

THE ACORN

SHERWOOD OAKS NEWSLETTER

100 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

www.sherwood-oaks.com

October 2024 "For the residents, by the residents" Vol. 43, No. 8



Photo by John Hennen

Our home at the end of the rainbow!

DEAR READERS:

Ah, October. Blue skies, crisp apples, crunchy leaves underfoot, woodsmoke wafting in the air. Many say it's their favorite time of year, while others view it only as the harbinger of what comes next: cold and gray, gray, gray.

Either way, around here it is a busy time: Bible studies, book clubs, and a myriad of other interest groups have reconvened, even as we peek around the corner to the coming election, with one eye on what Covid might do this year and the holiday seasons ahead.

Scientists note that, for those in our age group, isolation is a health deficit worse than cigarettes and a sedentary lifestyle. So, even if you're not a "joiner" or don't always feel well enough to participate in one of our activities or presentations, comb your hair, put on your shoes, and come down to the Center to pick up your mail and have a meal. To be in the company of others, for a moment or an hour, will perk you up and make you healthier. Here's to you! And to all of us, as well.

-- Jan Wendt

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Rosh Hashanah	Oct. 2
Yom Kippur	Oct. 11
National Chess Day	Oct. 12
Columbus Day	Oct. 14
Global Cat Day	Oct. 16
United Nations Day	Oct. 24
Hallowe'en	Oct. 31

THE ACORN

Editor

Jan Wendt
janicewndt@gmail.com

Assistant Editor

Rosemary Coffey

Staff

Ruth Becker
Deborah Darnbrough

Production Editor

Tabby Alford

Ex Officio

Mark Bondi

Submissions for the November issue must be sent to the Editor no later than **October 15, 2024.**

Memorial Donations and Remembrance Cards

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

IN MEMORIAM

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

- Norman Brozenick August 21, 2024*
- Donald Gowán September 5, 2024*
- Aileen Schilling September 9, 2024*
- Rose Peckman September 16, 2024*

RICHARD & EILEEN MOBLEY - #164

By Harriet Burress - #112



Photos by Security

When asked how they met, Eileen and Dick looked at each other and replied, “How much time do you have?” The story begins with Eileen growing up in Tennessee and attending Memphis State University. Dick’s father was an Army chaplain, so the family lived in various places, including a few years in Germany.

Dick graduated from college in Abilene, Texas. In 1966, both Dick and Eileen applied for a summer mission program assisting small churches in California with Vacation Bible Schools and summer camps for kids. The orientation was in San Francisco, and one association of churches requested a guy and a girl to form a team. In Dick’s words, “They just couldn’t have known how long-lasting that partnership would be!” Eileen’s comment was: “We were a good team, but he had a girlfriend, so we just developed a close friendship. I was impressed with his diligent preparation for our work and his good solo voice.”

When Dick returned to Texas to attend seminary, he learned that his girlfriend was seeing someone else. The next summer he drove to Tennessee to see Eileen (not the beautiful Tennessee scenery, as she thought). In June 1968, they married; after Dick completed a master’s degree from

Southwestern Baptist Seminary, they moved to Tucson, AZ, where he served as a pastor for the next six years and where both of their sons were born.

Dick explains a return, then, to studies: “Both during college and seminary, several professors encouraged me to pursue teaching. So, following my completion of a Ph.D. in New Testament Studies, the family moved to Riverside, CA, for my career of teaching at California Baptist University until retirement in 2022, after 38 years.”

During these years, Eileen finished a master’s degree in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). She taught “under-prepared” college students at CBU as well as composition and ESL (English as a Second Language) courses. After their sons left home and Eileen left CBU, she coordinated a LifeSkills Ministry at the church where they were members. These included weekly sewing classes, ESL, citizenship preparation, ‘Doing Arts Together’ (mostly painting), plus other short-term courses. The focus was to bring together different generations and cultures. Some shared “ministries” with Dick included interacting with residents at Safe House (a shelter for at-risk or abused youth), and a monthly “Bridge Breakfast” that aimed at connecting various ages and ethnicities. All of these allowed Dick to apply his love of cooking.

Both of Dick and Eileen’s sons are musicians. One lives in Texas. They were led to Sherwood Oaks by their other son and his wife, who live close by. Their one granddaughter is a teacher in Pittsburgh.

As you welcome and become acquainted with Dick and Eileen, ask about their teaching sabbatical in Xian, China, his participation in theater, and their leadership of several teams of students to China and Malaysia for International Service Projects. They have had quite an interesting life together!

CINDY RICE - #106

By Kathie McCormick - #188



Photo by Security

When Cindy Rice arrived at Sherwood Oaks at the beginning of August, her unit was still being renovated. So she moved temporarily into #196. Now, what a relief it has been to move into her permanent new home close to the Center. Finally, she has been able to unpack everything!

Cindy, who was brought up in Ohio, is the oldest of five siblings. She has one brother and three sisters, all of whom live out of state. The era of cellphones and Facetime does allow them to stay in touch.

It was during her high school years that a mutual friend introduced her to Larry Rice. She worked as the secretary to the president of a manufacturing company, while he went to Dyke Business College. After his graduation, the high school sweethearts were wed. Cindy and Larry moved from Cleveland, OH, to Indiana, PA, where they lived in the same house for 48 years, while Larry worked for the Scott Paper Company.

When Kimberly Clark bought up Scott, the couple started a fund-raising business on-line and also began selling the foam hands often seen at sporting events. Cindy worked for many years in a bank, after the children were in school.

The couple raised three boys, and Cindy found herself involved in all their activities, including sports and Scouts.

Cindy's oldest son, Erik (a Practic Administrator) and his wife, Denise, live in North Carolina with their two children. The middle son, Matthew, died in 2012 of kidney disease, but Cindy enjoys his adopted daughter, Hilde. Her youngest son, Seth, and his wife, Kristin, live in Gibsonia. He is an environmental lawyer, and they have three children, two girls and a boy. Cindy is thrilled to have four granddaughters in addition to her two grandsons. She is very involved in their lives. And it is Seth who really encouraged her to move to Sherwood Oaks, after Larry died last November. He didn't want her living alone in Indiana when she could be much closer to his family.

Cindy is also a proud survivor of breast cancer! She underwent chemo and radiation in 2021. Great job!

A warm welcome to Cindy from all of us.

Do you ever wake up in the morning and look in the mirror and think, "That can't be right"?

Last night the Internet stopped working, so I spent a few hours with my family. They seemed like good people!

If Adam and Eve had been Cajuns, they would have eaten the snake instead of the apple and saved us all a lot of trouble.

You know you are getting old when "friends with benefits" means having someone around who can drive at night.

Weight loss goal: To be able to clip my toenails and breathe at the same time.

After seeing how some people wear their masks, I understand why contraception fails.

THE BIRDHOUSE VILLAGE

By Kathie McCormick - #188

What do you do with unwanted houses-- birdhouses, that is? Three unused birdhouses were going to be tossed.

Why not put them up as decoration? Ann Ferguson and Donna Artz thought they could enhance a walkway.



Photo by Kathie McCormick

And a chance conversation with the late Don Gowan led to the idea of a birdhouse village to adorn the walkway near Parking Lot G.

Don said that his late wife had wanted him to build 22 birdhouses for her birdhouse village. At their former home, they had used them to decorate a wall and arbors. Hence, a perfect solution for the unwanted birdhouses, plus three more that

could be rescued and yet another that could be built. The proposed collection could make the blank wall along the walkway a conversation piece!

Ann Ferguson took care of the birdhouse construction and rehabilitation. Donna Artz and Diana Schulties painted them! A dollhouse furniture website was the source for the plants and vegetables and the tables and chairs.

The village now includes seven “buildings”: a General Store, a Floral Shop, a Chapel, a Schoolhouse, a Café, a Home Tweet Home, and a Nest & Rent house. The village has a name: “Bedford for the Birds.”

This delightful village is fun to see, and it is nice to think that Don Gowan (and his wife) would have approved! It is unfortunate that he was unable to see it completed.



Photo by Kathie McCormick



HEALTH AFFAIRS SURVEY RESULTS

By Warren Howe - #337

Participating in a survey without ever learning the results is irritating or worse. So, in an effort to maximize transparency and minimize stress for the residents who kindly provided their opinions in the Health Affairs Committee's recent survey, here are the tallies.

190 survey sheets were distributed and 78 were returned, for a 41% return rate. Since there was space on each survey sheet for two individuals to participate, the opinions of 104 individuals are being evaluated.

Many useful comments were received, including the following:

Regarding Heimlich/CPR training: "Not sure I would want amateurs performing CPR on old people." "Good idea." Absolutely!"

About Driver Review Course: "Have been doing this for years, would like one on campus."

Concerning AA Meetings: "It would be hard to keep AA secret." "Yes, definitely if there is the need." "Can S.O. discreetly provide transportation to a local group?" "Probably a good idea." "Could it really be Alcoholics Anonymous?"

About medical marijuana: "Many are interested." "Would love having a medical professional explain pros and cons in a public presentation." "Med. Marijuana use should probably involve conversations with physician." "Probably not a good idea."

Health videos: "I didn't know they were there." "Did see the video on walking – found it interesting but did not really learn anything new."

General comments: There were a number of suggestions regarding other educational activities and subjects to be considered, including nutrition, whether advertised

supplements are worthwhile, dementia, and arthritis.

Here's a table with the survey results:

	YES	NO
Interest in CPR or Heimlich or First Aid Training?	61 64.9%	33 35.1%
Interest in a Driver Re-view Course for Seniors on campus?	54 54%	46 46%
Establish Alcoholics Anonymous meeting on campus?	39 49.4%	40 50.6%
On-campus info or education about <u>medical</u> marijuana?	51 62.2%	31 37.8%
Have you watched Health Affairs videos on Channel 951?	32 33.3%	64 66.7%
If watched, are the videos worthwhile?	28 93.3%	2 6.7%

The Health Affairs Committee will be carefully considering all the information and suggestions contained in the survey responses and factor that into planning its activities over the next months. Our thanks to all residents who participated in the survey. Remember that the Health Affairs Committee is always open to resident suggestions and is eager to receive them.

COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #735

With 8 billion people on the planet and the amount of arable land and potable water rapidly decreasing because of climate change, our food supply is becoming a major concern. And what we eat can either ease or worsen the problem. If all 8 billion wanted to eat as much beef as we Americans do, there isn't sufficient land mass on earth to make that happen.

Today almost 20% of global warming emissions come from agriculture. That's the result of inefficient farming practices and our choices of what we eat. Instead of getting protein from plant sources, we use huge swaths of land to grow crops that we then feed to animals. In the case of beef, we keep cattle in huge feed lots and bring the crops to them instead of letting them go where the crops grow. It's a very inefficient and costly way to gain the protein we need.

As for aquatic sources, we have either overfished most of the oceans or have created fish farms that invite disease and death to many of their occupants. We try to fix that by spraying formaldehyde and other toxic chemicals, which are passed along to us. Eating fish is becoming dangerous.

This month's climate change video will both open your eyes to and give you pause about the food system we now have in place. I'm as guilty as most in what I like to eat. I must do better. I hope you will too.

Watch ***"Eating Our Way to Extinction"*** on Channel 951 on Monday, October 14, at 10:00 a.m., 3:30 p.m., or 7:00 p.m. Encore presentation on Wednesday, October 16, at 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

TAI CHI AT SHERWOOD OAKS

By Rosemary Coffey - #113



Photo by Bill Burtner

Some of you may not have noticed that the exercise class beginning at 10 a.m. in the Cranberry Fitness Center on Tuesdays and Fridays is called "Tai Chi," led by David Slaughter for many years. The challenge for the loyal participants is to follow David's movements closely, even when he shifts direction with little notice.

Short for *t'ai chi chüan*, Tai Chi, which is thousands of years old, is rooted in Chinese medicine. The practice fuses both martial arts and meditation, which might seem like an unlikely combination. However, the idea is to slow down both our minds and bodies by repeating rhythmic choreography and breath work for half an hour or more.

Ideally, this culminates in finding a sense of inner peace and tranquility. In addition, the art of Tai Chi may help improve our physical health as well as our balance.

If you were to look at people practicing Tai Chi, it would appear almost as if they were moving in slow motion. It would also be very clear that they were quite focused on the task at hand. Tai Chi has, indeed, been referred to as *a moving meditation*. Interested? Feel free to join us, any time!

WHAT'S NEW WITH SORA?

(SO Residents Association)

By Rosemary Coffey, Secretary - #113

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

Data from minutes for the **Sept. 10, 2024**, monthly board meeting are as follows:

SORA Treasurers: The balance in the checking account as of Aug. 31 was \$55,792; with the value of the CDs added, it comes to \$95,792. So far, \$15,425 (64% of the total needed) has been collected from resident donations for activities (now tax-deductible). We are all encouraged to make the suggested donation of \$65 per resident to the activities program.

Liaison Reports

Security & Transportation: Replacements for the current committee chairperson and secretary are being recruited.

Pool, Spa, & Locker Room: The current policy requiring residents to accompany family members using the pool was reaffirmed.

Continued Learning: Nine speakers were to be with us Sept. 23 - Nov. 18 on such topics as Impressionism, the Three Rivers Native American community, and Planes, Trains, and Automobiles.

Landscaping: A Dog Run play area has been established near the Summer House, and a new irrigation system has been installed nearby.

Art Studio: Input will be requested on a watercolor class or an acrylic class.

Civic Affairs: Congressional candidates will be here on **Thurs., Oct. 3, at 2 p.m.**

Drama Club: A Variety Show will be held on Oct. 24 and 26.

Chorus and Handbells: Rehearsals have resumed; no auditions are necessary, but the ability to read music is essential.

Outdoor Games: Pickleball now has regular games on Mon., Wed., Fri., and Sat. at 9 a.m. Other games being played include putting, croquet, cornhole, bocce ball, and deck shuffleboard.

Administrator's Report: Census: IL 197/260; SN and PC, 72% occupied; and OGC, nearly 100%. The marketing department received 291 calls recently asking for further information. The FDA has approved a new mRNA Covid vaccine, which will be offered on-site. Theresa Murillo is our new Director of Nursing, and Amanda Anthony is our new Diet Director. We are now doing "stay interviews" with each employee with the hope of encouraging all of them to continue to work at Sherwood Oaks.

Old Business: The official name of the area around the Summer House is The Sherwood Oaks Park ("The Park"); a sign has been ordered. The Summer House itself will keep its name. The new Dog Park provides a safe and secure place for dogs to exercise freely off-leash. A budget amount of \$150.00 was approved for 2024-25, and a committee was named.

New Business: A report from Jason Lyle indicated that movie time on Sun., Wed., and Fri. nights, as well as Sat. night, is now being used to fill resident requests. Additional presentations of the Health Affairs Committee videos will be on Thurs. at 7 p.m. and Sat. at 11 a.m.

Future Meetings: The next Quarterly SORA Meeting was scheduled to take place on **Tues., Sept. 17, at 7 p.m.** in the Auditorium.

The next Monthly Board Meeting will be held on **Tues., Oct. 8, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Card Room.

FERNS DON'T BLOOM!

By Ann Ferguson – #269



Photo by Ann Ferguson

Oops, ferns don't flower, as suggested in a previous *Acorn* article. The photo above is of an *epiphyllum* – Queen of the Night – a night-blooming plant. It is a genus of epiphytic plants in the cactus family native to Central and South America. It blooms at night and fades in the morning light. These buds are ready to open. It survives in our Sherwood Oaks greenhouse throughout the winter, and blooms in the summer in front of patio home #265.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP TO MEET

By Jan Wendt - #158

Once again, the Living with Loss team will sponsor a four-week grief support group for those residents dealing with the death of someone they miss.

The group will meet on **Tuesdays, Oct. 22 and 29 and Nov. 12 and 19 at 1:30**

p.m. in the Chapel on the Lower Level. The facilitator will be Rev. Sam Blair, a Chaplain with Bridges Hospice.

If you'd like more information, please call Jean Henderson (#8346) or Jan Wendt (#8158).

ITALY

Submitted by Babbie Holding - #357

In Italy, art reigns supreme:
Firenze's a Renaissance dream
Where artists won fame
And a prestigious name
In a seemingly unending stream.

The art galleries there must be seen
As a part of the tourist's routine.
So a girl gallery guide
Clung close to my side,
Though my interest in art wasn't keen.

I told her I didn't know much
About painters and paintings and such.
Couldn't tell Botticelli
From Fra Signorelli
Or a French masterpiece from a Dutch.
She shrugged, "So your interests are
other."
But her laughter she couldn't quite
smother,
When she asked, as we viewed
A voluptuous nude,
"Who's that?" and I said, "Whistler's
mother."

(**Ed. Note** - This poem is the work of Babbie's father-in-law, Jim Holding, who was a Sherwood Oaks resident for many years and was also an author of books, magazine articles, and screenplays.)



FURRY FELINES OF SHERWOOD OAKS: PART #9

By Kathie McCormick - #188

Let me introduce you to **MARCO**, who lives with **Paul Agnew** in Patio Home #252.



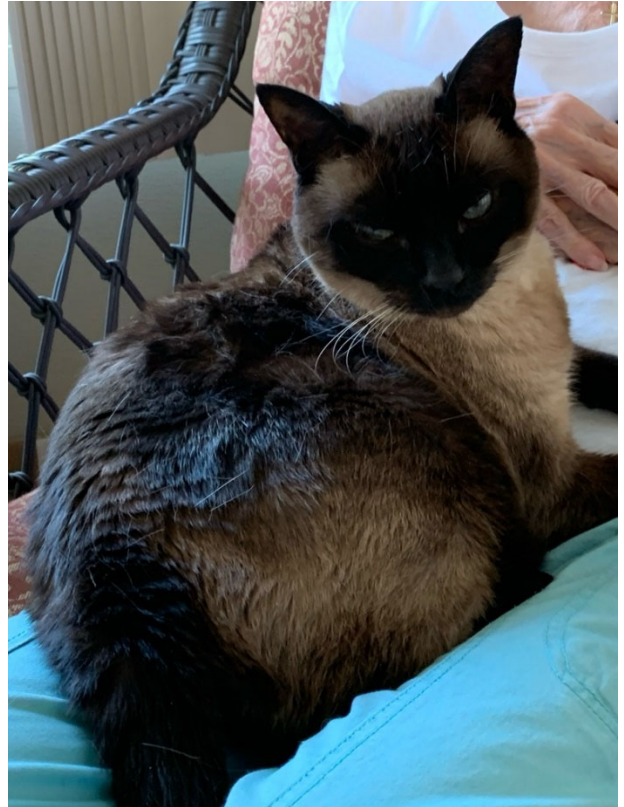
Marco is a handsome twelve-year-old boy who originally came from the Animal Rescue League. Paul says he is good company. One of his favorite places to be in the evening is in Paul's lap.

He does have ways of making his wants known: the food and water bowls must always be full. Even in the middle of the night, if he wants food or water, he will wake Paul by patting him on the back.

Marco has his own TV channel – the patio, of course. He is well entertained by the shenanigans of the chipmunks and shrews. He would love to help lower the number of these pests!



SAILOR is our most recent arrival. He lives with **Joan Perone** in Unit #116.



Sailor is a lovely and very friendly five-year-old young man. When Joan and her husband arrived back in Pittsburgh from South Carolina in 2020, they were without a feline buddy. Joan's family thought she needed another cat; indeed, she had always had Siamese cats and was currently without one.

A Siamese rescue group posted photos, and Sailor needed a new home, as his owner, who had to go into a nursing home, had had to give him up.

Joan's daughter, who lived in New York, flew to Tampa, FL, to get this handsome lad. When he arrived home and was released from his carrier, he jumped into Joan's lap. He still sticks to her like glue and follows her everywhere. What a happy ending! He continues to be very cheerful here at Sherwood Oaks.

Two ladies live with **Donna Dupont** in #140, **BOO & CAT**. Here they are:



Donna had lots of experience with dogs, but not cats, until she became acquainted with her daughter's cat. So, after her husband died, Donna wanted a cat for company.

Heather, Donna's daughter, took her to the Humane Society, where they observed Cat and Boo. When asked which one she would like, she wondered if she

could have them both! How could you separate a bonded pair? So, both it was!

They are about nine or ten years old and live a life of luxury in her patio home, where there's a tower to climb on and windows from which to supervise all outdoor activities. Donna finds the duo to be a great comfort.



CHAPEL NOTES

By Gary Brandenberger - #602
For the Chapel Committee

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

Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend.

Sunday, October 6

Rev. Jean Henderson
Sherwood Oaks – Retired
World Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 13

Rev. Hollis Haff
New Community Church
Wexford

Sunday, October 20

Rev. Moni McIntyre
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
McKeesport, PA

Sunday, October 27

Rev. Liddy Barlow
Christian Associates of SWPA
Pittsburgh

*"Commit your activities to the Lord and
your plans will be achieved."*

- Proverbs 16:3

CONTINUED LEARNING

By Jno L. Hunt - #308

We are excited about our series for September, October, and November. We have scheduled a varied list of topics from opera to foreign affairs to travel to the art of beekeeping! Please note the dates and times for each presentation. Due to various scheduling restrictions, these vary from week to week. All presentations are in the Auditorium.

***Thursday, Oct. 10, 10:30 a.m.:** Bill Markus—"Middle East" (1 of 3)

***Thursday, Oct. 17, 10:30 a.m.:** Bill Markus—"Middle East" (2 of 3)

***Monday, Oct. 28, 1:30 p.m.:** Carolyn Kennedy—"The Art of Impressionism"

***Thursday, Oct. 31, 10:30 a.m.:** Bill Markus—"Middle East" (3 of 3)

***Monday, Nov. 4, 1:30 p.m.:** Miguel Sague—"3 Rivers Native American Community"

***Wednesday, Nov. 13, 1:30 p.m.:** Monika Dalrymple—"Planes, Trains, & Automobiles"

We will also continue our regular series of programs on Channel 951. Initial airings on Tuesdays are at 10:00 a.m., 3:30 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. Encore presentations are usually on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Do try to fit one of these into your daily activities!

October Programs – Channel 951

Tues., Oct. 1: "How to Look at and Understand Great Art", Lessons 9 & 10. Encore on **Thurs., Oct. 3.**

Tues., Oct. 8: "Connections – Elementary Stuff". Encore on **Thurs., Oct. 10.**

Tues., Oct. 15: "Mr. Rogers and Me". Encore on **Thurs., Oct. 17.**

Tues., Oct. 22: "Lost Christianities (19 & 20)". Encore on **Thurs., Oct. 24.**

Tues., Oct. 29: "Most Powerful Forces on Earth—Hurricanes". Encore on **Thurs., Oct. 31.**

Shirley Poduslo has decided to resign from our Continued Learning Committee. We thank her for her years of service. Please consider joining the committee to help us identify and arrange for speakers of interest to our community.

EGGNOG PARTY PLANNING

By Ruth Lasure - #306

We know it may seem early, but we start early to make this a great party "by the residents, for the residents"! The 2024 Eggnog Party will be on Friday, December 6, and we need your help!

Anyone and everyone who is interested in helping to plan, volunteer, or become a sponsor/host is asked to join our first planning on **Oct. 11 at 1:30 p.m.** in the Oak Lodge meeting room.

Sponsors/hosts support the party financially; the more sponsors we have, the less cost for each. Please contact me at #8306 with any questions.

One more ask: if you have (empty) clear or almost-clear wine bottles (with or without labels), please save them to be used for a special decoration the evening of the event. They can be deposited in a designated box in the Scooter Gallery.

NO ORDINARY PEN

By Peg Rychcik - #297

The history of the Floaty Pen is as unique as the action performed in each pen. In 1946 a baker in Denmark, Peder Eskesen, developed a way to seal oil in a section of a pen. He then created a window on the pen including a stationary background image, a stationary foreground image and a moving image that would glide through the oil between them when the pen was tilted. The Eskesen company is recognized as the premiere manufacturer of these pens with “Made in Denmark” and/or “E” embossed on the pen’s metal clip. Other countries have tried to replicate the pens, but they are not of the same quality and construction as the original Eskesen pens.

What makes an Eskesen Floaty Pen a popular collectible? It is an ideal souvenir that is a fun reminder of travel destinations, historic events, and even corporate advertisements while fulfilling its basic function as a ballpoint pen.

These affordable plastic pens have a brightly colored lower portion while all of the action takes place in the upper clear plastic section. The dioramas created are colorfully accurate in detail, and a significant picture creates the action within the scene as the pen is tilted.

The following example of a Floaty Pen shows a lobster sliding into the lobster trap along the ocean floor. The back of

the pen shows that the pen was a souvenir of Bar Harbor, Maine with a lobster and ship illustration.



I have pens from several locations in Pittsburgh. One is the popular Heinz Floaty Pen which features a ketchup bottle with two plump red tomatoes gliding into the bottom of the bottle while the red sauce flows out of the bottle top.

The Frick in Pittsburgh Floaty Pen features one of the historic cars from their Car and Carriage Museum “floating” by the Greenhouse at The Frick Pittsburgh.



Creativity abounds in the production of Floaty Pens. The Mars, PA Floaty Pen shows a flying saucer “floating” across the front of the historic buildings in Mars.



Be on the lookout at airports, visitor centers and parks (nationally and internationally) for these delightful pens!

FLYING EXPERIENCES

By John Bridges - #122

My first flight was with my mother, from Cowes Isle of Wight to London. We flew in a three-engine Spartan Cruise from a grass airfield with a hangar, offices, and no concrete runway.



Spartan Cruise aircraft

We soon crossed the Solent and were flying over gray clouds. Looking downward, I could see a silhouette of the plane inside a ring of rainbow colors. It was a smooth one-hour flight, and we landed safely at Heston Airport. We then boarded a bus to take us into the city, and on the way were involved in a collision with a diminutive Austin 7 Saloon car. This gave me an early lesson that cars can be more dangerous than aircraft.

Working for Koppers Company out of Pittsburgh, I often had to visit customers scattered around the Americas. This often made for interesting journeys. For example, Pittsburgh to Bogotá happened in a large Boeing 707. I then changed to the smaller Boeing 727 to hop over the mountains to Cali. There I would connect with a Beechcraft Bonanza on the Pacific coast. Next, it was time to board a DeHaviland Otter High Wing monoplane for Guapi. Lastly, from Guapi, we took a canoe trip to the factory at Iscuande. At one time in the past, this had been the Spanish capital on the Pacific coast, but it was

now a thinly populated mass of mangrove swamps containing, of all things, a plywood factory, the place of my business.

Once, on a return trip, the Otter was still on the ground. When we reached the end of the runway strip, the pilot turned to the passengers and said, "There are too many bananas on board!" A passenger opened his window and began throwing out bananas. Soon, the pilot said, "Okay, we'll try again." We took off with no further problems.



DeHaviland Otter High Wing on Boeing 737

On another occasion, I was returning to my home in Cali from Bogotá, when thick fog was reported at the Cali airport. The pilot chose to divert to Chillan, where there was a runway but no airport facilities present. We landed safely and waited. After several hours, the Chilean passengers rummaged through their luggage, searching for wine and sustenance. Within a couple of hours, there was quite a party atmosphere! A radio message was received that a couple of Chilean Navy planes wanted to land there, and our plane was still sitting at the end of the runway. Our captain was concerned that he had only enough battery power for one startup, and so out came the call, "Please, would all passengers get out and push?" This we proceeded to do but it was difficult because the wing was so high.

As a result, with a trail of empty wine bottles clinking and falling out of the open doors, we made room for the Navy planes to land.

Once, when I was sitting in a plane in Pittsburgh waiting to take off to Atlanta, I found that I had no seatbelt. This was also the case for a dozen other passengers. To the annoyance of the pilot and other passengers, we made a fuss and insisted on delaying takeoff until seat belts were found and fitted. Do you think this was a reasonable demand, and reason for delaying a flight?

MUSIC THAT HEALS

By Jane Lavender - #253

Even in retirement, we often find our lives in a bit of turmoil since our visions of the future don't always happen the way we had hoped. On **Thurs., Oct. 31**, Bruce Smith and Friends will give you a respite with MUSIC THAT HEALS. Using piano, voices, and other instruments, songs of community and healing will be shared.

The Entertainment Committee hopes to see you at **7:00 p.m.** in the auditorium on that night. It'll be a great way to celebrate Hallowe'en in 2024!

PAPERBACK PONDERINGS

By Jean Henderson - #346

This is a reminder that your paperback room is funded *totally* by your donations, and I'm so grateful! Special thanks go to Don Gowan's son, Doug, who donated 13 Janet Evanovich novels, starring Stephanie Plum. Each one has a number in the title. Stop by and enjoy them;

they're in the "AUTHORS WITH MULTIPLE TITLES" section.

OCT./NOV. CURIO CABINETS

By Janet Desko - #210

"Hats Off" to all the residents who brought hats for our September display. I tip my hat to you all!

On **Tues., Oct. 15**, please pick up your hats from **10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** and from **4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

In October/November, we will be celebrating "**Fall Harvest**," so bring your scarecrows, pumpkins, skeletons, hay-ride photos, and fall leaf pictures or photographs. On **Thurs., Oct. 17**, drop off your "Fall Harvest" items from **10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** and **4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

We look forward to celebrating both the beauty of Fall and the scariest time of the year with you.

ELECTION INFORMATION

By Dan Cindric - #107

For the Civic Affairs Committee

Tues., Nov. 5, 2024, is General Election Day. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. In-person voting for Sherwood Oaks residents is in the Senior/Teen Room at the Cranberry Municipal Building on Rochester Road. Sherwood Oaks bus service will be available to transport residents to and from the Municipal Building, with the schedule of departures posted on the bulletin board in the mail room.

The last day to register to vote is **Oct. 21, 2024**, and the last day to request a mail-in ballot is **Oct. 29**. However, please do not wait until the last day to take action.

The most important thing to remember is to **VOTE!!!**

WORTH A LOOK

BOOKS NEW TO OUR LIBRARY

By Barbara Christy - # 237

Americanah by Chimamanda Adichie. Fiction. Ifemelu is a homesick Nigerian immigrant living in Princeton, NJ, enjoying a prestigious fellowship, writing a successful blog about lifestyle and race relations in both countries, and enjoying a satisfying relationship with a black assistant professor. But she muses about the many ways she feels “cement in her soul” from being away from her home. Deciding to return to Nigeria after 13 years, she spends her time before leaving getting her hair braided, remembering her first love, and considering what her life will be like as a returned Nigerian. Meanwhile, Ozimbe, her high-school lover, was stuck in London and unable to join her in the U.S. He has now been expelled from England and has built a new life in the city where he and Ifemelu had been classmates, then lovers, before escaping to the West. In a beautifully written book, part love story and part social satire, the author is perceptive and incisive in her critique of both Nigerian and American cultures, and loving in her treatment of her characters. F ADI

Lucky by Jane Smiley. Fiction. Jodie Rattler is enjoying a mostly average, if delightful, middle-class American childhood with her single mom and extended family in St. Louis in the 1950s. Innocent in the ways of the world, she goes to a racetrack with her uncle and helps him win over \$5,000. Admonishing her to keep their adventure a secret, the uncle gives her a roll of \$2 bills that she hides under her mattress and never spends. She realizes she is “lucky,” and her friends reinforce

this by telling her she’s lucky to have the family she has, her thick, glossy hair, the house she lives in, and the exceptional school she attends. But it is a combination of hard work and serendipity that earns her a singing career, which takes her across the United States. Jodie comes of age in recording studios, backstage, and on tour, all the while believing that her secret roll of \$2 bills is the source of her good fortune. Yet it feels like something is missing. Readers of this book will enjoy reading about childhood in mid-20th-century America, the backstage nitty-gritty of rock and roll music, and the nuances of a young woman’s search for happiness. F SM

All Good People Here by Ashley Flowers. Fiction. Twenty years after her friend and neighbor, six-year-old January Jacob, is found dead in a local ditch, Indianapolis journalist Margot Davies comes home to Wakarusa, IN, to care for her beloved uncle, who has early-onset dementia. January’s killer has never been found, and Margot still harbors feelings that it could just as easily have been her that died. When a five-year-old from a neighboring town dies in an eerily similar way, Margot has flashbacks to January’s death. Her employer assigns her to cover the case, despite her being officially on leave of absence. As Margot delves into both the new murder and the old one, she feels oppressed by the gossip and sly looks from the neighbors. Remembering why she was eager to leave her hometown, Margot struggles to be open to them now. F FLO

All the Colors of the Dark by Chris Whitaker. Fiction. This complicated, epic story begins with two adolescent friends, both poor, one an aspiring beekeeper named

Saint and the other a one-eyed boy called Patch, who models himself after pirates. In the woods, Patch stumbles upon a man assaulting the richest girl in town and drives off the attacker. But he is stabbed in the process and is never seen again. Saint lives on in the Missouri Ozark town with her grandmother, the bus driver, and her piano lessons. After many months, Patch returns, but he is changed and his friendship with Saint is never the same. How their lives evolve over many years into a story of salvation, kindness, and loyalty is both surprising and satisfying. F WHI

On Call: A Doctor's Journey in Public Service by Anthony S. Fauci. Biography. Anthony Fauci has been a consequential, and possibly the most controversial, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases the U.S. has ever had. From his early days in the NIH, researching HIV/AIDS, to working with the President from 2021 to 2022 as his chief medical advisor on the Covid pandemic, Fauci has relied on his expertise and dedication as a scientist, immunologist, and physician to serve the American public health sector. He has acted as an advisor to every U.S. president since Ronald Reagan. For more than fifty years, Fauci was a pre-eminent public servant, but, during his time as a White House advisor, he tangled with President Trump and his staff, who saw his advice as being politically damaging. From his beginnings as the grandchild of Italian immigrants, Catholic by upbringing but humanist by conviction, to being the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom from George W. Bush and one of the most cited scientists of all time, Fauci's Life story is indeed fascinating. BIO FAU

NIGHTLIGHTS

By Bob Typanski - #190

When those dreaded sleepless nights
occur,
I lie awake in a constant stir.
They're not the nights that I prefer.

They're caused by thoughts or words we
speak,
But now distractions are what I seek.
I'll go to a window where I can peek . . .

Into darkness where few lights only
Tell me others' nights are also lonely.
They too should be sleeping prone-ly.

We are yearning for a way to share
Our problems with those who care.
But for solutions, I must prepare.

When daylight finally does arrive,
I use my plans and then strive
To not let those thoughts my sleep de-
prive.

Together . . . those Nightlights and I.

IMPRESSIVE BLACK SNAKE PATROLLING SHERWOOD OAKS GARDENS....



Photo by Monika Dalrymple

OFFICERS OF THE SHERWOOD OAKS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (SORA)



Photo by Jan Wendt

Front (L to R) – Bruce Cooper, Vice President; Jean Henderson, President; Rosemary Coffey, Secretary

Back Row (L to R) – Gary Brandenberger, Past President; Beth Brown, Operating Treasurer; Peter Broeren, Treasurer; Patsy Grant, Assistant Treasurer

IT WAS WOMEN'S WORK!

By Jan Wendt - #158



Photo by Jan Wendt

One day last May, our own Chef Michael Pfarner headed to the raised beds to put in some tomato plants for the kitchen to use in the summer. Stopping at the shed nearby to grab a few tools, he noted a black snake (or was it more than one?)

trying to slither out from under the shed. But it/they didn't – or couldn't – move.

He called Grounds for reinforcements, and soon word traveled to Jen Ziegler and Amy Welch. It happens that Amy has a fondness for reptiles, so she sped down to lend a hand.

About then, I happened on the scene, where I found Jen and Amy hard at work trying to disengage the slithering duo from some fine mesh in which they were ensnared.

Let the record show that the ladies completed the task with dispatch, freeing and then releasing the snakes back into the woods, while the men looked on and offered moral support.

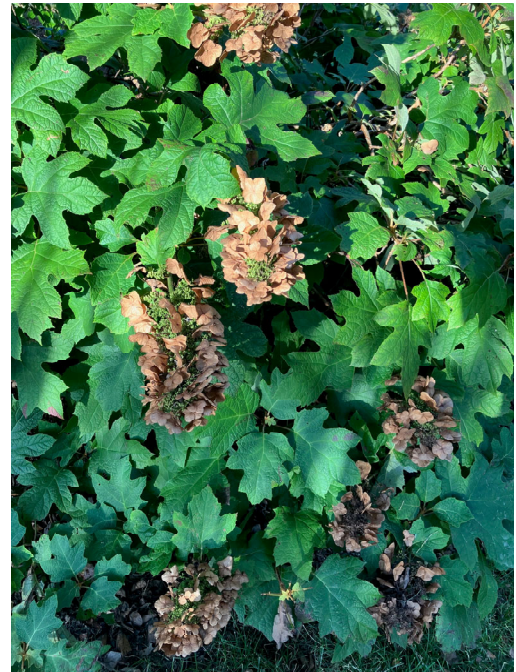
THE COLETTA MCKENRY LIBRARY ACCESSIONS FICTION, INCLUDING LARGE TYPE

All Good People Here*	Flowers, Ashley	c. 2022	F FLO
All the Colors of the Dark*	Whitaker, Chris	c. 2024	F WHI
Americanah*	Adichie, Chimamanda	c. 2023	F ADI
The Cliffs	Sullivan, J. Courtney	c. 2024	F SUL
Flashpoint	Coulter, Catherine	c. 2024	F COU
Forever After	Raney, Deborah	c. 2011	F RAN L.T.
Hard to Kill	Patterson, James	c. 2024	F PAT
The Heart in Winter	Barry, Kevin	c. 2024	F BAR
The House Across the Lake	Sager, Riley	c. 2022	F SAG
Listen for the Lie	Tintera, Amy	c. 2024	F TIN
Lucky*	Smiley, Jane	c. 2024	F SMI
Palisades Park	Brennert, Alan	c. 2013	F BRE L.T.
The Personal Librarian	Benedict, Marie	c. 2021	F BEN p.b. L.T.
Someone Like Us	Mengestu, Dinaw	c. 2024	F MEN
You Are Here	Nicholls, David	c. 2024	F NIC

NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES

On Call: A Doctor's Journey in Public Service*	Fauci, Anthony S.	c. 2024	BIO FAU
A Gentleman and a Thief	Jobb, Dean	c. 2024	364.16 OB

*Reviewed in "Worth a Look," pp. 16-17.



FAREWELL, SUMMER!

ABODES FOR FEATHERED FRIENDS

(See story, page 5)



Photos by Kathie McCormick