THE ACORN

SHERWOOD OAKS NEWSLETTER

100 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

www.sherwood-oaks.com

November 2026 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. 45, No. 10

LUSH AUTUMN SPLENDOR



See page 10

Photo by Kathie McCormick

Dear Reader –

These days, I'm thinking about darkness and light. On a sunny day at noon, it's as though the world around us is on fire, the Autumn leaves shot through with a burning light. It's almost more beauty than you can take in.

Then come those gray, often damp days, and your heart can go steely - hard if you let it. And no matter the weather, dusk draws its curtain hideously earlier every afternoon.

If you are one for whom the six weeks from Thanksgiving to New Years bring a seasonal mood drop, you've got lots of company.

But we invariably find ways to make our own light, from candles and fireplaces to the glowing faces around the Thanksgiving meal.

Here on campus, our lobby fireplace will soon be lit, offering a welcome gathering spot. Find your place there and make a new friend.

~ Jan Wendt

Memorial Donations and Remembrance Cards

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

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

November 1	All Saints' Day
November 3	Election Day
November 11	Veterans Day
November 13	World Kindness Day
November 22	Nat'l Cran. Relish Day
November 26	Thanksgiving Day
November 29	First Sunday of Advent

THE ACORN

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Submissions for the December issue must be sent to the Editor no later than **November 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.

Ann Knoop	September 28, 2026
Joseph Widmer	October 5, 2026
Anthony Cimino	October 17, 2026
Albert Rizzo	October 19, 2026
Ann Krome	October 20, 2026

RON BERGMAN - #145

By Dick and Eileen Mobley - #164



Photo by Kathie McCormick

"When I get married, I want the wedding to be underwater!" These were the words of Kate on her first date with Ron Bergman thirty-one years ago. So that's exactly what the two scuba divers did after finding a judge in Florida who would officiate at their exchanging of vows underwater. (Later, they had another ceremony in a Roman Catholic church). Sadly, Kate died this past April, and now Ron has moved to Sherwood Oaks with *his* "best friend" Max, his 135-pound English Mastiff.

But Ron has not always been *Max's* "best friend." Max had bonded with Kate, who raised him from a puppy while Ron was at work, so Max had "only tolerated" Ron. But since Kate's passing, the two have grown close.

In early days, to support his young wife, daughter and son, Ron worked two full-time jobs simultaneously. At the high school where he taught such courses as trigonometry, calculus, and other advanced mathematics, he would arrive at 6:00 a.m. to prepare lessons or grade papers and teach classes. After school, he would go to work as a building contractor, mostly doing remodeling projects.

As a very tall (6' 3") teacher, his students nicknamed him "Superman." One of Mr. Bergman's former students, in fact, is also a resident here and can tell us more details about how his math teacher made an impression on him.

One of seven children raised on a farm in Somerset County, Ron worked his way through college at IUP. He then he went on to have a unique cultural experience doing graduate work as the only Caucasian student in the mathematics program at Atlanta University, which was predominantly African American, and he was invited to join the faculty there for summer school.

The Bergman family once enjoyed an unusual camping vacation—across Ireland, Scotland, England, and Wales. On one road, having temporarily forgotten to drive "on the other side," he came to the top of a hill and suddenly was encountering a large truck coming toward them "head-on." Swerving out of the way, Ron heard the driver exclaim: "Wake up, Yank!"

Ron Bergman is a survivor! He has endured a Cox-Maze (a complicated heart surgery); a Whipple procedure; treatment for throat cancer, scoliosis, and kyphosis. Compression fractures in his back have reduced his height to 5'8".

He feels blessed to have some very good friends who live in the area. When he was packing to move into his patio home, his daughter, Joy, spent weeks helping him prepare to move. Then eight "big men" arrived at his house, loaded a U-Haul, brought it here, and had it all unloaded in a short time. Joy then helped empty the boxes in record time.

Welcome, Ron and Max!



Submitted by Ron Bergman

MEET PAT GUZMAN - #285

By Jean Henderson - #346



Photo by Marketing

When I spent time with Pat in her lovely patio home, I was treated to a myriad of pictures of all the places she has traveled. Over the years, she and her husband, René, enjoyed 30 cruises in the Mediterranean and Caribbean. Favorite places? Croatia and Italy. They had collected fish sculptures and paintings and photos from every country including twelve lighthouse photos. Unfortunately, 2023 was their last cruise, as René died in 2024. What an interesting life this lady has led!

She was the first baby born at Mary Evans Hospital in Ellwood City and the first person to grow up and return to have her own baby there. Raised in Zelienople with her three older siblings, she graduated from Zelienople High School Class of ’64 - the last class before it became Seneca Valley.

After graduation, she married her high school sweetheart and they moved to San Diego, CA, where he was stationed in the Navy. After becoming a widow at an early age, she began a career in restaurant management. That work led to meeting René Guzman, who would become her husband.

They married in 1979 and moved to Seattle, where René joined Princess Cruises as an executive chef. While René spent eight months each year working in Alaska, Pat remained in Seattle as general manager of Ivar’s Restaurant and visited him monthly. She later became an operations manager for Home Depot, which transferred them to New Brighton, Pennsylvania.

Four children completed her family. Sadly, two of her sons have died. Son, Joe, is a plumber in New Brighton and daughter, Lisa, is a medical coder in Seattle. Pat has two granddaughters close by, along with three great-grandsons with whom she spends a lot of time.

She is a lover of animals and has rescued several cats and dogs. Her last dog, Bailey, resides with her granddaughter in Freedom because he was getting too much for her to handle. He is thriving in his new surroundings.

Pat is very active at the Concord Methodist Church in Beaver Falls. She Is Involved with Operation Christmas (sending gift boxes for children around the world), funeral dinners, and other church activities.

After she finishes preparing her house of 25 years for sale, she’s looking forward to becoming active here at SO!

Welcome. Pat!



PAT A. JONES - #283

By Mary Kretchmar - #287



Photo by Mary Kretchmar

On May 13, 2026, Pat A. Jones, known to many courtyard neighbors as “Pat 1”, moved with her dog, Allie, from her seasonal home at Freedom Crossing. The welcoming atmosphere quickly made an impression. “I really haven’t found a person who isn’t friendly,” Pat says. She attributes her easy transition to the helpfulness of neighbors.

Pat grew up with her two older brothers in Massena, New York, near the Canadian border. She notes it has a very severe winter climate. Her father’s work brought the family there from New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. Pat remembers the town changing as the St. Lawrence Seaway was built. After high school, she returned to Pennsylvania to attend Westminster College, where relatives and a cousin helped persuade her that a smaller school would be a good fit. It was, and Pat remembers her college years fondly. She enjoys continuing to visit annually with her sorority sisters from Zeta Tau Alpha.

Education became the center of Pat’s professional life. She had a 31-year teaching career in western Pennsylvania and was active in the teachers’ association. She valued the variety of the classroom and the relationships that developed with students and families. For a time, she also worked for the Department of Social Services in Warren, Michigan. After retiring, she volunteered with Meals on Wheels.

Pat later spent 22 years in Harbor Isles, a Florida community between North Port and Venice. She embraced an active lifestyle most of her life, playing shuffleboard and bocce, canoeing, camping, and riding her bicycle thousands of miles. One of her favorite adventures was a three-week trip to Grand Teton National Park with friends from a Sunday School group. The travelers hiked, rode horses to a chuck-wagon dinner, and rose early to photograph moose and elk.

Family eventually drew Pat back to western Pennsylvania. Her daughter, a Physician Assistant, lives in Cranberry Township, and Pat is proud of her two grandchildren: a grandson who teaches history and participates in Civil War reenactments, and a granddaughter who works in supply chain management in Texas. Pat’s grandson enjoyed his work at Sherwood Oaks this summer. Her brother, Tim, and his family live in the area, too.

At Sherwood Oaks, Pat is building connections. She enjoys chatting with neighbors and walking around campus. She has started a Saturday game night for her Courtyard neighbors where they play Rummikub and other card games. She also looks for thoughtful ways to make people feel remembered—whether acknowledging a birthday or arranging a cheerful send-off for a neighbor. A lifelong animal lover, she is delighted that Allie is becoming more comfortable around the many people they meet.

Pat is volunteering in the Sherwood Oaks Gift Shop and looks forward to staying active, enjoying as many healthy days as possible, and continuing her walks with neighbors. Her advice to anyone considering Sherwood Oaks is simple: residents are genuinely glad to be here. For Pat, the enthusiasm, kindness, and everyday hellos have made all the difference.

JOAN KOPCHIK - #199

By Rosemary Coffey - #113



Photo by Marketing

After living in Bucks County, PA, for more than half her life, Joan moved to Sherwood Oaks at the end of August 2026. She has already established an exercise regimen at the Fitness Center and plans to get involved with other activities once she has settled into her new home. Her favorite interests in recent years have included walking, gardening, growing orchids, cooking, travel, and photography. Joan and son, David, and daughter, Ann, share text messages every morning as a way of staying in touch.

Her longtime occupation was as an artist. She was also a founding member of Friends of Tamanend Park in Southampton, PA, where she volunteered when needed in various park activities such as the recurrent herb sale and a flea market. In addition, she helped with the annual park cleanup and the maintenance of natural areas.

Beginning in 1964, Joan was married for 56 years to Richard M. Kopchik, a US Army veteran, who died in 2020. They initially lived in Rochester, NY, for three and a half years, until her husband finished his thesis, whereupon they moved to the Philadelphia area. There they bought an empty lot and had a house built on it, and lived there for 52 years. Their daughter lives not far from Cranberry Twp., so they now enjoy a lovely mother/daughter relationship without having to travel to be together.

Joan's husband Richard developed Parkinson's disease, living with it for twelve years, during which time she took care of him. His main symptoms were a lack of coordination and back pain. Despite these issues, they went on cruises and tours of national parks until 2018, by which time he was in a wheelchair. Joan experienced a lengthy period of emotional numbness after his passing.

Now that Joan has successfully moved to Sherwood Oaks, we wish her an equally successful development of new interests and activities in her new home. Welcome, Joan! We look forward to interacting with you on campus in many different areas, as you become increasingly acclimated and energized.

Getting older is just one body part saying to another, "Ha ha, you think that's bad? Watch this!!"

Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?

Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned?

Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.

The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims."

ELAINE AND FRED PFENNIG - #323

By Kathie McCormick - #188



Photos by Marketing

In the short time that they have been here, Elaine and Fred feel at home. They already had lots of friends here, including the Stovers and the Brandenbergers. And now they can add many more.

Elaine and Fred have lived in this area all their lives, and Fred at 16 had wanted to date Elaine who was only 13. They belonged to the same church, Hiland Presbyterian Church. It was not until later that they reconnected, dated and married - 58 years ago! Their 50th anniversary was a memorable one; the whole family, children and grandchildren included, celebrated at their favorite spot in Mexico!

For 93 years, Pfennig's Cleaners had been on the Pittsburgh's North Side. It was a family business which Fred and Elaine ran themselves for its last 25 years before retiring in 2015.

Fred attended the National Institute of Dry Cleaning and then served in the army. He returned to the family business, juggling work and family to get his business degree from Duquesne University.

Elaine took courses at Kent State University, Penn State New Kensington, and the University of Pittsburgh. Following marriage, daughter, Krista, and son, Matthew, arrived, and Elaine was lucky enough to be a stay-at-home mother. She enjoyed volunteering for their activities at church and school. When the children were school-aged, she also devoted time to working in the family business along with Fred.

One of the volunteer activities with the children for both Elaine and Fred was their role as band parents! Imagine chaperoning all those teenagers on major trips. . . like to Disney World, Sugar Bowl, Cotton Bowl, and the Orange Bowl. It was a lot of responsibility, but very rewarding too.

Music became a profession for their daughter, Krista. She has a master's from Yale and is a skilled oboist. She also joined the Air Force and played in the Air Force Band. She and husband, Mike, live near Dayton, where Krista is a music teacher, and Mike is head of the school's music department.

The couple have two children. Maggie and Kristian. When these grandchildren came along, Elaine and Fred spent many years traveling a couple of times a month to be part of their lives. Just recently, they returned from a trip to Oregon to celebrate Maggie's wedding.

Elaine and Fred's son, Matt, went to Miami University of Ohio and trained as an architect. He is married to Amanda, and they adopted a son named Oscar, now 10 years old. They live closeby in Ross Township so Elaine and Fred can enjoy all their activities.

Welcome, Pfennigs, to Sherwood Oaks. We are happy you are here!

MARIANNE WAGNER - #157

Submitted by Marianne Wagner



Photo submitted by Marianne

Marianne was born and raised in Pittsburgh. She and late husband, Richard, met at a summer camp when they were 17, and were married for 59 years. They spent most of that time living in Sewickley where they restored two historic houses. Richard was an antiques dealer, fine art appraiser, and auctioneer and Marianne joined him in these pursuits. Many of their weekends were spent at antiques and Civil War shows and outdoor markets.

Marianne also had a long career in the steel industry in real estate, finance, and as a sales rep. After retirement, she worked twelve years with L'Oreal as a sales rep.

In her spare time, she served sixteen years on the Quaker Valley School Board and the Parkway West Career and Technology Center. She also golfed (played St. Andrews!) and was a skier who broke her ankle skiing in Cortino d'Ampezzo. She can relate stories about the six days spent in an Italian hospital having surgery.

Richard and Marianne enjoyed winter vacations in the Caribbean, trips to Mexico, where they climbed the Pyramid of the Sun, and lots of road journeys to Canada and New England antiquing.

Genealogy has been Marianne's hobby for the past fifteen years, and she has traced her American ancestry to 1600's New York City and a 67-acre farm in Tribeca. Ask her about Duane Park in Tribeca and the bronze plaque indicating the area as part of the farm owned by her 10th great-grandparents. On many trips to New York City, she has looked over family documents at the New York Historical Society, the New York Public Library, and the Holland Society, and has walked the land that her family once owned. In 2017, her 10th great-grandmother, Anneke Jans, was included in the program, "Genealogy Roadshow."

She has assembled numerous family history binders for her nieces and nephews and many friends. She is a member of the DAR, Colonial Dames, The Holland Society, and Pennsylvania First Families.

Although the Wagners had no children, Marianne is very close to many nieces and nephews. Several are still helping complete her move from Sewickley to Sherwood Oaks. The work goes on.

Marianne looks forward to life at Sherwood Oaks and getting to know new neighbors.

Welcome, Marianne!

MEMORIAL/SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND - How it Works

By Jean Henderson, Committee Chair

The M/SP fund of SORA is managed by a committee whose members are all past SORA presidents, and others, designated by our Bylaws. The monies come from memorial gifts and other donations, such as those from Sherwood Gifts. Monies are then used for projects for the betterment of Sherwood Oaks.

The process for requesting a grant begins with completing a M/SP Request for Project Funding form, available at the front desk. The requestor is to follow the directions on the form and return the form to the chairperson. Then a meeting is called of the M/SP committee, the request is considered, and a determination is made. Funding is refused if it is determined that other funding sources should be contacted.

Since June of 2019, 13 requests have been granted, totaling over $100,000, including a weight scale for the medical office, “readers” for the visually impaired and located in the Library, the auditorium renovation, the Summer House project, evacuation chairs for Lakeside Apartments, and benches for the lakeside path.

Please contact Jean Henderson at #346 for more information.

CONTINUED LEARNING

By Jno L. Hunt - #308

This Fall, we enjoyed seven speakers offering insights into everything from national parks, birds, astronomy, and indigenous peoples. We already have six speakers lined up on a wide range of topics for our series next March and April. Details on their presentations will be forthcoming in future issues of *The Acorn*.

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 and 3:30 p.m.

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NOVEMBER:

Tues., Nov. 3: “The Art of Listening.” Encore on Thurs., Nov. 5.

Tues., Nov. 10: “How the Earth Was Made.” Encore on Thurs., Nov. 12.

Tues., Nov. 17: “Lebanon: Far from What Most People Think.” Encore on Thurs., Nov. 19.

Tues., Nov. 24: “Religions of the World - Episode 1- Judaism.” Encore on Thurs., Nov. 26.

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All dogs are therapy dogs. A majority of them are just freelancing.

~ seen online


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AVOID NEEDLE STICKS

From the Health Affairs Committee

By Art Sommer - #115



If you use insulin or other injectable medications, please protect yourself and others by recapping your needles and disposing of them in a sharps container available from Joanie in the Medical Office. Fill that up and she'll give you a brand new one,

(Brought to you by a dentist who had 45 years of surgical experience giving injections and avoiding needle sticks).

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Front Cover – Visitors to Sherwood Oaks Park this Summer and Fall have remarked on the arbor's exceptional beauty. Much of the credit goes to Hank Kretchmar, a member of the Landscape Committee, who could be seen day in and out tending to the space. Hank is just one of a number of residents who take a hands-on approach to our campus's beauty. Hats off to you all!

PAPERBACK PONDERINGS

By Jean Henderson - #346

The Paperback Room in our Library exists by your donations, so thanks for giving us these new titles. You can find them on the right wall as you enter the Paperback Room: "Recent Donations."

Duquesne University Grads ALERT: The first novel by Dr. Ken Gormley, immediate past President, is now on our shelves! It's a legal thriller about family histories, loves lost and found, courtrooms, and neighborhoods - *The Heiress of Pittsburgh* - a great read!

Former First Lady, Michele Obama's, best seller, *Becoming,* is a comprehensive look at her life.

The Zookeeper's Wife by Diane Ackerman, now a motion picture, tells the true story of the Zabinskis, keepers of the Warsaw Zoo during WW2. After watching their animals slaughtered by the Nazis, they saved hundreds of Jews by hiding them in the animals' cages.

Look for new novels by Harmel, Scottoline, Prose, Woods, Walsh and Skenandore.

Remember to put a checkmark in the back inside cover of the paperback so we can be alerted to its popularity.


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COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #735

Twelve years ago, on September 21, 2014, the People's Climate March took place, with 311,000 people marching in New York City two days before a United Nations Climate Summit. The Climate Summit was seen as a key step towards the Paris Agreement, a new legal agreement on climate change, which was adopted in December 2015 and became effective in November 2016.

Scientists have determined that the maximum 'safe' level of carbon dioxide in our planet's atmosphere is 350 parts per million (ppm). That level was reached on November 10, 1988. On the day of the Climate March, the level was at 395 ppm, and increase of 45 ppm in 26 years.

On October 1 this year, the level of CO2 was measured at 426 ppm, an increase of 31 ppm in less than half the time.

While we worry about artificial intelligence and how many ships are transiting the Strait of Hormuz, political pollsters are asking us what our main concerns are as we head into the mid-term elections and climate change is typically not even on the list of choices they give us.

It is inspiring to watch the creation of a march that included some 600,000 souls worldwide on September 21, 2014. It did some good . . . but not enough. We must do better. Think of your children and grandchildren. It is time to march again.

Watch *Disruption: Climate. Change.* on Channel 950 on Monday, November 9, at 10:00 AM. Encore presentation on Wednesday, November 11, at 3:30 PM.

TRIPS & TOURS TRAFFIC

By Maggie Bennardo - #211

Fall Greetings!

We are staying closer to home for the next few months. Two long-distance trips were canceled because not enough residents signed up. However, the ride to Shakespeare's took us through some lovely Fall foliage.

The planned lunch excursion for November 12th is at the Walnut Grill in Wexford.

The tour for this month is a trip to Renfrew for a demonstration of dog training. Resident Ann Ferguson and her canines, Talley and Fergie, will be there, along with others, to explain the whys and wherefores of obedience training. Watch the Mailroom board for more details.

December lunch is set for the Springfield Grille in Mars, PA. With the holidays just ahead, mark your calendars for what has been a well-received tour through our local neighborhood to view the holiday lights. These tours are scheduled for after dinner on December 16th and 21st.

A trip to Oglebay in West Virginia is in the works, as well as one to the Phipps for the holiday flower show. And we hope to fit dinner at The Log Cabin in there somewhere.

For firm dates and times not available as The Acorn went to press, be certain to check the Trips & Tours section in the Mailroom.







TO ALL RESIDENTS!!!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW
TO CELEBRATE THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN US AND HELP KEEP OUR FREEDOM.

"A PATRIOTIC SALUTE TO SHERWOOD OAKS VETERANS"
Wednesday, November 11, 2026, 1:30 pm
AUDITORIUM and CARD ROOM

Patriotic Music begins at 1:20 p.m.

PROGRAM: “HONORING OUR VETERANS"

PRESENTATION OF COLORS, GUEST SPEAKER, SPECIAL MUSIC, PATRIOTIC SING-ALONG
EMCEE RESIDENT FRANK FINLEY

REMEMBRANCE



There will be display tables for Veterans' Memorabilia beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Grab and Go Refreshments will be served afterwards.

WORTH A LOOK
Books New to Our Library

By Barbara Christy - #237

Bringing Up Beaver by John Aberth. Non-fiction. Large type. John Aberth is a volunteer wildlife rehabber – someone to whom injured animals are brought in hopes that they can be healed and restored to the wild. A lover of beavers, he has nevertheless not had a chance to rehab a beaver – until May 2020 – when a Vermont native called him about a one-week-old orphan found after his beaver lodge home had been plowed under by a local farmer. John calls "the Beaver Lady," a local expert and learns that he is taking on a two-year commitment since beaver kits remain with their mothers for two years before becoming independent. They also require cuddling, social life and lots of play. Thus begins an enthralling tale of learning, bonding, and love as John and his wife find a way to house and protect this one-pound infant through the vicissitudes of two Northeast winters, a hostile Fish and Wildlife constable and beaver competition. 599.37 ABE L.T.

Centennial: The great Fair of 1876 and the Invention of America's Future by Fergus M. Bordewich. Non-fiction. At the beginning of the Gilded Age, Philadelphia becomes the host city for a Great Centennial Exhibition, showcasing America's entry onto the world stage. The immense Machinery Hall thrummed with inventions such as the typewriter, the telephone and airbrakes; displays of oil wells, bridges and grain elevators; and the latest steam locomotives. Visitors from all over the world flocked to be part of the excitement. Meanwhile, a highly contested Presidential election, labor strikes, women's suffrage, economic disparity, and Native American rights are all front and center of the nation's attention. Rutherford Hayes, running to succeed U. S. Grant privately adheres to a post-war "policy of trust, and to put aside the bayonet," and ushers in the ending of Reconstruction. All the glory and the turbulence comes to a head in Pittsburgh with the largest display of urban violence in US history to date and leads to a realization that untethered capitalism can lead to radical unrest. 606.4 BOR

John of John by Douglas Stuart. Fiction. Cal has always known he would be forced to come home to the Isle of Harris in the Outer Hebrides. But after four years in Edinburgh, he is only beginning to realize how many "bits of himself" he had discovered and unfurled during that time. Now he has been ordered home to care for his dying grandmother. John, his Bible-loving father, refuses to care for his heathen Glaswegian mother-in-law so the responsibility has fallen to Cal. With all his belongings from his life as an art student in a double thickness garbage bag, Cal trudges back to the family croft where he and his forebears have clung to a rocky outpost for centuries. Settling in, speaking Gaelic, reuniting with villagers, Cal struggles to accommodate to the quiet, the simplicity, and the predictability of life in Faladay; and to living with his stoic, Free Presbyterian father. Together they negotiate rebuilding a fractured relationship in a constrained social and sexual environment while surviving the economic stresses of the decline of their

family's weaving craft. When Doll, Cal's life-long friend and lover, is found drowned and Doll's sister is discovered to be pregnant but refuses to name the father, life becomes an emotional landmine. F STU

June in the Garden by Eleanor Wilde. Fiction. Large Type. June is a young adult with autism and a love of horticulture. When her alcoholic mother dies, she is left without a guardian and fears being placed in a group home – a dreadful prospect for someone with autism. While cleaning out the attic, she discovers a photo with a family picture and realizes she has relatives living in London. Knowing that her mother would approve of her living with family, and with her mother's ashes in tow, she sets off on her own, knowing family must take her in. She manages - despite many trials due to never having been out of Scotland - to get to the address on the back of the picture There she learns that the "relative" in the picture is her biological father who knows nothing about her. Let the excitement begin! Told in the voice of June, this is a compassionate, engaging, lively look at the world with all its complexities, through the eyes of a disabled person. F WIL L.T.

Queens of Crime by Marie Benedict. Fiction. Benedict is a well-known writer of historical fiction, and she remains true to form in this murder mystery set in the 1930's. Famous female crime writers Agatha Christie, Dorothy Sayers, Margery Allingham, and two others are tired of being disrespected by their male colleagues. They set out to prove their worth by creating, then solving, a mystery in front of their unappreciative fellow authors. But when a body is found in the coastal French town of Boulogne, they decide to tackle the real, unsolved death of a single, young nurse. May Daniels was considered a "surplus woman" after WWI. Her body is found with a syringe nearby. The local constabulary and the London police are no serious about calling the crime a drug deal gone bad. But the Queens of Crime question why a nurse with unlimited access to drugs at work should resort to day-tripping across the Channel. They use their combined resources, including their expertise at writing locked-room mysteries, to uncover the truth and obtain justice for May. Like other Benedict novels, this one is based on real events and provides glimpses into life in England during that time. F BEN



THE COLETTA MCKENRY LIBRARY ACCESSIONS

***Reviewed in Worth a Look**

The Apollo Murders	Hadfield, Chris	c2021.	F HAD
Blown Away	Battles, Brett	c2025.	F BAT
Booked	Gaylin, Alison	c2026.	F GAY
The Calamity Club	Stockett, Kathryn	c2026.	F STO
A Christmas Memory	Evans, Richard Paul	c2022.	F EVA
Deceptions	Deaver, Jeffery	c2026.	F DEA
The Ending Writes Itself	Clarke, Evelyn	c2026.	F CLA
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows		c2016.	F HAR DVD
June in the Garden *	Wilde, Eleanor	c2025.	F WIL L.T.
Michael Without Apology	Hyde, Catherine Ryan	c2025.	F HYD L.T.
The Queens of Crime *	Benedict, Marie	c2025.	F BEN
Road Trip	Andrews, Mary Kay	c2026.	F AND
A Slowly Dying Cause	George, Elizabeth	c2025.	F GEO

NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES

Bringing Up Beaver: Two Orphaned Beaver Kits, Their Humans, and Our Journey Back to the Wild *	Aberth, John	c2025.	599.37 ABE L.T.
George Washington's Secret Six	Kilmeade, Brian	c2013.	973.41 KIL
Handbook For Mortals: Guidance for People Facing Serious Illness	Lynn, Joanne	c2011.	362.17 LYN
Regime Change: Inside the Imperial Presidency of Donald Trump	Haberman, Maggie	c2026.	973.93 HAB
What My Father and I Don't Talk About: Sixteen Writers Break the Silence	Filgate, Michele	c2025.	306.87 FIL L.T.



WHAT'S NEW WITH SORA?

(SO Residents Association)

By Thea Stover, Secretary - #606

Note: Complete Minutes are always available on the SORA bulletin board in the Mailroom, in the SORA binder in the Library, and on the SOAPP.

The Board met on October 6, 2026, with the following information shared:

Finance: Employee Appreciation Fund has a balance of $25,612.86. Memorial/Special Projects Fund has a balance of $33,510.45.

We have a Certificate of Deposit with West View Savings Bank in the amount of $22,629.85 @ 3.75% maturing on 4/30/2027. The Operating Fund reflects the West View checking account balance and the $60,000 CD activity as of 9/30/26 as $111,015.94.

Technology: Two additional modules for the SOapp: Biographies and Technology were installed.

Sherwood Oaks Park: The Park will close on 10/15/26 and reopen on 4/15/27. Installation of a ramp at the Summer House will be done in the Spring. There are 3 chairs and a table missing. The chairs and table that were missing last month have been returned.

Dining: The SORA Board approved a new set of Suggested Dining Attire Guidelines which are posted in the Mailroom. The guideline will be placed in the newly- revised resident handbook and in each new resident packet.

Bells and Chorus: Both groups have started their fall rehearsals. The holiday concert will be on December 9, 2026.

Games: Games continue on Wednesdays at 2:30 in the Cranberry Fitness Center.

Sherwood Gifts: Jane Paul has resigned her position of overseeing the Greeting Card Dept. She was thanked for her many years of service.

Recycling: The group hopes to have 500 pounds by 12/31/26 so they can have two entries in the lottery for a new bench.

Health Affairs: An AED was installed in Sherwood Park. Mark Nord reported the Policy/Handbook is being revised and will be available to all residents.

Drama Club: Next performances are scheduled for 2/25/27 and 2/27/27.

Security and Transportation: The 25 C bus with suspension problems has been repaired.

Locker Rooms: Upgrade of the locker rooms is on hold due to maintenance staffing shortage.

Welcoming: There will be at least 11 new residents by the end of the year.

Entertainment: November 2, Jazz with Janene who is resident Jean Wheeler's daughter; on November 17, Roberta Breninghouse will play selections from Mendelssohn.

Sherwood Neighbors: Volunteers are needed for the Veterans' Day event (11/11/26) to pass out programs, etc.

Longest Night Service: will be on Monday, 12/21/2026 at 1:30 PM in the Card Room.

Landscaping: Pruning, repair to grass, gutters, and downspouts, as well as replacements, are all ongoing projects. The grounds staff will consider the hiring of a dedicated gardener who would be responsible for the common garden area.

Administration: Mark Nord stated there were a total of 35 move ins and 22 move outs since January 1, 2026. Mark also stated that Dan Johnston has accepted the position of Security and Transportation Manager.

Employee Appreciation Fund: Please remember how much SO employees do for us. Since we are not allowed to tip employees, the Fund is the way we can thank them for their work.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, 11/3/26.

BAA LAMBS

By John Bridges - #122



This begins with a tale abaaht a group of sheep in a baarn with a baar. Then the tale goes from baad to worse as they gathered round a baarrel with cupbaads lining the walls and under a sturdy roof with re-baars.

Conversation consisted mainly of comparing fields of flax with those of baarly but they longed to embaak on some fresh topic. There was little baaly-Hoo although some of them baabled about a voyage in a baarque to Abaasinia.

They were enjoying a baalated rest and had no need for a baath, with the cool of the evening acting as baalm after the heat of the day. The black sheep idly wondered if he had come from Zimbaabwe or Namibaaia. Others remembered cold times in the subaarctic.

On another evening, they were sitting around a baabeque baahtering baananas or bouncing up to dance an embaaressing sambaa.

HISTORY PRESENTATIONS

By Gary Brandenberger - #602

The three recent “history” presentations drew more than 150 residents. They highlighted Sherwood Oaks’ remarkable 44-year history of residents and Administration working together to build the wonderful community we enjoy today.

If you missed any of the presentations and would like to attend an additional session, please contact me using the information in our Resident Directory.



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, November 1
Rev. Bryce McGarvey
Urban Impact
Pittsburgh, PA

Sunday, November 8
Rev. Ron Hoellein
St. Paul's United Methodist
Allison Park

Sunday, November 15
Rev. Greg Cox
Ingomar United Methodist
McCandless Township

Sunday, November 22
Rev. Liddy Barlow
Christian Associates
Pittsburgh, PA

Sunday, November 29
Rev. Leonard Finn
All Saints Anglican
Cranberry Township

"A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man quickly holds it back."

Proverbs 29:11

JUST TALKING

By Bob Typanski - #190

Here we are, just us two.
You say something.
And I say to you:
Do you remember when . . .

Oh, yes, I do!
Well, it happened right after . . .

It was a wonderful time.
We had fun when . . .
Wait, don't you recall?
It was work for both of us!
We didn't have money
and the children were . . .

Yes, the children were . . .
They were always there.
Never giving us peace.
Always in our hair.

Yes, they were always there but. . .
Well, I see your view.
I miss their noise and laughter, too.

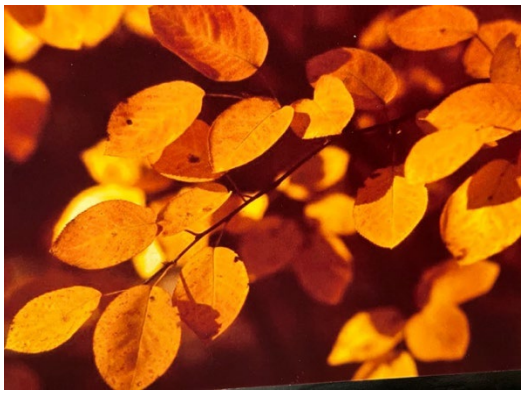
I wonder how they are doing?
And their children, too.
Let's give them a call.
And hear them all
just talking.



Ed. Note –On August 24, *The Acorn* lost a faithful friend with the death of resident Julie Eden. She often contributed her poetry and photographs to these pages, and she will be missed. Below, we share a Kaddish, or Jewish prayer for the dead, that she penned in 2025. The nature photos are also Julie's.



when I die
give what's left of me
away to others
who wait to die
and if you need to cry,
cry for those
who walk beside you.
and if you need me,
put your arms
around anyone
and give them
what you need
to give to me.



I want to leave you
something –
something better
than words or sounds.
look for me in those I've known or loved, and, if you cannot
give me away, at least let me live in your eyes.



you can love me
best by letting
hands touch hands,
by letting go of those
who need to be free.
so, when all that's
left of me
is love, give me away.



IT's TURKEY SEASON. . . IN THE YARD AND ON THE TABLE



Photo by Marta Peterson