

# SILVER STREAK

CONNECTING AND INFORMING TCU'S SILVER FROGS

## Friends, Fun and A Festive End to the Semester

Silver Frogs gathered on Thursday, December 13, to celebrate the completion of the Fall 2018 semester. The End-of-Semester event was held in the spacious Great Hall at the Jo and Holt Hickman Center, on the beautiful campus of ACH Child and Family Services in Fort Worth.

The party began at 6:00pm; a variety of savory hors d'oeuvres were served as guests arrived and mingled. Elaine Klos introduced Dr. Wayne Carson, CEO of [ACH Child and Family Services](#), who spoke briefly about the facility, as well as the mission of this 103-year-old organization.

Dinner was catered by Reata, and included their famous tamales, tenderloin sliders, and chicken skewers. Following the meal, Silver Frogs Advisory Board President Nancy Box and Extended Ed Associate Director Julie Lovett each spoke, and then three door prize winners were drawn by Special Event Chairperson Lisa Winter. The pictures tell the rest of the story — it was lots of fun for everyone!





Special thanks to our intrepid event photographers, **Polly Hooper** and **Randy Smith!**



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More pictures are available!

[Polly's Photos](#)

[Randy's Photos](#)



# We Love Our Silver Frogs Instructors!

Thank you all for sharing your knowledge and making our Fall 2018 semester another fantastic Lifelong Learning experience.

|                   |                      |                    |   |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---|
| Anne Bailey       | Andrew Fort          | Patricia Lowery    | Mike Strange  |
| Gary Barlow       | George Frein         | Stephanie Mamantov | Eddie Strickel  |
| Shari Barnes      | Robert Frey          | Darren Middleton   |   |
| Crystal Barth     | Judy Furche          | Thomas Morton      |   |
| Dennis Beck       | Patricia Geran       | Janet Nilsson      |   |
| Roger Bevan       | Helga Gerlinger      | Roger Norman       |   |
| Diana Boerner     | Katherine Godby      | Brad Nowlin        |   |
| Ken Bowers        | Joe Greenslade       | Jim Parr           |   |
| Art Busbey        | Arthur Griffin       | Joseph Parris      |   |
| Dan Calvin        | Sarina Harz          | Sheri Parris       | Jim Stripling   |
| Julie Christenson | Gina Henry           | SaraJayne Parsons  | Cathryn Sunkel  |
| Tom Clark         | Cyndee Hopkins       | Jane Pawgan        | Richard Sybesma   |
| David Coke        | Boglarka Huddleston  | Katherine Polzer   | Angela Tacco  |
| Rita Cotterly     | Steve Huddleston     | Tom Roberts        | Joseph Tarride  |
| Jackee Cox        | Donald Jackson       | J Cy Rowell        | Bill Taylor   |
| Janelle Coyle     | Dick Johnston        | Richard Selcer     | Carol Taylor  |
| D. Jack Davis     | Karen Kaigler-Walker | Joe Shannon        | Eilene Theilig  |
| Jerome Davis      | Larry Klos           | Resa Shipman       | William Tolar   |
| Virginia Dias     | Kent Knudson         | Dan Smith          | Thomas Van Gunten   |
| Klaus Driessen    | Larry Lauer          | Lisa Smith         | Stephanie Wallace   |
| Michael Erwine    | Adrian Leblanc       | Randy Smith        | Richard Wolf  |
| Dianne Fisher     | Gregg Lehman         | Judith Soriano     | Lew Woodard   |
| Amy Fitzgerald    | Anthony Lickteig     | Elaine Stoltz      | Lillian Young  |



## Cheers!

We wish to thank **all of the Silver Frogs who volunteered as Classroom Hosts** for the Fall Semester. We so appreciate you for showing up 30 minutes early with a smile and a willingness to help answer questions and direct Silver Frogs to their seats. We asked...you said YES...and for that we do THANK YOU!

—Classroom Hosts Committee Co-Chairmen  
Nancy Caudill and Betsy McDaniel

Cheers to **Stephanie Mamantov**, instructor for **Yoga for Seniors Living with Osteoporosis!** She demonstrated ways to strengthen our bodies and calm our minds, all while individualizing moves and offering lots of encouragement!

—Linda Eastwick

A huge thank-you to our incredible **TCU Extended Ed** department for supporting Silver Frogs in all that we do! Y'all are the best!

—Sharon Harrelson

(Continued on page 5)

## Cheers!

(Continued from page 4)

**C**heers to **Dan Smith** and his lecture on the **Bankhead Highway!** I never knew the bit of travel history we have right here in Fort Worth!

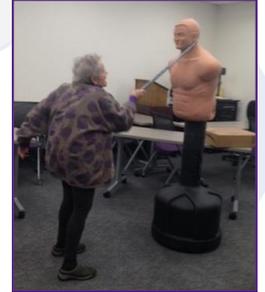
—Claudia Coggin

**K**udos, cheers, and hurrahs to **Randy Smith** for enlightening a bunch of star gazers about what's up there (not necessarily up—it's relative) in the heavens. Randy says he is an amateur astronomer, but his course is not amateur. It is well-presented, fast paced and brimming with information about the universe. If you have ever "wondered," **Astronomy 101** will whet your taste for more.

—Richard Ranc

**I**n the **Self-Defense for Seniors** class, instructor **Rick Wolf** shared ways to stay safe and fight off attackers if we found ourselves in a threatening situation. It was very hands-on and provided excellent information with a lot of humor!

—Ann Shelton



## Online Course & Lecture Registration January 9; Sign Up for Tutorial Today!

Online course and lecture registration for the Spring 2019 semester will be here just after the holidays!

Will this be your first time to register online? You can do it, but maybe you'd like some practice and guidance so that, when January 9 (mark your calendar!) rolls around, you'll be ready.

Choose one of the following hour-long tutorial sessions (held in our Secrest-Wible classroom) for hands-on practice and to ask questions. You can even bring your own laptop!

Choose the time you prefer, then sign up by clicking below; you can also contact TCU Extended Education at 817-257-7132 to register.

**Thursday, January 3:** [8:30am](#), [10:00am](#), or [1:00pm](#)

**Friday, January 4:** [1:00pm](#) or [3:00pm](#)

**Monday, January 7:** [8:30am](#) or [10:00am](#)

All Spring 2019 Silver Frogs were sent a detailed email regarding registration and have been assigned to one of three registration times. The latest version of the course catalog is available on the [Silver Frogs website](#).



## Membership Grows for Spring 2019

Silver Frogs membership for Spring 2019 was increased from 500 to 525, and all memberships were claimed by 9:20am on the final day of member registration.

We were able to add 66 new members the morning that registration opened to the public! It will be exciting to see all that these new Silver Frogs bring to the program and how they add to our already-impressive "cast of characters" next semester.

## Luncheon Lecture: Dr. Victoria Farrar-Myers by Elaine Klos

What an informative and engaging speaker we had at our November 16 luncheon! The Honorable Victoria Farrar-Myers discussed public policy and the impact of the national and local elections of November 6. Dr. Farrar-Myers' expertise is in the field of Political Science. She is a professor at UTA and current Senior Fellow & Director of the Tower Scholars Program at SMU. Additionally, she is an elected member of the Arlington City Council. We anticipated an informative presentation and were overwhelmed by her excellent information and incredible delivery skills.

The presentation focused on the implications of the midterm elections for 2018 and beyond. Dr. Farrar-Myers started by looking at the national level and how the largest midterm turnout in a generation affected the outcome.

Democratic victories resulted in flipping:

- ◆ Seven governorships
- ◆ Six state legislative chambers
- ◆ More than 300 State House and Senate seats

Republicans maintain a strong position:

- ◆ Majority of governorships
- ◆ Control of a majority of state legislative chambers
- ◆ Supermajority position in nearly 1/3rd of the states

She next focused on Texas-specific results:

- ◆ **US Senate:** Cruz (50.92%) beat O'Rourke (48.29%)
- ◆ **US House of Representatives:** Democrats had a net gain of +2 seats (Culberson; Sessions)
- ◆ **Statewide Offices:** All remained Republican, headed by Governor Abbott



*Nancy Box, Dr. Victoria Farrar-Myers, and Nancy Rowe*

- ◆ **Texas Legislature:** Democrats net gain of +2 seats in the State Senate, and net gain of +12 seats in the State House

Dr. Farrar-Myers then turned to future implications. Most important will be the 2020 census and redistricting:

- ◆ Many of the governors and state legislators who will be involved in redistricting within each state following for the 2020 census were put in place with the 2018 elections
- ◆ Redistricting of congressional house seats and state house and senate seats will shape national, state and local politics for the following decade
- ◆ Geographic shifts in partisanship
- ◆ Suburban voters swung toward Democrats in 2018; is this the start of a new trend?
- ◆ Rural voters, particularly Trump base, helped carry Republican candidates

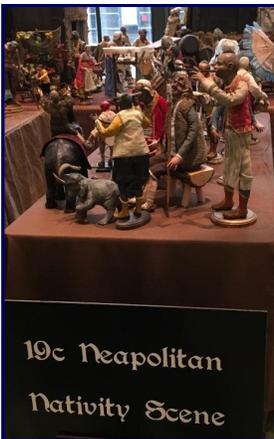


## Touring The Star by Carolyn Stephens

A full busload of Silver Frogs felt like "stars" for the day when they descended on the Dallas Cowboys' World Corporate Headquarters at The Star in Frisco on November 15. This is the 91-acre site where the team trains and works out throughout the year. The Wall of Helmets (pictured at left) recognizes all the teams in the NFL. The tour included the state-of-the-art athletic facility, the War Room where NFL draft operations take place, the broadcast studio, the Nike Star Walk and Super Bowl Memorabilia & Station where the most significant milestones in the Dallas Cowboys' history are displayed. Following the tour, the group dispersed to try out many of the 30+ restaurants on the Cowboys' property.



## Art SIG Views Florentine Nativity story and photos by Carolyn Stephens



Art SIG members enjoyed a pre-Christmas treat on December 12 with a private viewing of Joy Webster's 2,000+ figure Florentine nativity scene. Joy, vice president of Morningstar Oil & Gas, explained the Italian tradition of nativity scenes that date back to St. Francis of Assisi. Over the past five years she has assembled figures that show the multitude of characters who would inhabit a 17<sup>th</sup>-century village and has them on display amid other antique collections (including heirloom cars and a 1903 30-foot German organ) at Morningstar, which eight years ago restored the former home of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on W. Seventh Street. This was a unique event as the collections are not open to the public. However, the nativity and village may be viewed from outside, through the building's Taylor Street windows.

## Musical has Silver Frogs Singing Along

story and photograph by Polly Hooper

It was more of a Netflix-in-your-pajamas kind of night with rainy, cold weather but 25 intrepid Silver Frogs made their way to the Fort Worth Community Arts Center to see the [Stolen Shakespeare Guild's](#) adaptation of Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*. The acting, singing, and dancing were superb, and we were even invited to sing along to some of the 17 famous numbers they performed.

We attended on December 7 (opening night), and you still have a chance to take in this holiday offering. The show runs through December 23 and several performances still have tickets available. I was happy to learn about this community theatre and their up close and personal set. It is an affordable way to see live theatre and we should all support this group in the new year.



## Instructor Spotlight: Eilene Thielig by Linda Eastwick

Eilene Thielig's belief in lifelong learning has been evident for – well – her entire life. As a former NASA scientist and the current Director of Lay and Continuing Education at Brite Divinity School at TCU, she has pursued diverse interests throughout her career. Yet, she continues to find connections between science and faith, and explores these issues with faith communities. She recently took some time out from her schedule (which included delivering a Silver Frog lecture!) to answer some questions.

**We understand you were named the Project Manager for the final two years of NASA's Galileo Project (2001-03). Tell us a little about your work on that mission.**

I started at an entry level of Sequence Design Engineer on the Mission Planning Team about six months before launch. Through the mission, I became Sequence Team Chief and then Spacecraft and Sequence Team Chief before becoming Project Manager.

**This semester, you updated a lucky group of Silver Frogs on the Galileo Project. For those of us who were not able to get into your lecture, what are three takeaways from that project that left you in awe?**

- 1) the discovery of an ocean beneath the icy surface of Europa, one of Jupiter's moons. Models suggest this ocean could contain more water than the combined oceans on Earth;
- 2) the innermost major moon of Jupiter, Io, is the most volcanically active body in the solar system with a variety of volcanic styles, but the ones that draw awe are the plumes rising to 300 miles above the surface; and
- 3) the creativity and dedication of the engineers and scientists who persisted through one challenge after another to complete a highly successful mission of discovery.

**Tell us about what drew you to work at NASA. Was your early life in Houston a factor?**

Certainly, growing up in Houston there was a certain bond with NASA and the beginning of humanity's adventure in space. I remember my father taking us to see the site where Johnson Space Center would be built and an astronaut visiting my elementary school. However, it was a sense of connection to the Earth which led me to pursue a degree in geology and the love of exploration which drew me into planetary studies. I was fortunate to be selected as an intern for the Viking mission to Mars in 1976 – to experience being one of the first people to see another world up close and to be drawn into the planetary science community. From there it was on to graduate studies in planetary geology and ultimately to mission operations at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

**After Project Galileo, we understand you earned a Master's Degree of Divinity at the Pacific School of Religion. Can you tell us what called you to this path?**

I had become very active in my church and through critical bible study and spiritual practice, decided that I wanted to



*Eilene Thielig and the four Galilean Moons of Jupiter*

pursue this aspect of my life. There is a perception that science and Christian theology are at odds with each other, but that has not been my experience. This led to an interest in exploring the issues at the intersection of science and faith and in bringing the conversation into faith communities.

**What led you to Fort Worth and to TCU?**

An interest in adult Christian education and being in an academic environment led me to apply for the position of Director of Lay and Continuing Education at Brite Divinity School. Brite is known for its commitment to scholarship, justice and practice and I wanted to be a part of that.

**What is your day-to-day focus as the Director of Lay and Continuing Education at Brite Divinity School?**

The main focus of my job is to provide quality theological education and continuing professional training outside the seminary walls. I create and implement programs in local churches through the Stalcup School of Theology for the Laity, an annual Ministers Week clergy conference, residential workshops and retreats in flourishing and thriving in ministry for new alumni and other ministers, and Spanish-language seminars. In addition, I speak in churches on issues related to science and theology.

**What are your long-term goals?**

Long-term goals are to continue using my background to open up discussion on some of the critical issues of our day.

**How did you become an instructor for the Silver Frogs?**

The persistence of Nancy Rowe along with the desire to provide an opportunity for people to learn and talk about topics that are not discussed in other forums – things like science and theology or climate change.

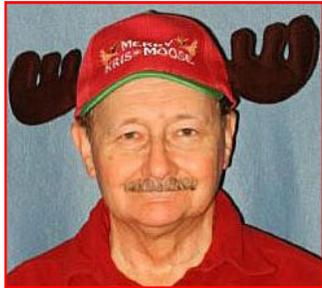
**We are not sure how you would fit any into your schedule, but do you have any hobbies you'd like to tell us about?**

I enjoy being outdoors but, you're right, it is hard to find time. A few years ago, I hiked 300 miles across Spain on the Camino de Santiago and just recently have started camping again.



# 'Tis the Season to be Festive!

On the next few pages, enjoy the holiday traditions and recipes shared by Silver Frogs.



## The Many Holiday Hats of John Witt

It all started at a Christmas Sunday School party. Everyone was supposed to bring a gag holiday gift for a gift exchange. Partygoers drew a number to determine the order in which they selected a wrapped gift from under the tree. After unwrapping the gift, the individual could either keep the gift or steal a gift that had already been unwrapped. At the end of the evening, this hat was what I took home. And it was the start of my collection of holiday hats, which now totals 35\*! Some move and play music, while others stay still (unless the wearer starts dancing). As you might imagine, when I bring my hat collection to a holiday party for everyone to try on and enjoy, it's a hit!



*\*Note: entire collection not pictured. The Star-Telegram featured my hats in a holiday story a few years ago.*



Sings version of Jingle Bells focusing on hunting with Santa, antlers move and shake jingle bells.



Santa's legs go up and down and Santa announces he is stuck in the chimney. Santa sings "Jingle Bells."



Christmas tree has flashing lights all over.



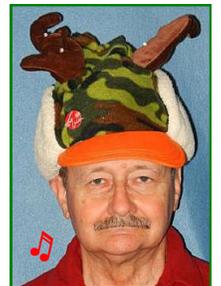
Santa's elves sing a song about building toys.



Christmas tree dances and has lights that work, and it sings "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree."



Hat flops back and forth.



Antlers wiggle with flashing lights. Sings "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer."

## Holiday Traditions *continued*

### The 12 Days of Christmas

In my family we celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas with the first day being Christmas day and ending with Epiphany on January 6. When the children were small, they would get a present from Santa on Christmas day then they could open one present each day from under the tree until Epiphany when we would have a celebration dinner with their godparents (if they were available to come) and they received an Epiphany present.

In Mexico, the day is known as Three Kings Day and we honor that tradition with traditional Mexican food at our dinner. Now that they are grown, we still celebrate Epiphany dinner and each of the children and grandchildren receive a gift. The 12 small gifts during Epiphany served as a reminder of the season and helped to continue the seasonal celebration.

—Claudia Coggin

### Holiday Movie Marathon

This season our family is breaking away from chestnuts roasting on an open fire and looking forward to a very (Shane) Black Christmas with the following non-traditional picks set at or near Christmas in Los Angeles. We intend to watch after turkey time on Christmas day.

**Mom's Pick – Die Hard (1988)** (“Ho! Ho! Ho! Now I have a machine gun”) starring Bruce Willis and the late, great Alan Rickman. We actually saw this earlier this season as a family at the Rave Theater at a special 30 year limited re-release.

**Dad's Pick – Kiss, Kiss, Bang, Bang (2005)**, starring Robert Downey Jr. (as Harry Lockhart), Val Kilmer (as “Gay Perry”) and Michelle Monaghan (as Harmony Faith Lane). This is a little gem with different sections delimited by title cards bearing the names of Raymond Chandler novels (e.g. The Big Sleep, The Little Sister, etc.). Of course the plot is convoluted and the running patter is biting and hilarious. The title is derived from an oriental translation of many of the marquee titles of the early releases of James Bond films (a bit too much on the nose).

**Son's Pick – The Nice Guys (2010)**, starring Ryan Gosling and Russell Crowe as two private detectives who end up jointly investigating the same missing person's case. Crowe provides the brawn while Gosling turns on the charm. This film and the previous were both written by Shane Black. Black also directed this one.

I know, our family has weird tastes, but like many other families we turn toward the Noir Pole to await our Christmas treats.

—Dan Calvin

### Handmade Ornaments

One of my holiday traditions is to make beaded/jeweled ornaments for my tree. At this point in time, I've made enough ornaments to decorate an ornament tree. My latest tradition is to make an ornament for my tree and one for my granddaughter, Cadence. She loves pink, so her ornaments are always in a shade of pink. Pictures are of this year's ornaments and what the ornament tree looks like.



—Judy Coberly



### Start a Story-Sharing Group

When a teaser popped up on facebook: "52 Stories in 52 Weeks," I was taken. The concept is that it is too much to contemplate sitting down and writing the story of your life; but what if you wrote a story from your life every week for a year? I immediately emailed two friends who also love to talk about writing and asked if they would like to undertake the project. They both said yes, and off we went. We decided that we would each post a story — by email — every Saturday morning. I looked forward to reading their stories every week. I learned about Barb's childhood friends growing up on the farm. I learned how "sturdy" Linda's parents were, each in their own way. And week-by-week, more new things about my friends of 40 years.

Through the year, I was constantly thinking about what stories I could write myself. I had a sort of bucket I would drop ideas in: how I learned to read, riding the bus, DD (my pioneering grandfather), hitchhiking across Ireland...just a few words were enough to bring back the whole story, all ready to be written.

We responded to each other's stories with joy and, often, amazement. The whole project was a wonderful life experience. And now I have all those stories from my life written down -- ready to be edited.

—Penny McAdoo

## Emily's Cookie Jar enjoy these favorites shared by Emily Harrell

### Coconut-Oatmeal Ice Box Cookies

*"An old family recipe"*

1 ½ C sifted flour  
1 t baking soda  
1 t baking salt  
1 C shortening  
1 C brown sugar  
1 C granulated sugar  
2 eggs, unbeaten  
3 C oatmeal  
½ C chopped pecans  
1 ½ C flaked coconut

Sift flour with baking soda and salt. Cream shortening and sugars. Add eggs; beat well. Blend in flour, then rolled oats gradually. Stir in pecans and coconut.

After refrigerating dough, shape into rolls, wrap in waxed paper, and refrigerate another 24 hours. (We used to make in a mixer.)

Slice little pieces from the dough. Bake at 375 on ungreased cookie sheets for 10 minutes. Makes about 6 dozen.

### Almond Joy Cookies

*"Recipe from a friend"*

1 C butter  
1 ½ C white sugar  
1 ½ C brown sugar  
4 eggs  
3 t vanilla  
4 ½ C flour  
2 t baking soda  
1 t salt  
5 C chocolate chips (23-24 oz.)  
2 C coconut  
2 C sliced almonds

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Lightly grease cookie sheets. (I use parchment paper that takes no greasing.)

In large bowl, cream softened butter and sugars. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Stir in vanilla. Add dry ingredients and mix well. Add chocolate chips, coconut, and almonds. (I used my mixer at low speed.) Drop cookies on parchment paper.

Bake 8-10 minutes. Cool on baking sheet. Makes many cookies!

### Date-Nut Balls

*"Popular about 30 years ago!"*

1 C chopped dates  
1 C chopped pecans  
1 C sugar  
½ C butter  
1 T light corn syrup  
1 egg, well beaten  
2 C Rice Krispies cereal  
½ t vanilla  
confectioners' sugar, or roll in coconut

Combine dates, pecans, sugar, butter, corn syrup, and egg in a deep, heavy saucepan; cook over medium heat 6 minutes, stirring constantly. Do not overcook. Remove from heat and stir in cereal and vanilla; set aside to cool.

When cool enough to handle, form into small balls and roll in confectioners' sugar OR coconut.

Yields 5 dozen/freezes well

Even people who say they don't like dates usually like these date balls!

## Short and Sweet shared by Sharon Harrelson

### Pecan Shortbread Snowballs

*"These go by various names, but we have them at Christmas so they're snowballs to us. They're very easy to make, have simple ingredients I've always got on hand, and because they're bite-sized, they disappear fast! They also look pretty on a plate with other cookies."*

|                     |                       |                |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1 C butter          | 1/3 C sugar           | Powdered sugar |
| 2 t vanilla extract | 2 C all-purpose flour |                |
| 2 t water           | 1 C chopped pecans    |                |

Mix ingredients with your hands; you can use a mixer if you prefer but the mixture comes together easily the old-fashioned way. Refrigerate 30 minutes.

Form into 1" balls and place on ungreased cookie sheet, an inch or so apart (these do not spread). Bake at 375 degrees for 10 minutes; they should be just slightly brown on the bottom. While warm, roll in powdered sugar and set on waxed paper to cool completely.

If you want some color, you can roll these in colored sugar BEFORE baking and skip the powdered sugar altogether.

**In a hurry?** Form these with a small cookie scoop and do not shape further by hand (they're more "rustic" and much faster). I use Trader Joe's toasted pecan pieces right out of the bag, with no further chopping. And I scoot all the cookies together right on the cookie sheet after baking and sprinkle lots of powdered sugar on top instead of rolling each cookie individually.

**Life's too  
short *not* to  
eat cookies  
for breakfast.**



## Joyeux Noël et Bon Appétit!

shared by Orlew Lauger

### Overnight Peach French Toast

Serves 12

*"The first person up on Christmas puts this into the oven!"*

1½-2 loaves "Take & Bake" French baguette  
 ¾ C butter (1½ sticks)  
 1 C brown sugar, packed  
 2 T water  
 3 15-oz cans sliced peaches  
 12 eggs, beaten  
 2 C milk  
 2 T vanilla

Bake French baguettes according to package directions.

Melt butter in a small saucepan. Stir in brown sugar and water. Cook, stirring constantly, until mixture thickens. Pour into well-buttered 9x13" pan.

Drain peaches. Place peach slices on top of cooled sugar mixture.

Break bread into bite-sized pieces and place atop peaches.

Mix eggs, milk, and vanilla. Pour over bread. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Uncover and bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes. Do not overbake. Mixture will bubble gently and be a pretty golden brown

#### Notes:

- ◆ I use Kroger or Target brands "Take and Bake" French baguette. Both have the desired thin crisp shell and soft chewy dough.
- ◆ Try 1 cup eggnog with 1 cup milk for a nice touch at Christmas time.
- ◆ Consider generous amounts of good vanilla.

*Bon Appétit!* 

## Say "Cheese(cake)!"

shared by Valerie Johnston

### Cinnamon Cheesecake

*"Not very Christmassy, but this is what I like to bake for Christmas. I usually bake it in a springform pan (a pan that has a lever on it that allows it to open and release the bottom of the pan). It's easier to get all the ingredients in the cake if you have one. You can also use a 9" round cake pan."*

#### Crust:

30 graham crackers, crushed (1 rectangle = 1 cracker)  
 ¾ C melted butter (1½ sticks)  
 3/8 C sugar (that's right, 3/8)

Mix together the ingredients for crust. Press into the bottom and a little bit up the sides of your pan. Bake for 5 minutes at 350 degrees.

#### Filling:

2 8-oz packages cream cheese, softened  
 ½ C sugar  
 3 eggs

Beat cream cheese until fluffy. Add sugar. Beat in eggs until very smooth. Pour into pan and bake for 15-20 minutes, or until firm in center. (Mine usually takes about 25 minutes.)

#### Topping:

1½ C sour cream  
 1 C sugar  
 1 t vanilla  
 ½ t ground cinnamon  
 ½ C sliced almonds

Mix together the sour cream, sugar and vanilla and spoon it on top of the cake. Sprinkle with cinnamon and sliced almonds. Bake at 350 for another 10 minutes. Cool completely and refrigerate. 



# Christmas Variety Specials

by Dan Calvin

Do you fondly remember the Christmas variety specials of the past? I'm not talking about the animated specials, like "A Charlie Brown's Christmas" or "Frosty the Snowman" but rather the live action performance of family-oriented Christmas songs and "natural" settings to evoke the Holiday spirit. The genre of variety shows generally are now out of fashion, but they used to be a Holiday tradition for the very best vocalists and entertainers including: Bing Crosby, Sonny and Cher, Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Judy Garland, and even the Muppets and David Bowie.

Full recaps of a sample of these specials are surprisingly easy to find on YouTube and nostalgia websites. A sample of the links to these are below (both with hypertext links that may be clicked in your PDF reader, and in the form of QR Codes that can resolve the link from the camera app on your smartphone or tablet).

## [Dean Martin Christmas Show \(1968\)](#)



The inimitable (and semi-inebriated) Dean Martin performs several of his signature songs along with Christmas standards. Interspersed are skits with Bob Newhart and Dom DeLuise (I guess Jerry Lewis was not available for several years now),

dance routines by the Gold Diggers and a short vocal treat by Dennis Weaver (Chester Goode from Gunsmoke). This remains a sample of TV variety at its most varied.

## [Andy Williams Christmas Show \(1966\)](#)

Prominently featured are Andy Williams' signature Christmas songs (including *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*). Williams is known as Mr. Christmas, having issued 8 albums with this theme. His Christmas specials have enjoyed a similar popularity long after his weekly variety series was canceled for poor ratings. This particular show showcased his family, including his stunning wife, Claudine Longet (years before their divorce and her arrest and conviction of negligent homicide of her boyfriend, skier "Spider" Savich). Also making an appearance are his parents and brothers, and the dancing and singing Osmond brothers.



## [Christmas with the Martins and Sinatras \(1967\)](#)



As the title of this special implies, it's all about the Martin and Sinatra families: both families have Jr.'s (both of whom sing one number about their respective Dads), and also talented daughters (Nancy and Tina Sinatra; and Claudia, Deana, Gail and Gina Martin). That's enough family to fill out a stage with lighthearted singing and dancing, as



well as the complementary duets between the sons and the similarly named daughters Deana and Tina.

## [Judy Garland Christmas Show \(1963\)](#)

Yet another family-oriented special with the Garland children, Lorna and Joey Luft, and Liza Minelli. All the children had at least one swing at singing and dancing in the show, with various degrees of success. Jack Jones and Mel Torme were highlights as special musical guests. One special quality of this broadcast was that it was televised live. CBS, having a longstanding feud with RCA, did its best to not promote the sale of color televisions by broadcasting this show in black and white. The weekly variety series, The Judy Garland Show, was also broadcast in monochrome, likely contributing to its early cancellation as a persistent ratings loser to its colorful time slot rival, NBC's Bonanza.



## [Bing Crosby's Merrie Olde Christmas \(1977\)](#)

This last of Bing Crosby's Christmas Specials features a *Little Drummer Boy / Peace on Earth* duet with David Bowie. Bowie took the job while trying to "actively stabilize" his career and because he "knew his Mom" liked Bing. Bowie made his feelings known that he did not like singing *Little Drummer Boy* and the show's songwriter and scriptwriter came up with original lyrics for a counterpoint song, *Peace on Earth*. Together, they made Christmas history with this surreally sweet rendition. Bing Crosby passed away two months before this special aired on TV.



## Scrooge...My View, Christmas 2018

by Joseph Cecere



**D**ou know the story: my rotten attitude towards Christmas, a ghostly intervention on the Eve, and my reformation. Events all well immortalized by Mr. Charles Dickens many years ago, and which have become a very profitable venue in print, and on stage and screen today. The story has conjured endless derivatives with protagonists of many species and genders and sub plots ad nauseam! Well, despite these grand productions, how is it that all my mistakes are continually repeated?

**I** feel compelled to interject my personal views. Does it require thinking you have died to awaken a second chance in life? Does it require being brought to the precipice before the lessons can be learned? In reviewing a few of my shortcomings can you recognize your inner Ebenezer?

**I** was self-absorbed and insulated. I had lost perspective on the value of money and believed in its illusion of security. Though well cushioned by profits, I gloomily focused on the possibility of bankruptcy and failure. My

mind was as dark and foggy as a London winter night and my heart as cold.

**I** was fearful of death, and that dreary drizzly December made it worse. I was surrounded by coughing, that dry wheezing cough which recalled Jacob's cough before he succumbed to fever and consumption. When I lost Marley I lost my only confidant.

**J**acob and I were shrewd business partners. I was the man of big ideas and Marley the pencil to paper realist. Together we made a fortune with cut-throat tactics and an obsession with winning every financial game. We were never friends in the social sense, both confirmed bachelors, smitten with love at a younger age and having lost in the game. Our lack of commitment to love made our lives joyless and bitter.

**I** was in a constant squabble with my nephew Fred. I could have brought him into the business after Marley's demise but we never saw eye to eye. He despised everything I stood for. Where I saw profits he saw slums. Where I saw "downsizing" he saw men out of work. Where I saw debtor's prison he saw disgrace. Where he saw poverty I saw surplus population. Where he saw Christmas I saw a humbug! Fred embodied the warmth and kindness of my dear dead sister, his mother. Her

love and devotion for me was boundless and Fred was a harsh reminder of what I had been and what I had become.

**I** am the paradigm of awful bosses. To me Bob Cratchit was incompetent; he did as directed but was fearful of any responsibility. It is obvious I delighted in intimidating him. I felt superior when he cowered and my shameful abuse degraded him. Bob put up with my antics to avoid impoverishing his family. He knew if he attempted to object to my misdeeds he was sure to lose his position. Thus if you asked what time is tea he would say you have to ask Mr. Scrooge. Bob had the weight of his family upon his shoulders and my meager salary provided little more than subsistence. The only means for their survival was absolute unity and a love-centered devotion to one another. That's what makes their lives so appealing despite the poverty. The transformational moment in my Christmas Odyssey was my encounter with Tiny Tim. Out of his mouth came the sharp spear of truth and hope that shattered my stone heart. Despite Tim's perilous condition, he expressed great concern for the welfare of others. Beyond any frightening ghost or spirit, it was the inspiration Tim gave me that made Christmas meaningful.

**So I ask you:** Do you find Christmas a joy or an added stress on top of all the daily stresses of life? Have you allowed the dark marketing of this season to shroud the light in your life? Has your holiday been made awkward by petty squabbles with family and friends? Do you substitute buying for giving and have lost much of the benefit derived? Are you an arrogant boss? Will the costs of the season make you so upset that you are ready to launch a sprig of holly into the heart of the next solicitor? Do you want to kidnap the elf on the shelf? Then recognize your inner Ebenezer and seek intervention!

So let me be as good a ghost to you as Marley was to me. Here is some unsolicited advice as the advice and admonishments given to me were not requested. I don't want you spending eternity moaning and rattling those chains you may have forged in life.

**Don't isolate yourself!** Stop giving perfunctory gifts and seek instead to rekindle old friendships and make new ones. In love you must take risks!

**End squabbles** with family members. To the best of your ability, find a way to forgive transgressions and seek forgiveness for any slights you may have caused. Sound familiar? If you manage others at work, communicate what it is you want. Involve the employee in the decisions of the firm, instruct well how to do the job. If you are employed, put on the mind of the owner and try to do your best. Don't be afraid to speak up when you see a problem or misdeed.

**Be charitable;** give your time and money willingly but wisely. The best charity is to those at home.

**Keep Christmas a holy and meaningful day** and honor the Word made flesh, the Light of the world. And to the extent you are able, keep Christmas merry! Nothing like a pint of good cheer! God Bless us Everyone!



## The Best Christmas Tradition is Reading by Shari Barnes

This will be my first Christmas as an orphan. Since my father's death in July, many of my cherished Christmas traditions will change. One of the biggest is the reading of the Christmas story from the **Gospel of Luke**. Every Christmas Eve for as long as I can remember my father read this account of Christ's birth to us before we opened our presents. With the changing of the guard, that sacred assignment will move on to another family member.

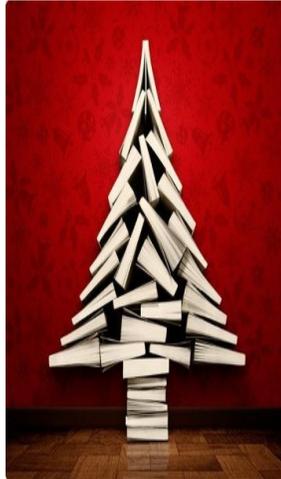
In a family of readers, you can't separate Christmas from books; here are some of my favorites:

### The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.

Several years ago I was introduced to this charming Barbara Robinson book by a fellow Silver Frog, Linda Tindall. This is a tale of six delinquent siblings who smoke, cuss and drink wine. They go to church for free snacks and wind up taking over the annual Christmas pageant. This wonderful story of the Horrible Herdmans renews my faith in the true meaning of Christmas and helps me see beyond my traditions to something richer and deeper. That story from Luke's Gospel takes on a new meaning when seen through Herdman eyes.

**Charles Dickens.** Almost everything written by Dickens makes me think of Christmas, but **A**

**Christmas Carol** is the ultimate holiday ghost story. When the busyness of the season makes me cranky, I return to Scrooge's story for a sense of meaning and gratitude. And, if you haven't seen it, watch the Muppet version of this classic English masterpiece. Kermit and Miss Piggy are the antidote to seasonal blahs.



**Jolabokafloð**...Last year I decided we needed to add some sparkle to our traditions. I was tired of the same old rituals. So we decided to try a celebration from Iceland. (No, there's no Icelandic blood in the family.) On Christmas Eve, Icelanders are presented with a book and their favorite chocolate. The tradition is to stay up all night reading a book and eating chocolate. Well, we didn't stay up all night, but everyone received a book and chocolate in the

week before Christmas. It was so much fun that the grandchildren asked for it again this year. My granddaughter and I went to Half-Price Books and selected "fun" reads for each family member, including a book on how to make flavored butters for an aspiring chef family member. I think we have a new tradition!

Find time this Christmas season to read to yourself and others. Reading is the ultimate holiday tradition. 📖

## What Are You Reading?

For each issue, we ask you to share what you've been reading. You may want to try one of these recommended reads during our winter break!

**Hunter Killer** by George Wallace and Don Keith. A submarine-based international thriller. Now a major motion picture starring Gerard Butler and Gary Oldman.  
— Ron Gantz

**We Were the Lucky Ones** by Georgia Hunter.  
—Norma Chinn

Love mysteries with continuing characters? If so, read Jonathan Kellerman and Faye Kellerman. Get to know Milo Sturgis and Alex Delaware (Jonathan Kellerman) and Peter Decker and Rina Lazarus (Faye Kellerman). Both authors have been around awhile so you can start with their first books or jump right in with the newest ones...either way I think you will enjoy the easy reads and learn to love the characters!

— Betsy McDaniel

In 2006, John Grisham, in a departure from his riveting novels, wrote a non-fiction book that was geographically close to home. The town of Ada, Oklahoma, tried a man for murder. Ron Williamson was wrongly convicted of the murder of Debbie Carter, through corrupt law enforcement practices, and sentenced to death. Williamson spent 20 years on death row awaiting execution. Because this is a true rendition of what happened in Ada, and how such practices may occur in other cases, the account is very disturbing. This harrowing story is now coming to the small screen via Netflix. Read the book, **The Innocent Man**, and it may influence your opinion of the criminal justice system as it relates to capital punishment.

—Richard Ranc

## Great Reads: A Gentleman in Moscow by Carolyn Stephens

***A Gentleman in Moscow: A Novel*** by Amor Towles was a delightful read, made even more enjoyable when my Book Club embraced its lead character's love of fine dining with a menu that captures his favorites.

Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov is placed under house arrest inside Moscow's famed Metropol Hotel in 1922 when the Bolsheviks spare him from death even after a revolutionary poem he had written years earlier. Rostov is a man of great wealth, style and cunning, certainly accustomed to the finer things in life. Even in his captivity, he charms his way into places of honor with the hotel's staff and occupants. If you enjoy a good story with characters you can love and intrigue written in the context of Russian history, you will love this book.

My book club, a group of 14 women who meet monthly over wine and dinner, embraced Towles' beautifully written story with the help of another book club in Georgetown, Texas. One of their members, Laurie Locke, writes a food column for Georgetown's Williamson County Sun and shared their menu which is reminiscent of meals at Russia's Metropol Hotel.



Carolyn Stephens, SF newbie Carlela Vogel, SF instructor (and TCU prof) LaLonnie Lehman, Sally Werst McKeen.

Her menu starts with Slovak Bread Fondue, moves on to a Shrimp with Saffron Rice entrée, and ends with Strawberries Romanoff and Iced Lemon Cookies. Our club changed the fondue to a caviar starter and champagne, but stayed true to the entrée because the saffron was a key ingredient in the book's plot. I hope you enjoy the book as much as we did, and just in case you want to try the Shrimp with Saffron Rice, the recipe is included at right.

### Shrimp with Saffron Rice

Serves 6

#### Shrimp:

½ C butter (1 stick)  
2 T chopped shallots  
1 lb. fresh shrimp,  
peeled and deveined  
½ t oregano  
½ C dry white wine  
Dash white pepper  
Salt to taste



Shrimp with Saffron Rice

Melt butter in a skillet. When hot, cook shallots until translucent. Add shrimp over a high flame, stirring until shrimp becomes pink and meat is opaque, just a minute or two. Add wine, salt and pepper. Remove shrimp. Reserve remaining "shrimp butter" in skillet for seasoning the rice.

#### Rice:

3 T butter  
1 medium onion, chopped  
1 C long grain rice  
2 C chicken stock  
5 to 7 threads saffron  
1 t salt  
¼ t white pepper  
½ C toasted pine nuts (toast in 400° oven for about 5 minutes)

Melt butter in saucepan. Stir in chopped onion and cook until translucent. Stir in rice to coat with butter. Add chicken stock, saffron, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to lowest setting, cover and cook for 20 minutes. Stir in the pine nuts, then remaining shrimp butter.

To serve, divide the rice into individual bowls, top with shrimp and garnish.



## Review: Lethal White by Dan Calvin

**Lethal White**, the fourth novel in the series about detectives Cormoran Strike and Robin Ellacott by mystery writer Robert Galbraith (aka JK Rowling). This is the longest and most ambitious entry in the series so far, with a deeply-layered plot with many nuanced characterizations, unexpected turns of events, misdirections and -- most of all -- failures of communication.

Cormoran's client hires him to ward off a blackmailer's threat, but refuses to inform him of the content or even the nature of the damaging material with which he is extorted. A secondary, unpaid case, is launched when an obviously mentally

disturbed man appears at Cormoran's office with a tale of a girl strangled years ago and buried wrapped in a pink blanket. Both cases are founded on highly questionable accounts by unreliable and deceptive narrators.

The fledgling partnership between Strike and Ellacott is enjoying new celebrity status after their successful conclusion of the previous novel (*Career of Evil*) where they brought to justice a serial killer (aka *The London Ripper*). As a result neither partner can operate in an undercover role without altering their appearance because of the publicity storm after that sensational case. Their small firm is obliged to take

on two other operatives to help with the blackmail case. This leads to a fractured parallel investigation of independent agents acting largely without tight coordination. Once again, the lack of reliable communications leads to missed opportunities and dead ends.

The length of this novel and the large number of characters and incidents may deter less intrepid readers from taking on this tale, but it is well worth the effort to see it through to the end. I don't know what you think the title "Lethal White" refers to (personally, I was thinking sharks or heroin), but I'd wager you're wrong in your suspicion.



## What Are You Watching?



Randy and I have started watching an older British TV series (borrowed from library) called **Foyle's War**. It is the story of a policeman in the town of Hastings on the southeast coast of England solving local crimes during WWII. Outstanding acting and stories of crime set in the backdrop of the ethical dilemmas of the war. Since my Mother was a British war bride, it has given us insight to the impact of the war on the British people. Highly recommend!!

—Andi Smith

Watching Irving Berlin's **White Christmas** has been an annual holiday ritual for me as long as I can remember. I've always been a huge fan of movie musicals, and started watching this one back when it was shown on TV every year on Christmas Eve. I couldn't wait to get home after dinner at my grandparents' house, Christmas Eve candlelight service, and then an annual open house given by family friends – not to wait for Santa, but to turn on the television and watch this gem. Today, there are so many ways to watch – I've gone from the fixed-time TV viewing to VHS, then DVD and most recently streaming. It's even shown on the big screen sometimes (in VistaVision!) which brings out the real fans, who sing along and even say the hokey dialogue along with the stars. Amazing costumes, beautiful music, improbable plot and snow – it's perfectly delightful with cookies and a mug of cocoa (or liverwurst and buttermilk...your choice).

—Sharon Harrelson

When in New York, go see **Aladdin** on Broadway. Fort Worth native Major Attaway steals the show as the Genie. And wait til you see what they do with the magic carpet!

—Jim Parr

**Homecoming** - An Amazon Prime original miniseries, based on a podcast by the same name. This miniseries was recommended to me by my oldest son, who greatly enjoyed the original podcast. Creatively directed by Sam Esmail, who previously directed the similarly off kilter drama *Mr. Robot*, *Homecoming* has no lack of high charged performances. Julia Roberts makes a rare television appearance as the lead caseworker, Heidi Bergman, for a treatment center sponsored by the Geist foundation for returning soldiers who were given medical discharges for PTSD. The nominal mission is to transition these soldiers back into civilian life without the typical flashbacks and anxieties associated with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. She appears to be genuinely caring and committed to her patients, particularly one soldier, Walter Cruz (depicted in a particularly strong performance by Stephan James). All the while her progress is checked and monitored by a fast talking project leader, Colin Belfast (played robustly by Bobby Cannavale) who maintains an oppressive "hands on" management of the facility while at the same time acting at a distance by communicating very specific goals and direction to Heidi by telephone.

As I've said, the acting is uniformly of high quality, which is a good thing, because the plot takes quite a while to come to a boil over several episodes. Director Esmail makes very creative use of camera aspect ratios to differentiate the frequent and rapid time jumps from the early days of the Center's operation to a later time (four years or so) after Heidi has left the project behind and resumed her less ambitious career as a waitress in a seafood cafe. I'll leave the actual plot details of the series to you the viewers to discover for yourselves. Needless to say the story takes some unexpected turns, particularly in the second half of the series, where the payoffs cascade after the relatively slow build up. One must pay attention throughout, however, to be able to follow the significance of the frequent time jumps in the story.

I expect the series will garner multiple awards during the Golden Globes and SAG events particularly. A high-quality offering from Amazon for viewers with patience.

—Dan Calvin



*Remember, George: no man is a failure who has friends.*

—Clarence

## On One Tank of Gas: Mainstay Farm by Polly Hooper



Situated on 70 acres about 20 miles south of Fort Worth, Mainstay Farms is the ultimate Christmas tree farm and so much more. We headed there on a crisp sunny day in November with our grandsons (4 ½ and 3 years old) in tow for a day of adventure. You can cut your own tree down with a saw that is provided or you can go for the 28 activities suited for all ages, like we did.

Two activities stood out amongst the others for our two. There are two giant “pillows” that invite jumping and running and pure joy for kiddos. We even saw some adults joining in on the fun. We were content to watch and take photos.

They also loved the giant covered sandpit. It has metal heavy equipment and tools for digging dinosaur bones. Our two little ones could've spent the entire afternoon in this one spot.

After a couple of hours sliding on burlap bags, jumping, and playing in sand, they made s'mores over a campfire, ran through a fun maze several times, swung on Latvian swings and zip lined in a toddler size seat. We took a break for lunch in their covered picnic area. You can bring in your own food and drink but no coolers allowed. We took a backpack with snacks and water but opted to buy hot dogs and pulled pork sandwiches from one of two restaurants on site. The pulled pork was delicious.

After lunch we petted some baby goats and rode a merry go round with swings. Then we boarded a large wagon pulled by a tractor and rode out to see the Christmas trees. Although we weren't there to cut down a tree, I thought it might make for a pretty photo.



Returning to the activity area, we all had a great time on some pedal carts that are a variety of child and adult sizes. I got a workout on one of the carts that allows

you to transport a child on the back around the asphalt track. It is slightly uphill on one end and I will tell you that I only went around twice and it required all my peddling power to get up enough speed to get around that end! It is a good thing there are no photos of this!

The kids were ready for ice cream which we found in a cute little place that looked like an old time filling station. We headed over to see Santa after that. You can take your own camera for photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Santa was not the traditional one you may be used to, dressed in coveralls in front of a plywood backdrop but he matches the country theme of the farm atmosphere.



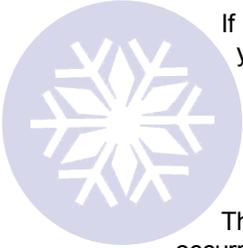
Lots more activities are available but we opted to spend some more time in the sand pit and on the jumping pillows. We were there for six hours and had a blast.



Mainstay Farm Christmas Adventure opened the weekend after Thanksgiving and ran for several weekends. If this looks like fun to you, mark your calendar and plan a visit next year! If you can't wait, they are (for the first time) having play dates in May. They also have Pumpkin Days in the fall, with all sorts of great activities for the kids. Check it out at [www.mainstayfarm.com](http://www.mainstayfarm.com). You can buy tickets at the gate but will save a little by buying them online before you go.



## Are You Dreaming of a White Christmas? by Buddy McIntyre



If you're dreaming of a white Christmas, you may want to make plans to travel north, or at least west toward the mountains. White Christmases in the Fort Worth / Dallas area are less of a tradition, and more of a rare event.

The last white Christmas in the area occurred in 2012. That Christmas day started with morning thunderstorms and hail, which gave way to sleet and snow. Officially at DFW International Airport the snow measured 0.4 inch, but portions of Parker, Denton and Collin counties received 4 to 6 inches. The McIntyre home in Fort Worth, pictured below, received 0.5 inch.



According to the National Weather Service, there have been 24 Christmastime winter weather events in north Texas. You can find a complete listing at <https://www.weather.gov/fwd/whitechristmas>. Most of these consisted of just snow flurries or a little snow and ice left over from precipitation falling on previous days. The most significant of the events were 3.0 inches of snow at DFW Airport on Christmas Eve 2009 which remained on the ground for a couple of days.

One of the heaviest snow events in Texas history occurred on December 21, 1929. Twenty-four to 26 inches of snow fell from Clifton to Hillsboro, but only a trace was recorded in the metroplex.

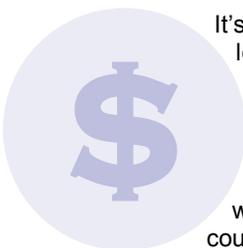
The earliest record of a white Christmas in north Texas was in 1841 when mention was made of soldiers tracking a bear in 6 inches of snow in what is now Dallas.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention that severe thunderstorms and tornadoes are also possible around Christmas. On the day after Christmas in 2015, tornadoes struck Rowlett, Garland and Sunnyvale, killing 13 people.

Even though the scientist in me downplays the chance of a white Christmas, this is an El Nino winter, which means it could be wetter than normal. The dreamer in me thinks that if we can get an arctic front to move through the area just ahead of one of the wet systems, we could see snow. Let's keep dreaming! Happy Holidays!



## Down to the Wire-TCJA\* by Richard Ranc



It's not too late to make financial decisions to lower your tax bill for 2018. Remember that the new tax law goes into effect for filing this year and may affect the way you compute your taxes.

The standard deduction for a single filer will increase to \$12,000 and for a married couple filing jointly to \$24,000. Single filers over 65 have an additional \$1,600 deduction (\$13,600) and married couples over 65 gain an additional \$2,600 (for a total of \$26,600). If in the past your itemized deductions were less than this threshold, then you probably won't itemize. On the other hand, if your deductions exceed the threshold (mortgage interest, medical expenses, self employed expenses, real estate taxes and charitable contributions) then you'll probably want to itemize.

If you are making required deductions from your retirement account you may consider having your custodian make contributions to a non-profit, that you support, directly from your retirement account rather than receiving the income and then making the contribution. This strategy will lower your reported income and although not deductible as an itemized contribution, the donation will not be reported as income. As

a possible added benefit direct donations, by decreasing your taxable income, may favorably influence your Medicare premium.

Depending on age and income Roth IRA conversion may be a viable tax strategy. This strategy involves moving taxable IRA accounts to non-taxable Roth accounts. Since this conversion has a number of immediate tax ramifications one should consult a CPA or CFP before making a decision on a Roth IRA.

Consider making charitable donations with appreciated stock. Your donation will be at the appreciated stock's value. By donating the appreciated security directly to the charity any tax on capital gains are avoided. Selling the appreciated stock and then donating the proceeds to a charity will be less tax-efficient.

If you are subject to estimated tax payments consider reworking your W-4 form to ensure that you are neither overpaying nor underpaying your estimated taxes. Generally, underpayment results in penalties.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

\*Tax Cuts and Job Act of 2017



# Thank you, Silver Streak Contributors!



**Shari Barnes** (*Reading Tradition*) 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.



**Polly Hooper** (*On One Tank of Gas, Musical, Photographer, Newsletter Staff*) is a native Texan and is passionate about all types of photography. Her hobbies include travel and reading. She also loves to play games and is in a neighborhood book club. Her grandsons keep her very busy as well.



**Sian Borne** (*Newsletter Staff*) is in her 4th semester as a Silver Frog and is retired from a nursing/Human Resources career. Originally from England, she made her home in Fort Worth back in 1973 and has never lived anywhere else in the US. She has two daughters and five grandchildren.



**Elaine Klos** (*Luncheon Lecture*) has been in Fort Worth since 1972. An avid reader, she is a passionate advocate for children, women, and poverty and education issues (first professionally; now as a volunteer). She and husband Larry are charter members of Silver Frogs with two rescue dogs, Josie and Jasmine.



**Dan Calvin** (*Lethal White, Christmas Variety Shows*) Dan and his wife, Elizabeth, are charter members of Silver Frogs. Dan has been a lifelong film buff and has a penchant for acquiring useless trivia that he likes to parcel out, sometimes appropriately.



**Buddy McIntyre** (*White Christmas*) worked for 30 years as a meteorologist with the National Weather Service (NWS), where he gained considerable experience studying and warning for severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. Buddy is a graduate of TCU and has an MS in meteorology from Utah State University.



**Joe Cecere** (*Scrooge*) is a retired Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon presently volunteering as an assistant professor at the UNT and TCU School of Medicine, and as a docent at the Kimbell Art Museum. He and his wife Dottie have three children and are blessed with six grandchildren. "Go Silver Frogs!"



**Richard Ranc** (*TCJA, Newsletter Staff*) came to Silver Frogs 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.



**Linda Eastwick** (*Instructor Spotlight, Newsletter Staff*) is a former educator and her passions – besides all things grandchild-related – include researching and writing. She embraces the Minimalist movement, but is 37 boxes and two file cabinets away from becoming one.



**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.



**Suzanne Folsche** (*Newsletter Staff*) arrived in Fort Worth following 15 moves! TCC, UTA and TCU prepared her to work for 21+ years at GD / Lockheed Martin in the software community. Now, she loves to spend time with family, travel, read and enjoy the wonderful live theater available in Fort Worth.



**Randy Smith** (*Photographer*) was the 2017-18 Silver Frogs Advisory Board president, and also an active member, committee member and instructor. His hobbies include astronomy, Scouting, and photography.



**Sharon Harrelson** (*Editor*) is a Fort Worth native who has been editing various publications for work and fun since middle school. She's currently the Advisory Board vice president; she also enjoys cooking/baking, gardening, photography and being a band mom to twin sons.



**Carolyn Stephens** (*Art SIG, Star, Gentleman in Moscow, Newsletter Staff*) came to Silver Frogs two years ago after a career in journalism, public relations and crisis communications. She loves the concept of lifelong learning and enjoys reading, cooking, gardening and new adventures.

The Silver Streak staff wishes all Silver Frogs and instructors a very **Merry Christmas** — we'll see you in 2019! Thank you all for reading and contributing this semester.



Our next issue will be published the week of March 11, and the theme will be "Technology" so we'll be looking for your best tips, tricks, apps, hacks, and techniques for using all the technology in your life.

What do you enjoy about Silver Streak? [Click here](#) to send us an email with your feedback or suggestions.



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## Spring 2019 Members: Mark Your Calendar



The Extended Ed office will be on winter break starting December 22, and will return January 2.

**January 9 — Spring Course & Lecture Registration**

**January 29 — Member Meet & Greet, 10:00am**