

Great Job, Silver Frogs!

by Sharon Harrelson

Spring 2019 marked a technological step forward for Silver Frogs — for the first time, all course and lecture registrations were required to be done online. And you met the challenge: 483 Silver Frogs signed up for 2452 seats in our 110 class offerings on registration day! For many members, this was their very first time to register online, and a good number took advantage of the opportunities to attend one of the 16 hands-on tutorials that were offered.

Then, to top it off, another 298 seats were filled when, again for the first time, each member was allowed to sign up for additional “bonus” courses and lectures. Response to the bonus program was very enthusiastic! This allowed members to add up to three additional courses and three additional lectures to their schedules using the online system, and the result is that we all got the opportunity to learn more than usual this spring. If you haven't signed up for your full allotment, you can still do that (until a class starts).

As we take classes, technology is all around us — from the Power Point presentations our instructors use to the subjects of many of our classes. We've had the opportunity to learn about our cell phones, The Galileo Project, Vote Smart, Photoshop, digital photography, and so much more.



As we move beyond this semester, the connection between Silver Frogs and technology will continue to be vital to our success. We know, for example, that when TCU Extended Education implements a new registration system (later in 2019 or in early 2020), we'll be right in the middle of that! With the ultimate goal of increasing efficiency, reducing stress and eliminating the requirement to be at your computer at an exact time on a specific day to sign up for classes, the new system will also give us the opportunity to flex our lifelong-learning muscles as we learn how to use it.

Courses and lectures focused on computer skills, popular apps and how we can better use the information that's so easily accessible on the Internet are always useful. If you're skilled in technology, consider sharing what you know by teaching the rest of us. It's a win-win when we all know how to navigate in today's high-tech world!



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Breaking News for Silver Streak Readers

You can now find EVERY issue of your Silver Frogs newsletter online, all the way back to our very first issue in March 2017. That's right, this month we're celebrating Silver Streak's second anniversary!


Thank you to all of our wonderful staff and contributors for making Silver Streak fun and interesting to read.

[Click here to read past issues.](#)

Every Great Class Needs an Instructor; Is It You?

by Mike Strange

Have you thought about teaching a lecture or course for Silver Frogs but don't have a great subject? We have the solution for you. From the Fall 2018 class surveys, we have a list of over 70 topics that members said they'd like to see in our catalog. They cover everything from art to zoo tours. The complete list is on the [Silver Frogs website](#) — just click the *Requested Topics* link.

Silver Frogs always needs new topics for classes and instructors to teach them. If you have ANY interest in teaching, take a look at the requested topics for ideas. And as long as you are on the website, you might as well click on the Fall 2019 proposal form link and sign up before you forget. **Proposals are due by March 18.** Hope to see you behind the podium next fall! 

Special Events News

by Lisa Winter

It's my pleasure to introduce the new co-chair of Special Events Committee, Rick Price. Rick has been a Silver Frog for eight semesters, has served on the Luncheon Lecture Committee, and was voted to the Advisory Board in May 2018. He is very active in the community and is already busy finding new and interesting activities for us!

Here's what we've got planned for the Spring semester:

Topgolf March 13, 10am-noon

Tour of TCU Athletics Facilities March 20, 10am-noon

Tour of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) April 11, 1:30 pm FREE

Walking Tour of TCU Campus April 26 1-2:30pm

End of Semester Celebration at Joe T's May 22 6-8pm 

Watch your email for details
and registration links!

What's Your Special Interest?

by Sian Borne

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) bring together current members of Silver Frogs with a common interest. Joining a SIG is really easy — just click on a contact name below to email the group's leader. For more details about each group, visit [the Silver Frogs website](#). Because groups schedule and meet on their own, there may be membership constraints or limited space in activities; each group has the freedom to operate independently.

Starting a new SIG is easy, too! Several of our groups have formed because members met in a class and enjoyed the subject and company enough to keep meeting on their own. Others were born from an interest in creating fun social activities. Would you like to gather Silver Frogs around your favorite activity or hobby? [Submit a proposal form](#) or contact [Sian Borne](#), SIG Chair.

American Sign Language contact: [Lisa Winter](#)

Art of Fort Worth contact: [Ann Heinz](#)

Classic Canasta contact: [Virginia Dias](#)

Discussion of Current Societal Issues
contacts: [Larry and Elaine Klos](#)

German Conversation contact: [Helga Gerlinger](#)


Ladies Lunch Out contact: [Virginia Dias](#)

Men's Breakfast Group contacts: [Gary Harrell](#) and [Jim Box](#)

No Fears Writers Group contact: [Judith Soriano](#)

Silver Frogs Fly Fishers contact: [Ken Bowers](#)

Spanish Club contact: [Virginia Dias](#)

Women & Wine contact: [Sian Borne](#) 

Silver Frogs: Don't forget about the Donation Bin, located in the back of our Secrest-Wible classroom! Bring your travel-sized toiletries in a zip-top bag and they'll be donated to local charities in our community.

Silver Frogs Visit Baylor

by Sharon Harrelson



Lifelong Learners from Waco and Fort Worth

On January 24, an enthusiastic group of Silver Frogs traveled to Waco with Julie Lovett for a visit with [Baylor's Lifelong Learning](#) team.

We were warmly welcomed by our hosts and enjoyed the dynamic first session of their course on *US Presidents and the Military*, conducted by Dr. David Smith, then walked across the street to the beautiful Armstrong-Browning Library for a buffet lunch. Following the meal, the group split up into smaller, specialized discussion teams to learn specifics about how each other's programs work.

It was a fun way to meet and learn from our new friends at Baylor!



Dr. David Smith

Ladies Who Lunch

by Polly Hooper

The **Ladies Lunch Out SIG** had their first outing on February 11. The group plans to meet monthly, alternating between Mondays and Tuesdays, at Fort Worth restaurants for a lunch get-together. The February event had 19 ladies in attendance and we enjoyed lunch and great conversations with some new friends at Breadwinners Cafe.



Travel with a Purpose!



On February 25, nearly 40 Silver Frogs attended the **Fort Worth Sister Cities International Coffee and Overview**. Frogs learned about the history, purpose and travel opportunities available through Sister Cities from CEO Mae Ferguson and Board Member/Silver Frog Cindy Johnson. Traveling with a purpose provides participants with civic opportunities to make the world a smaller and better place.

For more information on the Fort Worth Sister Cities program, visit <https://www.fwsistercities.org/>

Fashionista Frogs by Lisa Winter

The attendees of the course **Fashion and Appearance in Art from Cave Dwellings to Star Wars** sure are enjoying this class! Our instructor, Karen Kaigler-Walker, invited her best friend Zelda Gilbert to speak about fashions of the 1920's. She brought some of her accessories along for the class volunteers to model.



This class is one of several being held this semester in the beautiful new Murphy Conference Room at the Dee J. Kelly Alumni and Visitors Center. With easy access to the Frog Alley Parking Garage, this location is quickly becoming a Silver Frog favorite!

Art SIG Adventure

by Sian Borne and Carolyn Stephens

Members of the Art SIG love an adventure! One art scene they visited last year was so fascinating they did it again on March 5.

Hefestus Fine Arts, located just this side of Springtown, has more than 60 years of experience in bronze casting through the lost wax process. Art SIGers gathered around the various work stations for each step in the process, but there's nothing like the thrill of pouring the molten metal.

www.hfabronze.com



Luncheon Lecture: Dr. Stuart Flynn by Sharon Harrelson




Julie Lovett and Dr. Stuart Flynn

Dr. Stuart Flynn, founding Dean of the [TCU & UNTHSC School of Medicine](#), was our guest speaker for the spring's first Luncheon Lecture. He addressed a full house of 300 Silver Frogs and guests at the Brown Lupton University Union (BLUU) on February 22.

Dr. Flynn talked about the school's new approach for training physicians, based on the understanding that available medical information doubles roughly every 80 days (so it's impossible to keep up by trying to memorize everything). Instead, the focus will be on discovery, gathering medical history and physical data from a patient as the foundation for the doctor-patient relationship.

Students will interact with patients starting in their first semester, as opposed to the traditional training method of spending their first two years acquiring medical knowledge in a classroom. They will watch how medicine works while building strong communication skills and empathy, serving as a link (with a personal relationship to the patient) between doctors and hospitals. Working with doctors and medical personnel in seven disciplines, at multiple medical facilities in the area, students will have hundreds of teachers sharing practical knowledge with them!

There's a major focus on the well-being of the medical student as well, and a move away from grueling shifts which affect their health and ability to care for patients properly. Another shift is to embrace technology and the resources that patients will use prior to a visit to learn about various medical concerns. Understanding and accepting that modern-day patients have multiple sources for information, and no longer rely solely on what one doctor knows, can improve communication and results for everyone.

It's an exciting new beginning, and the inaugural class of 60 medical students this next school year has a lot to look forward to! Thank you to Dr. Flynn for sharing this fascinating story with us. 



Join us on Friday, March 22 for our next Luncheon Lecture:

You Must Remember This: Reviewing Casablanca, One of Hollywood's Greatest Films with our own Silver Frog, Dan Calvin.

Casablanca is on almost everyone's favorite list of movies. As it nears its eightieth anniversary, let's pause a bit to enjoy it once again over lunch. Widely considered as the pinnacle of plotting and melodrama, Casablanca was actually haphazardly written with no one, including the actors and director, knowing how the plot would wind up until the final days of shooting. We will highlight some of the most famous scenes, examine the roots of its story and predecessor films, and celebrate the enduring legacy of this timeless classic.

Pre-registration is required by Thursday, March 14. Click on these links to register [Members](#) (included with membership) and [Guests](#) (\$17).

Instructor Spotlight: Joe Greenslade by Linda Eastwick

Joe Greenslade is the epitome of Silver Frog-ness. A Fort Worth native, he's been a teacher or mentor since the age of 19, devoting his time and resources to helping others achieve their goals.

It's no wonder that he has taught several classes for the Silver Frogs! The most recent one was last semester and entitled, ***How to Get the Most Effective Use of Your Cell Phone***. Some helpful tips he shared include:

- ⇒ Send yourself emails about things you want to remember and use your email inbox as your *To Do* list.
- ⇒ Send your spouse email reminder messages.
- ⇒ Be sure to coordinate your emails, contacts, and calendar between your phone and computer through your software.
- ⇒ Go immediately to the phone store for all technical help. The nice young people there can fix any issue you have quickly, saving you much frustration. When you go, always take your email address, user name, and password with you.



Silver Frogs instructor Joe Greenslade

Technology is just one of Joe's strengths. He's been studying creativity since college and is so adept at thinking outside of the box that he holds twelve U.S. patents.

We asked the obvious, then asked more! Joe graciously obliged.

Silver Streak: Have you considered teaching a course on creativity? Tell us about it.

Creativity is not a "you have it or you don't have it" situation. Some people are innately more creative than others, but we are all capable of being creative by first, believing we can be creative and second, by using the proven creative process in approaching opportunities or problems. I would teach that process.

SS: What's the best part of being an instructor?

Watching attendees smile, nod their heads up and down as I speak, and then hearing one or more attendees say, "Thanks, I really learned something useful today."

SS: Do you have any favorite quotes?

"Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you are correct." — *Henry Ford*

"All things should be as simple as possible and no simpler." — *Albert Einstein*

SS: Tell us a little about your family.

I currently have one wife, four children, eleven grandchildren, a dog, a cat and a Mazda Miata (zoom, zoom).

SS: Silver Frogs have acquired some wisdom over the years. Do you have any advice you'd like to share?

Always act with uncompromising integrity. My definition of integrity is, "doing what you say you will do." You want to be so admired for your integrity that if you say, "I think it is going to rain," everyone grabs their umbrella and puts on their rain boots before they go out.

SS: Is there anything else you'd like us to know?

I have been helping Paschal High School students select career paths and the appropriate college majors since 2010. This activity is my true passion in retirement. In fact, I taught a class for the Silver Frogs entitled ***Help Students Systematically Choose a Career Path & College Major***.

All societal issues can be improved, if not totally solved, through better education starting at birth and continuing throughout life. Silver Frogs is helping on the back end. We all need to advocate for, if not directly get involved in, the very front end of life.

It's all about lifelong learning! Thank you, Joe, for sharing your wisdom and passions!



There's an App for That?

There is a web site that I really enjoy when I am planning a trip: [Rome2rio](#). You can put in any place you want to get to and it will give you every form of transportation available. I use it to find out how to get from the airport (anywhere in the world) to our hotel. You can also put in your address and, like Google, it will give you a map, but also tell you how much the bus or Uber would be. Play around with it! There is also a free app for both Android and iOS.

– Jane Swanson



GasBuddy! It will provide you with the lowest gas prices near you or near any zip code you enter. You can either use it anonymously or become a member and input gas prices in real time, helping out others who use the app.

– Linda Eastwick

One of my favorite websites for fun and information is [Quora](#), also available as an app. It's a free question-and-answer site where you can "follow" various subjects or "spaces" as they like to call them. Spaces include wide-ranging subjects such as Medicine and Health Care, Neuroscience, The Future, Travel, Pets, Music, Writing, Computers, Religion, and more. You can check it from time to time to see what questions are being asked and answered or you can get automatic feeds from the site that appear in your email on a daily basis. You can ask questions or you can scan questions to answer. And it's free!

– Cathy Spitzenberger

I recommend **Adobe Lightroom CC**, a great, easy-to-use photo editing app, the most popular in the US. This app is free on both Android and iOS. Watch for an overview lecture, *Shining a Little Light on Lightroom*, coming next fall!

– Tom Clark



Before Lightroom



After Lightroom

J&J Official 7 Minute Workout by Johnson & Johnson.

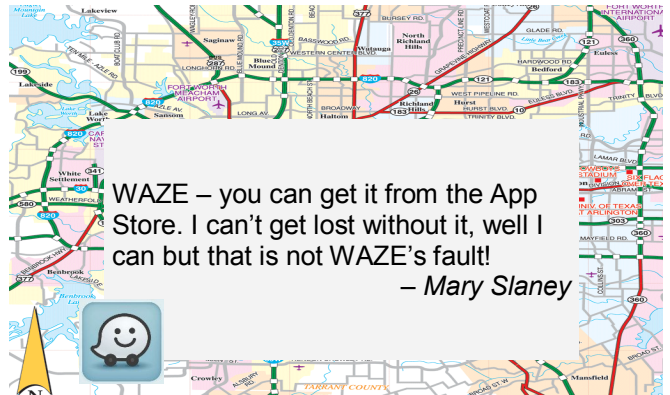
– Jan Nevins

FrogSaver provides coupons for products and services in Fort Worth, and it's not just for TCU students and alumni. Coupon categories range from restaurants to home goods/services. Simply download the coupon from the app and the merchant scans it from your phone. The app is free to download to both iPhones and Android phones.

– Polly Hooper

Animoto is a web-based program (also available as an app) which allows you to take pictures from your phone, I-pad, or computer and make them easily into online slideshows with music. You can add pictures or videos. Animoto stirs your slideshows, and you can easily share the slideshows with your friends or family or post them to your social media. This is a subscription service — cost \$60 per year. It does have a free 14-day trial offer.

– Jeff Frazer



WAZE – you can get it from the App Store. I can't get lost without it, well I can but that is not WAZE's fault!

– Mary Slaney

Google Calendar is great because I can enter items from my phone or from my computer and it all shows up both places automatically. I can also share with anyone who has an iPhone. So for instance if my daughter wants to know if I'm available for grandkid duty, she can easily see. She can add tentative items to my calendar and I can accept or decline. If I accept it shows up on my calendar. Saves so much time!

– Polly Hooper



Once I figured out **Pinterest**, this visual bulletin board app became my favorite way to collect recipes, ideas and anything on the Internet that I'll want to find again. It's also a fun way to see what my friends are pinning and to share ideas with them.

– Sharon Harrelson

Tired of trying to remember all those passwords, double authentications, symbols, numbers and being original? Try **Dashlane** -- the free version can store over 50 passwords on a single device, and may be upgraded (for between \$5 and \$10 per month) for more than one device. It provides security alerts and can be helpful in completing forms with auto-fill and payments. Dashlane can be used with both Android and IOS systems.

– Richard Ranc

[Share your favorite tech for the NEW column in our April issue!](#)



Technology You Can Really Use! by Betsy McDaniel and Carol Vlasich



Betsy McDaniel, Laura Singleton (librarian), and Carol Vlasich "checking out" the Libby app



Here we are again...your local library-loving Silver Frogs, Carol Vlasich and Betsy McDaniel, with a technology tip! Want to read books on your device but not quite sure how to get them there? The Fort Worth Library has this cool *Libby* app that is a foolproof reading app for borrowing digital books and audiobooks. It's available for all tablets and smart phones. It's pretty easy but at our Wedgworth branch Laura Singleton (branch librarian) will be glad to help answer your questions. Bet that would happen at any local library branch.

1. **Go to the App Store** on your device and download the *Libby* app.
2. Follow the prompts till you find **Fort Worth Library** and sign in with your library card number and password.
3. **Search** through all Fort Worth Library's items and **borrow** a title.
4. The book you borrowed will show up on your **Shelf** and will download automatically so you can read it when you are off line.
5. From the Shelf you can tap **Open eBook** or **Open Audiobook** to open your book.
6. You can also send a book to your Kindle but we've never done this!
7. You will get an email that lets you **renew** if you wish; if you don't, the book will disappear from your device when it's due. If there is a wait list, you can't renew but the email will let you know.

And the best part is you don't need a handle, you don't need to know how to post, and you sure don't have to tag anyone!! Happy reading! 🦊



Facebook Users: Have you "liked" the Silver Frogs page? If not, now's the time to fix that! [Click here](#) and then follow Silver Frogs to see all the posts — including announcements, pictures from classes and activities and more — right in your newsfeed.

Discover Computer Keyboard Shortcuts by Diane Griffin

Maybe you are not a computer "whiz kid," but you do enjoy working on your computer in numerous ways: emailing family and friends, writing narratives, keeping a journal, searching the Internet and copying interesting articles, recipes, etc. Many of us are in the learning-as-you-go mode when it comes to our online activity, and this is a gentle nudge to encourage you to try some new things the next time you cozy up to your computer. If you haven't already become friends with the "right-click" option on your mouse, give it a try; and experiment with some of the available commands it displays on the screen. And if your mouse is not functioning properly or you are uncomfortable with the right-click action proposed above, try keyboard shortcuts (keys or combinations of keys that provide an alternative way to do something that you'd typically do with a mouse). For example, highlight a sentence or section of the document displayed on your screen; and...

Press these keys

Ctrl + X
 Ctrl + C (or Ctrl + Insert)
 Ctrl + V (or Shift + Insert)
 Ctrl + Z
 Alt + Tab

To do this

Cut the selected item.
 Copy the selected item.
 Paste the selected item.
 Undo an action.
 Switch between open apps.



These are only a few examples of all the shortcuts available to you. You can Google (or search for) "Windows Keyboard Shortcuts" and discover dozens more. Learning more about your computer can be an adventure...and a *fun* adventure with resulting benefits. 🦊

"To err is human. To really screw up things requires a computer!" -- author unknown

The Techie Reader by Shari Barnes



I am a technological throwback. I have to write my passwords in a little black book, the guys at the Apple Store roll their eyes when I walk in, and my children refer me to my grandchildren when I call for assistance. The one small consolation I have is that my eldest says, "But, Mom, you know more than Dad does." I have learned that I can follow on-screen instructions sometimes, and I actually managed to fix the calendar on my smart phone. Maybe there's hope.

Reading is my passion, and I acknowledge that technology has opened new doors to literature. So whether you read the following recommendations on your Kindle, Nook, or iPad (or some other e-reader of the many available), it's nice to have options. Some of you may still prefer the library or bookstore. And audiobooks, downloaded or on discs, are great technological advances for tired eyes. Don't you wish you'd had this many choices in college?

PBS is another technological advance to my way of thinking. After all, television is a relatively new technology historically. And one of PBS' finest recent efforts is **The Great American Read**. If you missed it, the programs are available [on their website](#) (more technology).

PBS viewers recently ranked the nation's top 100 books, and the big four were all penned by female writers. These are wonderful escapes from whatever is bugging you, so pick up your Kindle, your ear buds, or an old-fashioned hardback, and immerse yourself in another world.

#4...**Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen. "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife." That opening line was published in 1813, and thus begins the ultimate romantic comedy. And, yes, it has a happy ending.

#3...**Harry Potter** (the series) by JK Rowling. The whole world loves these books about a boy wizard's adventures. If you thought they were just for kids, you're wrong. Buy the boxed set and fall in love. For an extra treat, watch the movie adaptations.

#2...**Outlander** (the series) by Diana Gabaldon. Our heroine travels through time from the 20th to the 18th century. And she has two husbands. Are these fantasy/romance novels? Fans say no. The series defies genre classification. And you'll learn something about 18th century politics in England, France, and Scotland.

#1...**To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee. Drumroll, please. You need to read America's favorite book whether it's for the first, second, or tenth time. It never becomes obsolete. Set in the 1930's, it is still relevant because prejudice and hate haven't gone away. And Atticus Finch is the ultimate attorney. He'll make you ashamed to tell lawyer jokes.

Take a break from Facebook, Twitter, Grand Theft Auto, and Candy Crush. Go to the library, find your Kindle, look up those 100 Great American Read books, and catch up on your reading. It's good for your brain and your heart.



What Are You Reading?

For each issue, we ask Silver Streak readers to share what they've been reading, and they never disappoint!

The Newcomer by Keigo Higashino. Newly transferred to a precinct in Tokyo, a detective investigating a puzzling murder soon discovers that nearly all the people living and working in a certain, historic business district are suspects. At first they seem unconnected. A listing of the names and their businesses or relationships at the front of the book proves to be very useful to the reader. If you usually know who 'dunit' by the sixth page of a mystery, try this one. It is a very well-crafted novel with a slightly different twist.

– Tim Runkle

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd. I know this isn't a new book, and in fact it's been on my shelf for a while, but I finally got around to reading it and enjoyed all of the relationships between the women in the story. I ended up learning a few things about bees, too!

– Sharon Harrelson

The Rain Watcher by Tatiana De Rosnay, who wrote Sarah's Key.

Set in Paris, a family reunion is fraught with secrets, revelations and resolutions. I thoroughly enjoyed this novel of love and redemption.

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens. #3 on the current best seller list - it is set in the coastal marshes of North Carolina and is a beautiful and haunting debut novel - I could not put it down and have thought about it over and over again.

Tangerine by Christine Mangan is a juicy melodrama cast against the sultry, stylish imagery of North Africa in the fifties and is her debut novel. A fast-paced thriller with a twisting plot.

Sold on a Monday by Kristina McMorris is inspired by an actual newspaper photograph that stunned the nation and is a powerful novel of love, redemption and the unexpected paths that bring us home.

– Sian Borne

[Tell us what you're reading for the April issue!](#)

On One Tank of Gas: Geronimo Creek Retreat by Polly Hooper



Camping sounds like such a good idea. I love being outside under the trees, around a campfire, near water, listening to the sounds of nature. Then when I think about a sleeping bag on the hard ground, the bubble of excitement bursts for me. Glamping — camping with luxury, or at least not giving up basic creature comforts such as a regular bed — is the way to go if you want the benefits of camping without the headaches (or in my case backache!). I read a funny aside recently that went something like this. “Heathcliffe, I am so happy we are glamping this weekend! Has the butler finished catching the trout for dinner?”

We set out mid-morning on a Wednesday to try glamping for the first time. Our destination after an Internet search was the [Geronimo Creek Retreat](#) near Seguin, TX. The site sits on about 12 acres on a spring-fed creek six miles from town. Several types of accommodations are available: four “tree-houses” (basically elevated cabins with all the amenities), six teepees and ten platform tent “cabins” called Getaway Cabins.



Tent accommodations

We chose the tents as they were the closest to “real” camping. A heavy-duty tent covers the sleeping area as well as a deck/porch. The sleeping area is heated and air conditioned, with two queen beds and a day-bed (sleeps up to five). We found ours equipped with DirecTV, a microwave, coffee pot, dorm-sized fridge, and a dining table. A stainless steel table and large deep sink (with hot running water!) provides a food prep area. The deck is furnished with a wicker loveseat and chair as well as a teak dining table and two chairs.

Each Getaway Cabin sits up on an elevated platform looking out over the grounds and in some cases the creek view. In front of each cabin is a picnic table, a hammock, a firepit with chairs, and a charcoal grill (BYO firewood and charcoal).



View from inside the tent



Since we were there mid-week in late February, I suspected we might be the only guests. I was pleasantly surprised to find three other families already there upon our arrival. A family from Houston was there with their home-schooled children, taking their spring break early to avoid the crowds. The kids were having a blast in canoes paddling down the creek with their dogs on board; they’d been fishing the day before. We met a couple from Dallas who said they were, like us, curious about glamping and found the place on the Internet as I had. A large family from Iowa arrived just before we did and were staying in the only three-bedroom, two-bath traditional home on the property. They were playing a lively game of sand volleyball in swimsuits. It was 78 degrees which probably felt like mid-summer to them compared to Iowa in February.

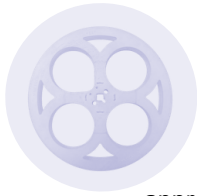
There are a number of on-site activities if sitting by the fire or lying in a hammock doesn’t take up all of your leisure time. In addition to sand volleyball and the canoes, there are standing paddle boards, a rope swing that lets you catapult into the creek for swimming, a basketball goal and half court, as well as an indoor game room complete with shuffleboard.

We chose to explore the surrounding area on the afternoon we arrived. We drove into Seguin, one of the oldest towns in Texas, to find a shop that supposedly sold native pecans. They no longer had those, but we compensated with some excellent mesquite-smoked salsa. An unexpected surprise was the Nutcracker Museum in this retail store, Pape’s Pecan House. The owner has a collection of 8,000 nutcrackers — the various kinds used for cracking nuts as well as the decorative types you think of for displaying at Christmas. On our way back to the campsite we came upon a beautiful field with Indian Paintbrush as well as a hot pink flower in full bloom. I wanted to stay there the rest of the day taking photos.

Since we were in the part of Texas where good barbecue is practically a religion, we chose to eat out for dinner. A 30-mile drive to either Luling or Lockhart gets you some of the best barbecue Texas has to offer. We chose Kruez Market in Lockhart for brisket and sausage. We returned to our tent and sat on the deck in the 68-degree temps until 10:00, feeling sorry for our family back home who told us the temps had plummeted to 29 degrees.

(Continued on page 11)

Neo-Noir to Watch by Dan Calvin



I've been feeling a bit Noirish lately, which is not too unusual for me at any time, but now especially as I'm putting the finishing touches on my third movie-related Silver Frogs class (***Four Film Noir Classics and the Books They are Based On***). Although I have deep appreciation for the films from the 30s and 40s, I was particularly delighted during the past year at the appearance of two neo-Noir gems that, unaccountably, escaped the Academy's notice during the recent round of Oscars. The films are ***Widows*** and ***Bad Times at the El Royale***. Both films are action-filled visual delights (albeit laced with violence, and, in the case of *El Royale*, more than a little surrealism). Both are tightly plotted with many unexpected turns in direction, unreliable narrators, and powerhouse casts. The films have one overlapping actress, the multitalented Cynthia Erivo, previously unknown to me, but already a recipient of a Tony award for her Broadway performance in *The Color Purple*.

Widows was directed by Steve McQueen. He is best known for *Twelve Years a Slave* which managed to be remarkably moving while simultaneously hard to watch. The *Widows* story revolves around a botched heist of \$2 million from a Chicago candidate for Alderman, who gained this capital from a lucrative drug operation. The thieves were killed in an incendiary shootout with pursuing police. They were all members of a crew led by a meticulous planner, Harry Rawlings, portrayed by Liam Neeson. Something went very wrong with his usually flawless plan this time around, ending in the "widowing" of the wives of his crew of four henchmen. The principal Widow, Harry's wife Veronica (Viola Davis), has an urgent problem above and beyond Harry's death: the corrupt politician, Jamal Manning, sends his "enforcer" brother, Jatemme (Daniel Kaluuya, the chilling star of *Get Out*), to recover the stolen money from Veronica in one way or another. A direct return of the money is impossible since it was burned along with the bodies of the crew, and the assets Harry amassed during his crime career don't amount to much. Panicked by the violence threatened by the Manning brothers, Veronica has one known asset of dubious value: Harry's notebook, in which he kept detailed plans of all his previous heists and the next one he planned to commit. Instead of using this as a bargaining chip to offer to the Manning brothers, Veronica assembles the small group of widows of the crew to try to pull off "Harry's last heist."

The bulk of the movie is a fascinating depiction of what it would be like for desperate amateurs to execute such a plan with no expertise, few resources, and even uncertainty of the location of the next target. I know this may be similar to the plotline of other recent work, e.g. *Ocean's Eight*, but this film takes things to a whole new level of tensions, reversals, suspicions, betrayals, and a rich cast of seemingly unrelated events and characters that are very skillfully knitted together by the end of the film. I won't spoil the many delicious shocks as the pieces come together in the unfolding story. The screenplay was co-written by director McQueen and Gillian Flynn (who penned *Gone Girl* and *Sharp Objects*), and based on the novel by Lynda la Plante

(Continued on page 12)

Geronimo (Continued from page 10)

The next morning we woke up to 43 degrees and rain. The only downside to the glamping here is the bathroom that is attached to your tent is out across the deck (bring your warm robe for early morning visits) and consists of an incinerator toilet only. You can look that up if you want more details. There are showers and regular facilities a short walk from each cabin that are shared — be sure to bring a flashlight if you venture out to these at night. The grounds are well-lit with hanging bulbs that provide just enough light. These same hanging lights are what illuminate your cabin. I didn't find the light inside bright enough for reading so next time I will bring a camping lantern or a book light. The other thing not on the helpful list of things to bring on their website is a mirror. There are none, so if you want to comb your hair or apply makeup you will need to pack one.



We checked out around 11:00 a.m. and headed back into Seguin for more of that salsa for gifts and had lunch at Johnny's Barbecue. It is really more of a "blue plate special" cafe despite the name. I opted for a hamburger with sweet potato fries and Mike had pork ribs. Based on the line that reached the door for counter service, it is likely one of the best places to eat in town. Our food was delicious and we were tempted

by the desserts that included two kinds of cobbler and six pies, served with ice cream if you like.

We headed home the way we came, using the "Pickle Parkway" (that is the nickname for toll road 130). It is a 91-mile road that bypasses that traffic tangle that is Austin. You get on just prior to Georgetown and it goes all the way to Interstate 10 which was just a few miles from our destination. We were so surprised that for a good deal of the way the speed limit is 80 and were literally shocked to learn that once you pass the Austin area it is 85 mph! Your need for speed is costly though as travelling it one way for that distance will cost you about \$20.

We thoroughly enjoyed our glamping experience. We would have stayed another night had the weather not changed. We plan to go back and take our grandsons. It is a great spot for visiting New Braunfels (where you can still take a glass bottom boat tour) as well as San Antonio and Austin, both of which are about 45 minutes away. I still want to sit by that firepit at night and do a little reading on my Kindle while waiting for the butler to cook the catch of the day!



What Are You Watching?

Schitt's Creek on Netflix; it is hilarious. When rich video-store magnate Johnny Rose and his family suddenly find themselves broke, they are forced to leave their pampered lives to regroup in Schitt's Creek.

– Nancy Pine



I've discovered a show on Netflix that is very entertaining. **Longmire** (based on novels by Craig Johnson) stars Australian actor Robert Taylor as Longmire, the sheriff of Absaroka County, Wyoming. The series first aired on A&E in 2012 and was picked up by Netflix in 2015. Each episode stands alone with occasional flashbacks to clarify. Most episodes are between 40 and 45 minutes with no commercials. The stories are reminiscent of CJ Box's game warden Joe Pickett and his crime solving in Wyoming as a lawman most hunters dislike. The story lines are believable; they allude to the plight of the Native American Cheyenne tribe, and the acting and scenery is outstanding.

– Richard Ranc

The Glenn Close movie **The Wife**. Very skillfully done.

– Emily Harrell

[Tell us what you're watching for the April issue!](#)

Neo-Noir (Continued from page 11)

(most famous for her breakthrough series *Prime Suspect* written in the nineties starring Helen Mirren). It is a corker of a story, and a true joy for viewers.

Although Cynthia Erivo's performance in the previous film is prominent and memorable, she is not one of the eponymous widows, and thus plays a secondary character (but does give new meaning to the phrase "run like a girl"). In *Bad Times at the El Royale*, she is one of the principal characters, temporary residents of the El Royale Motel, uniquely situated near Lake Tahoe, and straddling the border between Nevada and California. Set in the seventies, everything about the Motel is odd, starting with the clearly demarked border line that divides the foyer and bar ("wet" on one side, alcohol free on the other). The motel appears to be manned by a single, high-strung young clerk, who exhibits a quirky vibe of both vulnerability and guilt. It is off-season, so the small list of residents comprise a motley group: a salesman (Jon Hamm), an entertainer (Cynthia Erivo), an oddly matched pair of sisters (Dakota Fanning and Cailey Spaeny), and a threadbare but gently gruff preacher (well-played by Jeff Bridges). There are other notable actors in the film: Nick Offerman (from *Parks and Recreation*) in a memorable don't-blink-or-you'll-miss-it

appearance as Bridges' brother, and, late in the film, Chris Hemsworth, in a break-the-mold turn as a Charles Manson-like cult leader.

The film is oddly structured; sequences are separated by title cards describing the room numbers of the inhabitants. None of the characters are exactly as they seem on the surface, and this lack of integrity invariably leads to conflict and disintegration of the motel itself, which also is not as it seems. The story is pieced out in small bits, with audience expectations regularly set up, then demolished. The action whipsaws between extreme violence and unexpected moments of tenderness. The complex nature of the backstory makes for a compelling narrative. One must pay close attention to the details as the story unwinds, and I liked the film just as well on a recent re-screening as much as the first time around.

Also worth an honorable mention is a similarly-themed film *Hotel Artemis* about a sanctuary just for wounded criminals on the lam. It is set in a dystopian near-future in Los Angeles, neatly bookending the past (*El Royale*) and present (*Widows*) settings. It is well worth a full review itself, but is not quite up to the caliber of the first two films.

If you share my passion for Noir, you already know that quality neo-Noir films are rarities, and I believe you'll find that these are exceptional.



Film Noir, (French: "dark film") style of filmmaking characterized by such elements as cynical heroes, stark lighting effects, frequent use of flashbacks, intricate plots, and an underlying existentialist philosophy. Neo-noir has a similar style but with updated themes, content, style, visual elements or media. Intrigued? [Learn more.](#)

Using Technology for the Best Forecasts by Buddy McIntyre



As a meteorologist, I am often asked which TV station I watch for weather forecasts. I do watch local TV weather and most of our weathercasters/meteorologists are quite good. But for the most accurate weather forecast I go to the National Weather Service's (NWS) website. Of course, I may be a bit biased since I worked for the NWS for 30 years. For the local forecast, going to weather.gov/fwd saves me one step by taking me straight to the website managed by the NWS's Fort Worth/Dallas office.

I not only have the website bookmarked on my Mac and iPad, but I also use the NWS mobile phone app on my iPhone. You can find instructions for adding the app to your phone at <https://www.weather.gov/wrn/mobile-phone>. The NWS will give you just about all the weather information you need, all across the US, from forecasts and warnings to radar and satellite imagery.

Why does the NWS have the most accurate forecast? It's because most of the weather forecasts out there start with data from the NWS. The NWS is part of our federal government and is tasked with providing weather, water, and climate data, forecasts and warnings. The NWS uses a supercomputing system which is among the 30 fastest in the world. Everything which goes on in the atmosphere to produce what we call weather can be described through mathematical formulas. These mathematical formulas form the computer models which predict the weather. The NWS supercomputing system can process eight quadrillion calculations per second and includes computers from IBM, Cray and Dell. The computers process 3.5 billion observations per day running more than 30 major computer models.

There are a number of different weather apps and lots of forecasts spread across the internet, but it seems the further you get from the NWS's original data, the less accuracy you find in the forecasts. NWS forecasts undergo major updates at 4:00 AM and 4:00 PM every day and are often updated at other times when conditions warrant. This morning's forecast for today is more accurate than yesterday's forecast for today. We have all heard the saying that "meteorologists get paid to be wrong." Maybe it's not that meteorologists are wrong all that often, but that sometimes people are either getting their weather forecasts from the wrong place or they are not getting the latest forecast.

Please email me (buddy.mcintyre@att.net) with any questions you have about these websites or about the weather.



Dell computers which operate alongside IBM and Cray computers at a weather and climate operational supercomputing system located in Orlando, FL. (NOAA)

Where To From Here? by Richard Ranc



Remember 2007 and 2008? The DOW Jones index fell from 14,164 in September 2007 to 10,385 in September 2008 and by March 2009 the DOW had fallen 54% to a low of 6,443. A bear market recession. Today, almost ten years later, the DOW is flirting with 26,000. The average equity return over the same period was 7.4 percent.

Although it may seem counter-intuitive, bear markets are a good

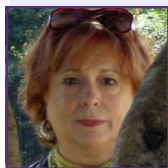
time to bargain hunt. You purchase more shares of a down security and thus gain more equity. Likewise in a bear market you can go "short," borrow shares, sell them, then buy them back at a lower price and return the borrowed stock to the lender; the investor is betting that the stock will continue to fall in price.

What should you consider? If your horizon is long-term, then check your portfolio balance and do nothing else – remember the market, over time, rewards with positive returns. If your horizon is short-term, once again, review your holdings; if your portfolio

is structured for your needs, then you probably have little to do.

By now you get the point. Knee-jerk reactions to volatile markets are generally incorrect. No one wants to sell low and buy high, but trying to time the market often results in this losing strategy. It is difficult to stay the course when conflicting reports bombard investors daily, but as the professionals are fond of saying, "your money or my money?" For my money, keeping focused and not following the crowd would be my choice.

Thank you, Silver Streak Contributors!



Shari Barnes (*The Techie Reader*) 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.



Sian Borne (*SIGs, Art SIG, Newsletter Staff*) A Silver Frog since Spring '17, Sian came to Fort Worth in 1973, after moving to the US from England. She has two daughters and five grandchildren. She loves to read and travel, and is active in several Silver Frog committees, as well as being the SIG Chair.



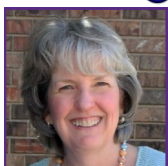
Dan Calvin (*Neo-Noir*) Dan and his wife, Elizabeth, are charter members of Silver Frogs. Dan has been a lifelong film buff and has a penchant for acquiring useless trivia that he likes to parcel out, sometimes appropriately.



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.



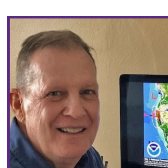
Diane Griffin (*Keyboard Shortcuts, Newsletter Staff*) has enjoyed Silver Frogs since Spring 2016 and is an enthusiastic advocate for lifelong learning. She is a retired business owner who loves reading, writing, listening, travel, theater, volunteering, and frequent interaction with family and friends.



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.



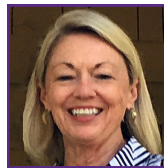
Polly Hooper (*On One Tank of Gas, Ladies Lunch, Photographer, Newsletter Staff*) is a native Texan and is passionate about all types of photography. Her hobbies include travel and reading. She also loves to play games and is in a neighborhood book club. Her grandsons keep her very busy as well.



Buddy McIntyre (*Forecasts*) 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.



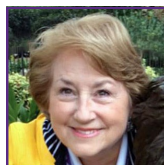
Richard Ranc (*Where To From Here, Newsletter Staff*) came to Silver Frogs following a 10-year affiliation with Senior University in Georgetown. His background also includes time as VP of Investments at Wachovia Securities and contributing financial articles to various publications.



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



Carolyn Stephens (*Art SIG, 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.



Mike Strange (*Every Great Class...*) has been passionate about Silver Frogs since its inception. He has served on the Advisory Board, on multiple committees and taken as many classes as he could. It has been one of the most rewarding experiences he has had.



Lisa Winter (*Special Events, Fashion*) 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.

Mark Your Calendar



March 13 Advisory Board nominations due

March 13 Topgolf* from 10am-noon

March 18 Session II classes begin

March 18 Fall class proposals due

March 20 Tour of TCU Athletics Facilities*, 10am-noon

April 5 Silver Streak deadline

April 11 BRIT Tour*, 1:30 pm, FREE

April 22 Session III classes begin

April 26 Walking tour of TCU campus*, 1-2:30pm, FREE

May 22 End of Semester Celebration*
Joe T Garcia's 6-8pm

*Special events require a reservation, usually have a limited number of spaces, and there may be a fee to participate. You will see an email when registration opens for special events.

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



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