	c2024.	BIO ELI
<i>The Little Book of Aliens</i>	Frank, Adam	c2023.	576.83
<i>The Moth Presents Occasional Magic: True Stories of Defying the Impossible*</i>		c2019.	808.54
<i>The Oak and the Larch: A Forest History of Russia and Its Empires</i>	Pinkham, Sophie	c2026.	947 PIN



WORTH A LOOK

Books New to Our Library

By Barbara Christy - #237

The Martyr by Kaveh Akbar. Fiction. Cyrus, Iranian-born but raised in the US by his widowed dad (after his mom is shot down in flight by a US missile), struggles with drugs, alcohol and finding the meaning of life. After trying everything else, he returns to his love of writing and poetry. He decides to write a book about the lives of well-known martyrs of all ages and faiths. He travels to the Brooklyn Museum of Art to interview a woman who has chosen for her last art show to live at the museum, and talk with all comers, while she is dying. Full of philosophy, good and bad, this book is a fascinating insight into an immigrant's life. F AKB

The Moth Presents Occasional Magic: True Stories About Defying the Impossible compiled by The Moth. Non-fiction. "Occasional magic refers to moments of beauty, wonder, and clarity, often stumbled upon, where we suddenly see a piece of truth about our life." Forty-seven stories originally written for the stage have been edited for readability and interest by the staff of The Moth. Imagine being at a campfire in the desert where someone invites you to pull up a seat and enjoy what happens. Someone stands and begins to tell his story, "Real Men Don't Rob Banks." Followed by a teenager describing "Leaving Baghdad" and another story about the baby-lift of orphans from Vietnam. At this pretend campfire, you'll never know what you will hear but surely it will be interesting. 808.543 MOT

The Dogs of Venice by Steven Rowley. Fiction. Want to spend just an hour with a book and come away with a cheerful outlook on life? This is your book. Paul has just been told by his partner that he's getting a divorce. With two tickets to Venice already paid for, Paul decides to go solo and practice being single again. In Venice he sees a mongrel dog which becomes his mentor for learning to live – and love again. Fun. F ROW

The Director by Daniel Kehlmann. Fiction. In this book, is the past presented as prophecy? Author Kehlmann retells the life of illustrious Austrian movie director G. W Pabst who emigrated to the US in the 1930's only to be ignored, humiliated and belittled by the American film industry. Deciding to move back to Austria to care for his ailing mother in the family castle, he becomes trapped by the Third Reich machinery and forced to make a series of increasingly degrading choices to make propaganda films rather than suffer the consequences. Not just Pabst but all the characters in the novel begin to accommodate to the new reality, losing themselves in the process. There are bright spots of humor, even hilarity in the narrative despite the dark tone. In the end, as the Nazi regime is coming to an end, Pabst uses his assignment for yet another hack film as an opportunity to make a brilliant movie as only he can. But the film is lost... F KEH

The Situation Room: The Inside Story of Presidents in Crisis by George Stephanopoulos. Non-fiction. For readers of recent history, this is a recap of presidential crises from the perspective of the room in which they occurred. It

begins with President Eisenhower, who thought a “situation room” would be a good idea based on his WWII experience. The room was the setting for important moments for JFK during the Bay of Pigs, and later President Obama and the takedown of Osama Bin Laden. This book provides details and insight into what happens when the world is on the brink. A gripping story regardless of your politics. 973.09 STE

Finding Margaret Fuller by Alison Pataki. Fiction. Margaret Fuller is the most famous woman you never hear of. Educated in Boston to a level beyond what most wealthy young men of her time, Margaret struggles to find her place in a society which is culturally prejudiced against independent women. Her world brightens when she is invited to visit Ralph Waldo Emerson for a weekend only, to become a full-fledged member of his Transcendental group with Henry David Thoreau, Bronson Alcott, and Nathaniel Hawthorne. Convinced she will never marry, she creates a satisfying life of teaching, writing essays and advocating for women. When Horace Greeley, the New York newspaperman, discovers her work he convinces her to write for his paper, including adventure travel columns of her observations of the expanding West (now the Midwest.) When even that is not enough for the indomitable Margaret, she accepts assignment to Europe as the first foreign correspondent of the young United States. In Rome during the Italian revolution, she meets and marries an impoverished count and continues to write and publish. On her way home to the US where she has been

asked to chair the first Women’s Convention at Seneca Falls, N.Y., she is lost in a shipwreck along with her magnum opus on the Italian war. How is it that this generation knows almost nothing about this groundbreaking woman? F PAT

Breakneck: China's Quest to Engineer the Future by Dan Wang. Non-fiction. Wang’s overarching thesis is that America is run by lawyers, but China is run by engineers. Wang has lived in China and speaks Chinese, He sees many cultural similarities in the people of both countries, yet finds great differences in what they achieve, primarily because of the form of government. With an engrossing written style that is both fun and enlightening, he populates his book with both anecdotes and data to encourage American readers to think more deeply about a future with an increasingly powerful Chinese competitor. 327.510 WAN



To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.

Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 p.m. is the new midnight.

It's the start of a brand-new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.

The older I get, the earlier it gets late.

When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.

I had my patience tested. I'm negative.

WHAT'S NEW WITH SORA?

(SO Residents Association)

By Thea Stover, Secretary - # 606

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

The Board met on May 5, 2026, with the following information shared:

Finances: Memorial/Special Projects Fund balance is \$27,309.16 and the Employee Appreciation Fund balance is \$24,186.30.

Resident Art and Craft Wall: Additional art and crafts are wanted for the exhibition walls. Bring your drawings, needlework & weavings to share with us. Artwork from relatives and employees are also welcome.

Recycling: Remember to recycle your plastic bags. So far 460 pounds of plastic has been collected. Once 1,000 pounds is reached a free TREX bench will be earned.

Landscaping: The Spring Plant Sale was a success with a profit of \$552.20. The committee maintains 14 different gardens. Each garden has a theme and a designated gardener. Mr. Potts, located outside the mailroom door, needs a new caregiver. Please contact Donna Artz if you are interested in adopting him.

Technology/SOapp: The Auditorium sound system has finally been replaced by XYCOM. Microsoft Office Pro 2024 with lifetime licenses has been installed on the 3 Computer Room PCs for residents' use.

Living with Loss: The Annual Memorial Service is scheduled for Saturday,

September 26, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the Auditorium.

Trips and Tours: There will be a trip to the Log Cabin Restaurant on June 10, for dinner as well as a trip to the Ft Pitt Museum and lunch at the Rochester Inn on June 30. Look for sign-up sheets on the Trips and Tours bulletin board if you are interested in a certain trip.

Sing-a-long and Snax: This event will be held the first and third Wednesdays of each month starting on May 20 and continuing until October 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the pavilion at Sherwood Park.

Outdoor Games: Every Wednesday at 2:30 there will be cornhole, bocce, and shuffleboard, as well as a golf net at Sherwood Park.

Sherwood Gifts: The year-to-date revenue for the past 9 months is \$26,792.00 and the donations to the Memorial/Special Projects Fund for the past 10 months have totaled \$21,000.

Administration: Mark Nord was introduced as our new Senior Director. Discussions with Armstrong continue. Independent occupancy as of May 1 is at 69%. The newer and renovated units are over 90% occupied.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the Card Room.

Residents Quarterly (Annual) Meeting: Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. It will include the election of new officers and directors.



THANK YOU, MICHELLE

By Bill Burtner,
Health and Wellness Director



Photo by Mary Kretchmar

Michelle Bender came to Sherwood Oaks in December 2020. She wanted to get back into the Health and Fitness industry after spending several years away to start a family. She had previously directed the corporate fitness program at Verizon in Cranberry Township.

Michelle was a great asset here at Sherwood. She contributed greatly to our group fitness program by adding new and innovative classes, including Stretch & Stability, Line Dancing, 60 Second Circuit, and Mindful Stretch. She went above and beyond in assisting residents with their fitness routines and more.

Michelle will be greatly missed by the residents and me.

Thank
You

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, June 7

Rev. Beth Wierman
New Sewickley Presbyterian

Sunday, June 14

Rev. Graham Standish
Samaritan Counseling Center

Sunday, June 21

Rev. Richard Mobley
Sherwood Oaks

Sunday, June 28

Rev. Bill Dambaugh
North Hills Presbyterian



HELP YOURSELF TO HERBS

From the Landscape Committee



At the front of Sherwood Park, there is a small herb garden which contains pots of several favorite summer herbs, from basil to mint to oregano.

Please feel free to take a few sprigs to use in your kitchen. Add some mint to your iced tea or some basil to a caprese salad.

There's nothing quite like fresh herbs when they are available.

LIFE, LIBERTY,



and the PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS