



# SILVER STREAK

CONNECTING AND INFORMING TCU'S SILVER FROGS

## Silver Frogs Celebrate a Fantastic Fall in Style!

On Thursday, December 7, Silver Frogs gathered at beautifully-decorated Ridglea Country Club to celebrate the end of another amazing semester of lifelong learning with delicious food, door prizes, and interesting company. Thank you to everyone who worked to make this a special evening for us all! Since pictures are so much better than words, we're starting this issue with a photo album from the event.



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## We ♥ Our Fall '17 Silver Frog Instructors

The heart of our Silver Frogs program is the amazing group of instructors who volunteer their time to provide a course or a lecture. Some provide multiple classes, and several have willingly repeated their topics so that all may benefit.

Thank you all for making Silver Frogs such a great program!

Andrea Rankin  
Angela Tacco  
Anne J. Bailey  
Anthony Lickteig  
Arthur Busbey  
Arthur Griffin  
Betty Youngman  
Boglarka Huddleston  
Brad Sandy  
Brandon Cline  
Carol Roark  
Carol Stanford  
Carroll Kobs  
Chris Manno  
Crystal Barth  
Dan Calvin  
Dan Smith  
Darren Middleton  
David Grebel  
Dennis Beck  
Diana Boerner  
Dina Malki  
Donald Jackson  
Rita Cotterly

Eddie Strickel  
Eilene Theilig  
Eric Simanek  
Gary Barlow  
George Frein  
Greg Stephens  
James Box  
James Nader  
Jane Pawgan  
Janelle Coyle  
Janet Busbey Nilsson  
Jerome Davis  
Jim Parr  
Joe Shannon  
Joel Smith  
John Biggan  
Judith Soriano  
Judy Mollet  
Katherine Polzer  
Ken Bowers  
Larry Schuessler  
Lewis Woodard  
Marsha R. West

Mary Ann Contreras  
Michael Erwine  
Mike Montefusco  
Miranda Davis  
Randy Smith  
Rebecca Dority  
Resa Shipman  
Richard (Rick) Wolf  
Richard Selcer  
Robert Frey  
Roger Norman  
Ronald Flowers  
Sam Deitz  
Sarina Harz  
Shari Barnes  
Steve Huddleston  
Terri Ellis  
Thomas Haase  
Thomas Morton  
Thomas Van Gunten  
Virginia Dias  
Warren Carter  
Wes Shannon

### Cheers! Here's to the folks who keep making Silver Frogs better!

Thank you to all of this semester's wonderful volunteer **Classroom Hosts**! You're such an important part of the Silver Frogs program and vital to our success.

— Nancy Caudill and Betsy McDaniel

Thank you to the **Curriculum Committee** for the great job coordinating each semester's program offerings.

— Ann Shelton

Cheers to Silver Frog **Kathy Bruce** for her multiple and generous donations to the Outreach Can in our classroom.

— Kakai Bowers

Thank you to **TCU Catering** for the excellent service and delicious food at our Luncheon Lectures.

— Ann Shelton

Thanks to **Ann Heinz** and her great **SIG Art of Fort Worth** for all the great places we've visited and the adventures we have had in art!

— Terri Ellis

Cheers to **Eric Simanek** for such a fun Bourbon Whiskey: Science and History class. I especially liked the field trip to F & R Distillery.

— Lisa Winter



## On Being an Instructor by Randy Smith

While the courses and lectures for Spring are already finalized, the Curriculum Committee will be asking for proposals for the Fall '18 semester soon after we start classes again! We asked Advisory Board President Randy Smith, who enthusiastically offered a course in Astronomy and a lecture on Celestial Navigation this semester, to share his thoughts on being a Silver Frogs instructor. Step one: identify what *you're* passionate about, and then consider sharing that with us next Fall!



The key to our whole Silver Frogs program lies with the courses and lectures we offer. The variety and quality of the classes is why folks join and stay, and the number of courses and lectures each semester is the primary factor in how our membership can grow. Members may take up to three 4-session courses and three one-time lectures so we attempt to maintain an even balance between these two formats. For the Spring 2018 semester we'll have 44 courses and 47 lectures, and this allowed us to increase enrollment to 451 members.

Since the beginning, we have been fortunate to recruit sufficient volunteer instructors to maintain the quantity and quality of our classes. Historically, almost half of our classes are taught by members. Many instructors have a teaching background in the subjects they present, but many do not. A significant number are teaching subjects quite different from their professions. We all have hobbies and special interests and our instructors are sharing their interests with the Silver Frogs. The purpose of this article is to possibly interest you to step out and give teaching a try. It has been said that "those who teach, learn" and there is no better way to cement your knowledge than to challenge yourself.

In addition to the personal satisfaction of teaching, there are also some more tangible benefits. First, Silver Frog instructors are given a \$25 reduction on their semester membership. We also have an instructor appreciation event near the end of each semester, with an interesting program and an opportunity to meet and share with other teachers. Another benefit is that SF instructors may take any non-Silver Frog Extended Education course for free. This can be a \$150-\$200 value, depending on the course. Finally, being involved in any activity allows you to meet and work with other SFs.

Becoming a Silver Frogs instructor is a fairly easy process. You don't need a degree in the subject and

there is no job interview. Potential instructors merely need to submit a proposal to our Curriculum Committee; they issue a request for proposals via e-mail early each semester, seeking instructors for the following semester. Potential instructors complete the online proposal form which simply asks for course title, description, topics to be covered, and your mini bio (as it applies to the course).

The form also asks instructors for their availability. This is critical for the Curriculum Committee to develop the class schedule, so instructors are asked to be as accommodating as possible.

The curriculum committee then selects courses and the instructors are notified of selection and scheduled class date.

Instructor orientations are provided three times each semester. These are scheduled just before each session of courses/lectures begin. TCU's Extended Education Associate Director Julie Lovett explains how to set up and operate the classroom audio/visual system, goes over some general lessons learned from our course critiques, reviews appropriate TCU policies, and answers any questions. This is optional and any instructor may attend whichever session is most convenient.

In addition to the instructor orientations, the Curriculum Committee will gladly provide any help a new teacher may need to prepare their presentations, whether that is in building PowerPoint slides or organizing content.

If you are wondering about what topics would interest Silver Frogs, just take a look through the course catalog. The possibilities are endless! Consider these areas: arts, science/technology, travel, cultures/languages, personal development, recreation/leisure, literature/writing, history, or religion. And there are surely many other topics that would be interesting.



### Still Not Convinced? a gentle nudge from your editor...

If you've read Randy's piece, above, and you're still not sure you are ready to become an instructor, choose one of the *other* volunteer opportunities open to you within Silver Frogs. Only a small percentage of our 450 members volunteer, and since the whole organization depends so heavily on its volunteers, WE NEED YOU! If you aren't teaching, please help out in another way — by joining a committee (Special Events! Travel! Community Outreach!), being a classroom host, sending in a story for the newsletter, starting a SIG — whatever appeals to you. **Make that your first resolution for 2018 and then when you come to the Meet & Greet on January 9, check that one off your list by signing up!**



## Fort Worth Fun for Frogs! by Linda Eastwick, Randy Smith and Lisa Winter

On Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> -- in the first activity of a Special Events double-header -- 25 Silver Frogs went to space via a simulation of the night sky in the Noble Planetarium, at the Ft. Worth Museum of Science and History.

We convened in the planetarium foyer. There, we learned how the museum acquired its Sputnik satellite, viewed a 300-pound meteorite from Kansas, and observed a NASA propulsion system used by the astronauts during the space shuttle missions of the 1980s.

We were also introduced to Charlie Mary Noble, the planetarium's namesake. After attending college in the 1890s, she taught mathematics at Paschal High School. She later taught an astronomy class at TCU in the 1940s -- a shining example of how all the coolest people in Fort Worth have a little purple blood!

What's the brightest star in earth's night sky? Who is Orion and what does he carry? Where is the brightest part of the Milky Way? In a private showing of the "Texas Sky Tonight" we learned the answers to these and many other questions about our winter night sky. Several members of the group were enrolled in the Silver Frogs' Astronomy 101 class, and this presentation matched well with that course's content. Many constellations were pointed out and we were told how some got their names and the mythology of their personal stories (proving those ancient folks had very vivid imaginations!). The planetarium also demonstrated the moon's path among the stars and pointed out Jupiter and Venus in the morning sky, just before sunrise.



The day's second event of invited everyone to "Cowgirl Up, Y'all!!!" We had a blast at the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame special event! Our docent was a Silver Frog herself, and she loved telling stories about various exhibits. When anyone in our group asked about a specific exhibit, she had a very enjoyable tale on each item. The Cowgirl Museum currently has a special exhibit on Annie Oakley, so if you are a fan, get over there before the museum closes for renovation (after the Stock Show ends).

The museum was preparing for their Hall of Fame event on November 21, and Reba McIntire was being inducted along with others. To quote from their website: "The National Cowgirl Museum is the

only museum in the world dedicated to honoring and celebrating women, past and present, whose lives exemplify the courage and resilience and independence that helped shape the American West." Categories for the Hall of Fame are "artists and writers, contributors to the cowgirl legacy and champions and competitive performers, entertainers, ranchers (stewards of land and livestock) and trailblazers and pioneers." Framed Hermes scarves depicting horses line the stairwells to the second floor. Names of Hall of Fame members are displayed in the rotunda. There is also a fun photo booth where you can get your picture taken with Annie Oakley, herself. Yee Haw!!!







## FW Mayor Betsy Price Speaks Her Mind

by Shari Barnes

Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price, designated on a visit to Australia as a “pistol packin’ mama,” entertained 250 Silver Frogs with candid answers to questions submitted by members in advance of the November 30 luncheon. Her friendly demeanor and obvious sense of humor certainly was representative of the image Fort Worth wants to project as one of the fastest-growing cities in the country.

Citing several accomplishments in which she takes pride, Mayor Price said that dealing with the city’s pension plan issues has given her a great deal of satisfaction. The project is ongoing and a high priority.

She’s a savvy communicator who uses a variety of social media options, including Twitter, although she clearly made a distinction between her tweets and those of the President. In fact, she stated good humoredly that she’d like to take his phone away from him.

When asked what’s being done for the homeless in the Fort Worth community, Price showed genuine concern. She focused on the emphasis the city is placing on jobs and housing as well as the importance of helping the newly homeless transition into the workforce. Her vision includes many areas of the city, because housing needs to be near where the jobs are.

And the mayor candidly discussed the need to provide single phone number access for citizens who need help with city services. She wants to make it easy for Fort Worth citizens to make requests and get the assistance they need.



Price emphasized that she works for the people of Fort Worth and that she doesn’t see herself as a politician. Years ago she would never have imagined herself as either the Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector or the city’s Mayor – but these were jobs that needed doing, and she has enjoyed doing them. She says she has no further political ambitions -- mentioning that her five grandchildren and two bicycles are a priority -- but is willing to go where God calls her.



**Our Fall semester has been an amazing one, filled with so many fun activities and wonderful learning opportunities. And Spring promises to continue our school year in true Silver Frogs style! From the inaugural Silver Frogs travel adventure (details soon) to new Special Interest Groups, there’s truly something for everyone. See you in January!**



## Barrels of Fun

Members enrolled in the course ***Bourbon Whiskey: Science and History*** enjoyed a field trip to F&R Distillery this semester!



As we began work on this end-of-semester Silver Streak issue, we knew we wanted to highlight our members with interesting hobbies and collections. It became clear pretty quickly that many Silver Frogs love to read, so we've expanded our book recommendations this month! If you're looking for your next read, you may just find it here! But that's not all — keep reading to learn what else your fellow frogs are into on the following pages.

## What Are You Reading?

***The Purloining of Prince Oleomargarine*** by Mark Twain and Philip Stead. Wonderful book for young and old! This would be a great read-aloud book.

— Emily Harrell

I just finished ***To Be Where You Are*** by Jan Karon. I enjoy the books in the Mitford series because of the continuing characters — the changes and growth in their lives. Mitford sounds like a place where I'd like to live.

— Linda Tindall

I recommend these non-fiction titles:

- ***In the Shadow of the Banyan*** by Vaddey Ratner. It's a young girl's story of her time in Cambodia when the Khmer Rouge took over. Well-written.
- ***Elephant Company*** by Vicki Constantine Croke. Story of a man's life in Burma, and his relationship with elephants from the 1920's to WWII.
- ***A Time of Gifts*** by Patrick Leigh Fermor. At 17, he walked from the hook of Holland to Istanbul in the early 1930's. This book is the first half of his adventure.

— Kakai Bowers

***The Good Daughter*** by Karin Slaughter is one of those books you just hate to put down!

— Betsy McDaniel

I just started reading ***A Concise Biography of Adolf Hitler*** by Thomas Fuchs. I chose this book due to the unusual topics it covers such as Hitler's mustache, his names and titles, games he played, and did he really believe the swastika had magical powers.

— Resa Shipman

Book on my nightstand: ***Hardcore Twenty-Four*** by Janet Evanovich. The adventures of Stephanie Plum continue as she works as a bond enforcement officer and her heart continues to be torn between her detective boyfriend, Morelli, and the hot Ranger and hotter Diesel. This is the twenty-fourth book in the series. Start with the first book (***One for the Money***) to follow her "laugh out loud" adventures.

— Lisa Winter

I'm finally reading ***Little Women*** by Louisa May Alcott. So many friends cited it as a favorite that I felt left out! It's a delightful story and wonderful for getting away from current-day drama.

— Sharon Harrelson



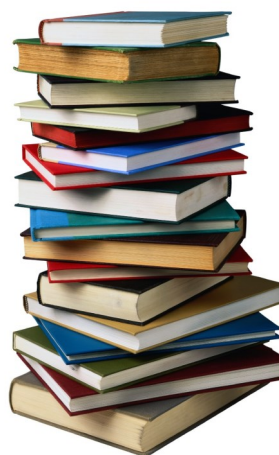
## Daniel Silva Discovered

by Richard Ranc

This time of year I'm always looking for a new book -- it happens like clockwork; just as the leaves begin their color changes and ultimate descent to the ground, my November game plan is to find a good book to keep me busy.

About ten years ago, quite by accident, I found Daniel Silva, an author I had never read, but his subject matter intrigued me. At the Olympic Village in Munich, Germany, Palestinian terrorists massacred members of the Israeli Olympic team in 1972. The Mossad, roughly the Israeli equivalent of the US CIA and British MI6, systematically avenged those deaths. In 2004 Silva's first Gabriel Allon novel was published — "The Kill Artist," a somewhat fictionalized account of Israeli retribution for that attack — and I was hooked. Since then Silva has written 19 novels, driven by the central operative Gabriel Allon.

Gabriel Allon is a former member of the Mossad with the cover of a world-renowned art restorer. His specialty is restoration of old masters and his employers have been wealthy art collectors, dealers and even the Vatican. With this cover he is called upon to find and neutralize terrorists who pose a threat to the people of Israel as well as other western nations. Allon — a cold, efficient operative — is at the same time a sensitive and talented restorer of priceless works of art. He operates with deep cover and his exploits make Silva's novels real page-turners.



Unlike many sequel novelists, Silva manages to make each of Allon's adventures stand alone and the character of Gabriel Allon is never lost. If "The Kill Artist" draws you in as it did me, you will have a winter of exciting reading.







## My Hobby: De-Collecting by Linda Eastwick

I collect... empty bins. Let me explain.

When I was little, my mom encouraged my siblings and me to have a collection...of anything. After considerable thought, I chose squirrels and chipmunk figurines. Over the next several years, my collection grew into a three-shelf home in my bedroom. I welcomed new pieces on birthdays, at Christmas, and in between.

Then, upon leaving home, I packed up my collection and moved it with me wherever I went. Although they never sat on a shelf again, I thought that one of my kids would be overjoyed someday to inherit my collection. Wrong!

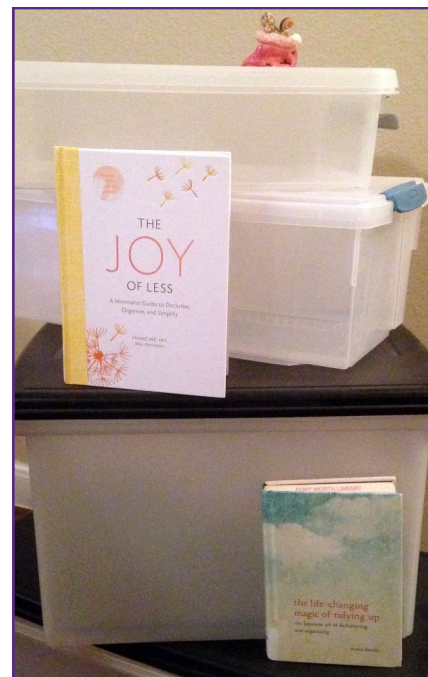
So, my porcelain friends remained nestled in their bubble-wrapped home until this year. I opened the bin, unwrapped each figurine, and recalled a different time in my life.

*That* time, I decided, was way in the past. These woodland pieces were no longer serving me; they no longer “sparked joy” as Marie Kondo says. It was time to divest.

I kept one of my favorite pieces, and I wrote the account of how my collection came to be. It is just one chapter of many I have written about my life: how we used rotary phones before cell phones; how we (and NASA) used slide rules before calculators; how we used typewriters and carbon paper before computers and printers. My kids and grandkids have no need for *my things*, but they are curious about *my story*. And so, through words and pictures, I record it.

I carefully re-wrapped the rest of the pieces and took them to Goodwill. I hope they will “spark joy” for someone else.

In the meantime, I continue to collect empty bins. I haven’t made any New Year’s Resolutions, yet, but I hope to acquire at least twenty more in the coming year!



## Clearing A Space by Linda Eastwick

Wondering where to begin on that decluttering project? ***The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*** by Marie Kondo and ***The Joy of Less*** by Francine Jay, (aka Miss Minimalist), are two books that can get you started.

Marie Kondo, from Japan, is a world-wide best-selling author and cleaning consultant. Writing from a Shinto spiritualism world view, she advocates keeping only the things that “spark joy.” Some of her ideas are a bit unusual to the average Westerner, such as thanking your socks for their hard work. But she has acquired a cult following worldwide with the simple advice to assemble everything into categories, touch each item, and keep only those things that truly bring you happiness after doing so. Her ways of folding clothes were new to me, and they really help keep clothes drawers organized! But some might worry about her total aversion to paper. So, keep your tax records, despite her advice. They’ll spark a little joy with your accountant!

Francine Jay writes from a minimalist world view. She reminds us that less stuff = more freedom. The less we acquire, the freer we are to do things other than store it, clean it, carry it, and repair it (and pay for it!). And that freedom allows us to take advantage of new opportunities. Like Kondo, she provides a method for attacking clutter, and uses the acronym STREAMLINE to help us remember it. One of my favorite quotes from her book is, “By creating space in our homes, we put the focus back where it should be: on what we do, rather than what we own. Life is too short to waste fussing over stuff. When we’re old and gray, we won’t wax poetic on the things we had – but rather on what we did in the spaces between them.” Great advice as we ponder the Silver Frog opportunities awaiting us in 2018!







## Never Too Many Books by Shari Barnes



In a recent burst of energy, I decided to get rid of junk. Maybe I've been watching too many television shows about hoarders. We've all had that nightmare that when we pass on, our children will go through our possessions asking, "Why in the world did she save that?" My own children already question my sanity, but a post-mortem evaluation of my tastes isn't appealing.



So, I threw out garbage bags of "treasures," but I drew the line at books. Serious book collectors focus on things like first editions, pristine book jackets, and value. I focus on what I love. I have an entire bookcase of signed copies from authors I've interviewed. Gloria Steinem, Jeffrey Deaver, Graham Nash, Janet Evanovich and 200+ other notables grace my bookshelves and help me recall conversations that enriched my life. **Suggestion #1: Collect books of authors you love.** Re-read and enjoy the richness of someone whose writing makes you laugh or cry or just appreciate life.

My husband is an avid C. S. Lewis fan. His growing collection of Lewis books will soon require its own bookcase. An amazing theologian and Christian author, Lewis' influence continues long after his death. **Suggestion #2: Collect books that inspire and inform you.** Challenge yourself with writers who will stretch your thinking.

My children and grandchildren have received gift books since infancy and have developed an appreciation for the fine art of reading. **Suggestion #3: Think of book collection as part of the lifelong learning experience.** One of my favorite collections is a set of Bobbsey Twin books which someday will be read to my great grandchildren.

On a recent trip to New York City, we dined in a restaurant that was lined with book shelves. I was inspired to plan a dining room re-do complete with books, books, and more books. **Suggestion #4: Find fun and unique ways to incorporate books into your home décor.** And don't become overly obsessed with alphabetizing by author or title. Just enjoy!

Now you know what you need for Christmas. Who is your favorite author? Ask your family for his/her books. Or maybe an antique book case to display the ones you already have. What's your favorite subject? Tell your friends you want gardening books this year. In an era of electronic reading, it still feels good to pick up a real book, curl up in a wing chair, and read your worries away. Merry collecting!



## Why I Fish with Flies by Ken Bowers

I started fishing fairly young. My grandfather taught my brother, cousins and me to fish at nine or ten. Being summer in Missouri, insects were rather persistent. The solution, he taught us, was to smoke a cigar and puff away mightily. Seemed to work. My father introduced me to fly fishing shortly after that. I still have that rod and the reel. The pursuit of fish with a fly rod and the tranquility of the smoke made an impression. At fourteen or so, I started to tie flies. One thing leads to another, don't you know.

That in itself is the interesting part of the whole concern. Fly fishing involves many skills. While all are related, they are also quite different. The old adage of, "give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, teach him to fish and he becomes self-sufficient," morphs into "teach a man to fly fish and he has to buy a rod, reel, lines, leaders, tippets, waders, boots, fly boxes, flies, nippers, hemostats, wading staffs, nets, and vests." One must develop a passing

familiarity with casting, ichthyology, entomology, weather, a bit of hydrology, a smattering of etiquette, nature-watching and, hopefully, not too much swimming. Pulling together information from so many areas to a particular place and point in time in order to pursue something with a brain the size of a pea may sound rather absurd. However, you are out of doors. The scenery is beautiful, if not spectacular. It is just so much more than standing in a river in baggy, rubber pants and waving a long stick.

Any fish can be caught on a fly rod. Maybe not the same fly rod one would use for trout, but a fly rod all the same. Any body of water can be fished with a fly rod: farm pond, small creek, mountain stream, lake, river, saltwater flats, even off-shore along the coast.

When I started (in the last century) I focused on trout. Other species can become more prevalent as you move to a new location. Different rods, lines,



leaders, flies and techniques are required for such things as bass, pan fish, redfish, bonefish, etc.

**Intrigued? Join our new Special Interest Group (SIG) on Fly Fishing!**

Contact Ken Bowers, (817) 723-8056 or 68bowers@gmail.com. Meeting place, time and frequency to be determined. Tight lines.





## Linda Tindall: Stained Glass

I make stained glass mosaics. I like the way light looks coming through the glass. After I retired (from teaching 5th and 6th grade), I took 2 stained glass classes taught by Tina McIntire through TCU Extended Education. Earlier this year my first great-nephew was born, and instead of making a stitchery birth announcement like I had done when my niece was born, I made a stained glass mosaic (shown at right).



## Valerie Johnston: Photo Albums

I love making photo albums from the trips we've taken. I do it the old-fashioned way (actual photos on paper) so I can put memorabilia from the places we visit in the albums, too. I've always loved to take pictures, so this was just a natural extension of that.

Sometimes I write narratives of what we did or sometimes just label the pictures. I enjoy doing this because as I do it, I get to relive the trips. It also makes a good record of all the fun trips we've taken.

*About Valerie:* She's a speech-language pathologist, working part-time, and looks forward to retiring in May. She and her husband are both Silver Frogs, and their daughter Angie will be getting her PhD in Cognitive Psychology from Yale this year; she has a special interest in canine cognition and has been to Australia four times to do research on dingoes.

## Russell and Penney Andrew: Square Dancing

My wife Penney and I were introduced to square dancing through a flyer advertising lessons sponsored by the Arlington Public Library last summer. The lessons were being given a mile from our house so we had little to lose in checking it out. We are extremely glad we did! The people are so nice and friendly, plus there is delicious food at most dances.

Square dancing is a fun low-impact exercise for both the body and mind. It is like solving a puzzle. You must do what the caller instructs to make it through to the end. But if you mess up, no one gets upset!

If you can "move", you can square dance. **We have started a Silver Frogs Special Interest Group for square dancing**, so if you're interested in learning about upcoming beginner lessons starting in January, have questions or just want to come to a dance and check it out, please contact us, Russell or Penney Andrew, at (817) 561-7628, or [mandrew@aol.com](mailto:mandrew@aol.com).



This was at a fundraising barn dance.  
You don't have to dress like this! We only did once.

**Mary Slaney** tells us: "I enjoy my garden. Love being outside watching things grow. I do not care about what grows where. If I see it and it is different, I plant it. My grandmother was my inspiration. When I would visit we would head to the garden to get cuttings."

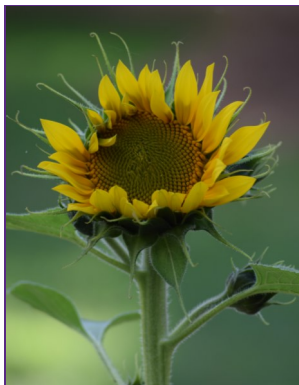
Twice-retired, Mary has six grandchildren (including a doctor and an engineer!). She enjoys Zumba, likes glitter with her multicolor holiday lights, and requires marshmallows in her hot cocoa.





**Ann M. Heinz** enjoys researching family history as a hobby. She tells us that her uncle had written the history of her mother's family, but no one had done this with her father.

*About Ann:* She's a volunteer, especially in arts, gardening and children's areas. She's also a longtime Silver Frog with 16 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren! Her popular "Arts in Fort Worth" SIG is a lively addition to Silver Frogs.



**Grace Nowlin** shares this: "One of my hobbies is gardening. Since moving here about 18 months ago, I have been learning what works and does not work here in Ft. Worth. It is a continuous learning experience! My mom and grandmother were passionate gardeners. I got the bug at about age 30."

Originally from Kansas City, Grace is a cat lover and former interior designer, now an artist. Her husband grew up in Fort Worth and they have four children living in KC and Denver.



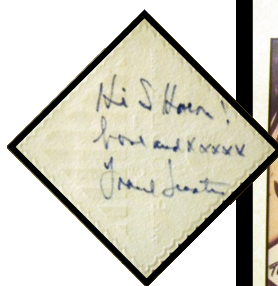
## Dick Ramsey: Serial Collector

I'll confess: I'm a serial collector and packrat.

It all started with postage stamps at age four. Then, bird nests (used and abandoned) displayed on a "tree" in our closed-in back porch. They didn't last long, but what I collected after that has — the stamps, bricks, newspapers, logo golf balls and bag tags, Rangers' baseball and Barry Goldwater items, including three that he autographed. His secretary once wrote that I had more of his campaign stuff than they had.

But my biggest collection is breweriana — advertising, cans, glasses, signs, bottles, trays and more produced by breweries. The birth of the brews in Fort Worth occurred in 1891 when the Texas Brewing Company became the biggest employer ("no less than 100 men and 60 horses") with the tallest building (7 stories) in town. A hundred years later I became a big TBC collector.

So, this rat's nest is packed, and a challenge to unpack. Silver Frogs' downsizing lectures are helping.



## Sharon Harrelson: Sign Here

After reading my Dad's confession (above) I can at least say I come by my "selective hoarding" tendencies honestly.

The collector gene is a strong one in my family. We all have collections. From bookmarks to bottle caps, matchbooks to snowmen, Hummel figurines to Legos...the list goes on and on. Some collections are outgrown over time and abandoned while others have been far more lasting. My favorite collection is one Dad started for me a half-century ago and much of it is hanging in my house where I can see it every day.

The autograph collection includes some real treasures, including a 1967 Frank Sinatra-penned "Hi Sharon!" on the back of a Miami Fontainebleau Hotel coaster (that one comes with a great story), a personal "happy birthday" note from my favorite singer Rosemary Clooney, and a framed *Singin' in the Rain* arrangement of signatures from Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor, and Debbie Reynolds. I've gotten to meet wonderful entertainers like Kay Starr and Michael Feinstein while collecting autographs, and have a "local" section on the wall featuring Tommy Tune (ran into him at the rodeo), Ruta Lee (eating dinner at Joe T's), Danny Wright (played at my wedding reception — he was a neighbor) and Stage West founder and friend Jerry Russell. It's a wall of happy memories!





## Live Like A Local: Tuscany by Jane Swanson



Left: An aerial view of the village (castle is in the center).  
Above: A closer view of the front entrance

Or perhaps I should say, “Live Like a King!” With seven other couples (yes, I said seven) we have ventured out of France and rented a castle in the Tuscan countryside of Italy. We found the small village of Sovicille to be convenient to Siena, Florence, Cortona (where *Under The Tuscan Sun* was filmed), and a whole host of other hill towns. The castle, which is now a hotel, could be rented at that time, and although there was no staff there were twelve bedrooms with ensuite baths, two dining rooms, and countless stately rooms full of antique furnishings.



Far left: One of the many bedrooms.

Near left: A dining room

Rendezvousing with our friends by train in Siena, we split up into two couples per rental car. Some of us found navigating the numerous toll roads — and even the back roads — challenging, but we all agreed that getting lost was half the fun.

I have fond memories of being the first one up in the morning and finding my way down the castle's ancient stone staircase by flashlight to the kitchen to make the coffee. Through the open window you could smell the pine trees, and hear the village rooster starting his day!

One night when the majority of our friends had not yet returned from sightseeing, and the one other couple had retired for the evening, I got the bright idea of trying to find the stairway to the top floor of the castle that we heard was open-air. I just knew there would be a beautiful view of the lights of Siena in the distance. My husband Tom was not as enthused as I, but went along. Imagine my delight when I found a door camouflaged in the wallpaper of the second floor landing...and it opened. Tom kept feeling around for a light switch, but I scurried on ahead up the winding stone steps, flashlight in hand. I was already at the top, admiring the view when Tom appeared, still hunting for that light switch. He was so pleased when he found it and flipped it on. That is when he woke up the BATS! They started flying in all directions just above our heads. I was screaming to the top of my lungs, meanwhile the other couple down below, having no idea what we were up to, were scared out of their wits!

Things I learned on this trip:

- ♦ Traveling with such a large group takes a lot of planning
- ♦ The Tuscan landscape really is as pretty as all of the pictures
- ♦ Reservations are a must to see Michelangelo's David (in Florence)
- ♦ A flashlight can come in handy
- ♦ The food in Italy is delicious, the gelato plentiful
- ♦ Last (but not least)...don't wake up sleeping bats!







## Frogs in the Kitchen by Andrea Rankin

December is such a busy month, but it is also a party month when friends get together to visit and catch up on the year's happenings. Try these quick and easy appetizers to serve when you're entertaining.

### FRESH CRABMEAT DIP

- 1 pound fresh crabmeat drained
- 1 C sour cream
- 4 teaspoons horseradish
- 2 tablespoons Zesty Italian salad dressing
- 1 tablespoon chili sauce
- Salt and Pepper to taste

Stir together and refrigerate at least one hour for flavors to blend. Serve with crackers.

### CORN DIP

- 2 cans Mexican corn, drained
- 1 C mayonnaise (reg. or lowfat)
- 2 C Pepper Jack cheese, shredded
- 1/4 C diced onions
- 1/4 C (or to taste) diced pickled jalapeños

Mix all ingredients and chill. Serve with Scoop chips.

### BAKED ITALIAN SQUARES

- 6 eggs
- 6 oz. Mozzarella cheese shredded
- 1/2 stick pepperoni, chopped
- 1/2 pound salami, chopped
- 1 pound hot sausage, cooked and drained
- 1 C grated Romano cheese

Mix all ingredients. Bake in a greased 8 inch square pan for 25 to 30 minutes at 350 degrees. Cool and cut in to squares.

### MORE SUPER-QUICK AND EASY IDEAS

- ◇ Pour a jar of salsa or jalapeno jelly over an 8-oz. block of cream cheese, and serve with crackers or tortilla chips
- ◇ Skewer small balls of fresh mozzarella and cherry tomatoes on toothpicks with a basil leaf in between. Drizzle with olive oil and thick balsamic vinegar.



## End of Year Financial Planning Tips by Richard Ranc

Where did 2017 go?

The final month of the year comes as a shock as we realize another year has passed and it's time to make plans for the next. The uncertainty of the future, with regard to the financial planning process, is complicated by pending legislation affecting federal tax law. Here are some strategies to consider before December 31st that will generally remain valid regardless of any new tax regulations.

- 1) Determine if you have received sufficient RMD (required minimum distribution) to avoid a 50% penalty
- 2) Use gift tax exclusion to make contributions to children's and grandchildren's education funds (529 Plans)
- 3) Make contributions to charities with appreciated stock (directly to the charity), cash, or RMD directly to the charity from IRA's
- 4) Determine if withheld tax or estimated tax payments are correct
- 5) Balance or rebalance investments to desired mix — Aggressive (equity-heavy), Balanced (an even mix of equities and bonds), or Conservative (generally income-producing investment: short-, medium-, and long-term bond-like investments such as CD's, corporate, US government bonds and notes, and interest bearing accounts)



I see a good deal of talk from Washington about lowering taxes.  
I hope they do get 'em lowered enough so people can afford to pay 'em. — Will Rogers





## Thank you, Silver Streak Contributors!



**Shari Barnes** (*Betsy Price, Never Too Many Books*,) has taught TCU Extended Education's *I Love A Mystery* for several years and has facilitated *Bucket List Books* since the Silver Frogs beginning. Shari has also written for numerous popular and professional magazines. She is happy with a book and a cup of coffee.



**Ken Bowers** (*Why I Fish with Flies*) was the first President of Silver Frogs and has been with them since the beginning. He has read all of the Canon, Agatha and most of Wodehouse, but "I enjoy flying, fishing and especially fly fishing."



**Linda Eastwick** (*De-Collecting, Clear a Space, Newsletter Staff*) has a favorite question: "Why?" A former educator, her passions – besides all things grandchild-related – include re-searching and writing. She embraces the Minimalist movement, but is 37 boxes and two file cabinets away from becoming one.



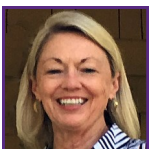
**Sharon Harrelson** (*Editor*) is a Fort Worth native who has been editing various publications for work and fun since middle school. She also enjoys cooking/baking, gardening, photography and being a soccer mom to twin teens. She has been a Silver Frog since Spring 2016.



**Richard Ranc** (*End of Year, Daniel Silva...*, *Newsletter Staff*) is a new Silver Frog who comes to us following a 10-year affiliation with Senior University in Georgetown. His background also includes time as VP of Investments at Wachovia Securities and contributing financial articles to various publications.



**Andrea Rankin** (*Frogs in the Kitchen*) has been a Silver Frog for 2 1/2 years and this semester she taught the lecture, *Antarctica: You're Never Too Old*. Her passions besides her only granddaughter, Sage, are traveling and cooking themed meals with an international flair.



**Ann Shelton** (*Newsletter Staff*) is a charter member of Silver Frogs. She retired after many years as an Administrative/ Executive Assistant, and now enjoys being a grandmother, playing tennis and volunteering. She serves as chairperson of the Luncheon Lecture Committee.



**Randy Smith** (*On Being An Instructor, Planetarium, Photographer*) is the 2017-18 Silver Frogs Advisory Board President, and also an active member, committee member and instructor, looking forward to leading more courses next spring.



**Jane Swanson** (*Live Like a Local*) Even though she is relatively new to Fort Worth, Jane was at one time was a stewardess for Ft. Worth's other airline, Central. A travel agent for eleven years (retired) and living in Europe for a time instilled in her a love of travel where she aims to feel like a local instead of a tourist.



**Lisa Winter** (*Cowgirl Museum*) has been a Silver Frog since Fall of 2016. She is active on the Advisory Board as Special Events Chairman. Lisa is a TCU neighbor and a Frog Club member.

## Important Dates to Remember:



**December 22—January 1**

Winter Break (Extended Ed office closed)

**January 9**

Spring Semester Meet & Greet

**January 22**

Spring Session I Courses Begin

**February 9, March 9, and May 17**

Spring Luncheon Lectures



*Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy 2018  
from your Silver  
Streak Staff!*

Did you know...on registration day December 12, over 2000 seats were claimed in our Spring courses and lectures! That's a lot — if you haven't filled your schedule yet (remember, you can take three of each — check online. Seats are still available in many classes!

Let the Newsletter Committee know what you think about Silver Streak! [Click here](#) to send us an email with your feedback and ideas, or — even better — contributions for future issues.



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