

# SILVER STREAK

connecting and informing TCU's Silver Frogs



volume 4  
issue 4

December 2019  
Celebrate

## Celebrating Five Fabulous Years!

Nearly 300 Silver Frogs gathered at beautifully-decorated Ridglea Country Club on December 17 to celebrate the completion of the program's 10th semester — and fifth year! Following drinks and appetizers, we enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner. The after-dinner program included a brief history of Silver Frogs and thanks-yous to everyone who has been part of this amazing program, information about Spring 2020, and drawings for door prizes. Winners took home travel gear, beautiful wreaths by Polly Hooper, and a spring membership. It was a fun and festive way to wrap up the Fall 2019 semester.

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## Letter from the Editor

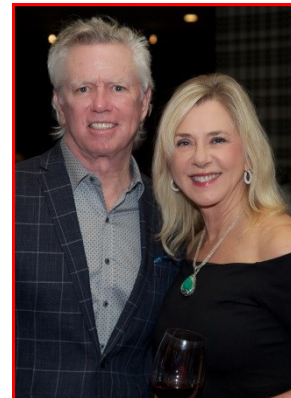
What a delight it is to commemorate the five-year anniversary of Silver Frogs! An idea to offer daytime classes for older adults back in early 2014 drew a lively, vibrant group of lifelong learners. Launched in January 2015 with 24 classes offered and 160 charter members, the program plan was to have a reasonable membership fee which allowed members to take up to three courses and three lectures, plus attend up to three luncheon lectures AND an end-of-semester party. This general structure provided flexibility while promising to be a great value for its members.

Since then, Silver Frogs has had a waitlist every semester for membership, even as the capacity has increased (thanks to countless talented instructors and enthusiastic volunteers). As we look ahead to Spring 2020, with 600 members and over 120 courses and lectures—as well as over a dozen Special Interest Groups!—there seems a nearly inexhaustible supply of curiosity AND generosity within our ranks. The community we've built together is a beautiful thing.

THANK YOU for being part of the adventure! Take a look inside for more pictures and stories celebrating this milestone.

—Sharon Harrelson

# The Celebration Continues...



## Prize Drawing Winners!



party photos continue on page 3

# Five Years Young!



Thank you to Polly Hooper for her skillful and beautiful photography!

Thank you to our Special Events Coordinators Lisa Winter, Rick Price and Extended Ed for this evening.



## Instructors Inspire Lifelong Learning

**Thank you** to this generous group of volunteer instructors who shared their knowledge and experience through this semester's courses and lectures! The wide variety of intriguing topics changes with every semester, keeping the Silver Frogs curriculum interesting and fun.

Lee Ancona	Virginia Dias	Larry Klos★	Joe Shannon
Randi Anderson	Klaus Driessen	Kent Knudson	Dan Smith
Penny Armstrong	Maynard Dyson	Greg Kvaska	Randy Smith
Anne Bailey	Michael Erwine	Larry Lauer	Tui Snider
Shari Barnes	Mae Ferguson	Gregg Lehman	Judith Soriano
Crystal Barth★	Dianne Fisher	Wayne Ludwig	Laurie Stelljes
Dennis Beck	Hank Fitzhugh	Gordon Marchant	Elaine Stoltz
Joyce Beck	Ronald Flowers★	Michael Martin	Irin Sultana
Larry Borne	Jeff Frazer	David McClellan	Cathy Sunkel
James Bunnell	Robert Frey	Kerri Menchaca	Angela Tacco
Elissabeth Burgess	Greg Friedman	Bob Mhoon	Joseph Tarride
Donna Burnette	Judy Furche★	Darren Middleton	Bill Taylor
Tena Burrell	Patricia Geran	Thomas Morton	Carol Taylor
Dan Calvin★	James Godfrey	Roger Norman	Leta Tillman
Joe Cecere	Roland Haedge	Jim Parr	Melanie Towle
Linda Chenoweth	Sharon Harrelson	Sheri Parris	Andre van Niekerk
Tom Clark	Jessica Hazard	Jane Pawgan★	Bud Walker
Jaime Cobb	Boglarka Huddleston	Nancy Price	Diane Weaver
David Coke	Steve Huddleston	Shyanne Pruitt	Tim Wendt
Sharon Corcoran	Donald Jackson	Andrea Rankin	Leland Wilson
Carol Courter	Elizabeth Jones	Kim Reynolds	Lee Wimp
Audrey Davis	Karen Kaigler-Walker	Tom Roberts	Richard Wolf
Jerry Davis	Elaine Klos★	Richard Selcer	Lew Woodard

★ Here and throughout this issue of Silver Streak, charter members – our Silver Stars – are designated with this symbol.

## **IMPORTANT!** Spring Course and Lecture Allocation

If you've renewed your membership for Spring 2020, you've probably already started thinking about course and lecture registration. You should have received an email on December 17 with general information about how the process will work.

The week of **January 6-10** is when members will be able to log into the system and select up to six courses/lectures (in any combination – you no longer will be restricted to three of each). You'll then be able to prioritize them to indicate which are most important. The following week, the allocation algorithm will run and we will learn by January 21 which courses we've been registered for. Then we will be able to fill open spaces in all courses, as many as we want!

[Check out the brand-new website and find the catalogs here.](#)

The Spring Meet & Greet is on **Wednesday, January 29 at 10am**. See you then!

*Note: Extended Ed will be on winter break after December 20, returning on January 2.*

# Luncheon Lecture: Judge Glen Whitley

by Sharon Harrelson

Our third and final luncheon lecture was held on Friday, November 8 in the BLUU. Following a buffet luncheon of King Ranch Chicken, salad and dessert, Silver Frogs were treated to a lecture from Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley.

We learned about the structure of the County Commissioners Court – four commissioners represent each of the county’s four precincts, and Judge Whitley’s role is to preside over that group. The Commissioners Court is not a judicial court; rather, it is the general governing body of Tarrant County.

He spent some time talking about everyone’s favorite topic – taxes – and the various agencies that collect them. Especially concerned with our property tax bills, Judge Whitley talked about ways those might be reduced to shift the burden away from property owners. He shared copies of his latest newsletter – with a cover story about property taxes – which you can view [here](#).

Following his talk, Judge Whitley took several questions from the group.

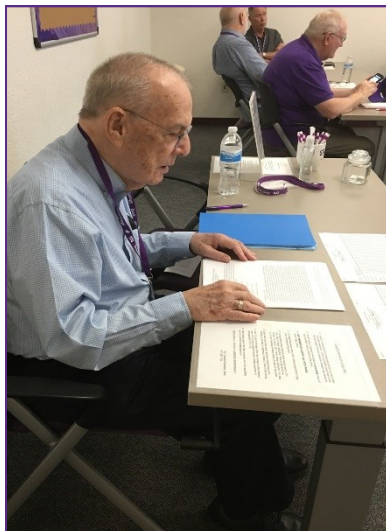


Silver Frog Elaine Klos★ introduced our speaker, Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley

Our hardworking Luncheon Lecture Committee has done a terrific job putting together this semester’s presentations. Chairperson Ann Shelton★, who has led this committee for several semesters, has turned over the reins to Judy Gryzch who will chair this group in Spring 2020. Thank you, Ann, for all of your efforts and the enjoyable results from this committee!



## Thank You, Classroom Hosts!



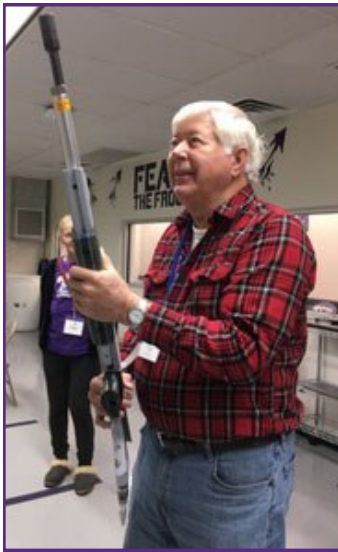
Cy Rowell, hosting for a Ron Flowers class.

We want to take this opportunity to send out a huge thank you to fall semester classroom hosts. Your volunteering has been greatly appreciated by our Silver Frog instructors as well as our members. Volunteers like you truly help make Silver Frogs the wonderful organization it is today!

– Nancy Caudill★ and Betsy McDaniel★  
Co-chairs, Classroom Hosts Committee

## Silver Frogs Aim for Varied Activities

Shoot, it was cold, but that didn't stop us from the **TCU Rifle** event on November 12. We gathered at the BLUU because most of us didn't know where TCU had tucked away the Rifle team. We were met by head coach Karen Monez and assistant coach Hannah Black, and several team members. Coach explained about NCAA Rifle (a co-ed sport, but only women are on TCU's team). They had on display not one, not two, not three, not four, but FIVE NCAA championship trophies. There are more trophies in the Hall of Fame and in their lobby. We passed around the equipment, toured the locker room, and went onto their range to handle the air rifle, and most Silver Frogs took their best shot at the TINY target.



Thank you to the Rifle team and coaches for hosting us! Most attendees said it was their favorite event EVER.



Money, money, money, money. MONEY. Everywhere. That about sums up the **Bureau of Engraving and Printing** Silver Frog field trip on December 12. We began the tour by passing through TSA like screening (no cell phones – so also no pictures). The tour began as we reached the theater just in time for an introductory film on what happens at BEP and its history. We “buddied” up for the strolling tour and stopped at various stations to hear and observe what was going on below on the production floor. You can go there anytime they are open and the tour is FREE. Ironic, for a place that literally manufactures money!

—Lisa Winter

# Where Learning is Fun (and Funny)



These are photos from our class (*Four Movie Screwball Comedies from the 30's*). Our instructor, Dan Calvin, brought these Groucho Marx glasses for everyone to wear as we watched the film "Duck Soup", which starred the Marx Brothers.

—Sterling Lauer ★



I have taken both of Sharon Harrelson's cookie baking classes. She always went above the call of duty to make her class successful. She makes Silver Frogs something truly special. Sharon, thanks for all of your hard work!!

—Jeff Frazer

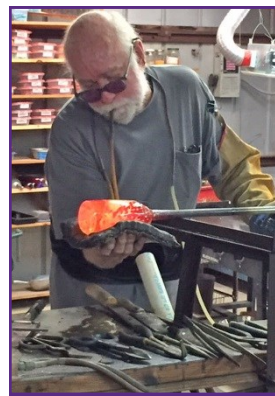
The *Baker's Dozen: Holidays* class spent one session decorating cutout cookies baked by several guest bakers (top photo). And as part of our final class meeting we put together a holiday cookie platter for our friends in Extended Ed, with cookies shared by most members of the class. All the students baked beautiful, delicious cookies and passed the course with flying colors!

—Sharon Harrelson



On November 6, members of the **Art SIG** made a trip to the Cliff House Gallery and Studio, where we saw demonstrations of glass blowing and making pottery. Many of us bought items, including one that was made in front of us that day.

—Siân Borne



## Special Interest Groups Party On

No cards were played as the members of two SIGS, **Classic Canasta** and **Liverpool Rummy** combined their holiday party. We gathered at the beautiful home of Mary Jeanne and Paul Stouffer in Fort Worth on Monday, December 16th. We enjoyed a delicious potluck supper, great conversation and a lively gift exchange that had us swapping gifts left and right as a Christmas story was read. As you can tell some of us participated in the "ugly sweater" theme and some did not. We all had a wonderful time and thank the Stouffers for opening their home to us.

—Polly Hooper



**NEW ! Give Me A Break** - SIG contact: [Roger Norman](#) 817-909-0648

Would you like to assist and "give a break" to caretaker Silver Frogs who are caring for their spouse or other family member? Your time commitment would range between 3 and 6 hours, once per month. Examples of assistance are keeping the ill person company, making and sharing a drink of coffee or tea, establishing a 'meal train,' running errands, or grocery shopping. This SIG will probably meet only once for an organizational meeting, then handle the balance of the communication via email and phone. [More details here.](#)

**Special Interest Groups** (SIGs) allow members to engage with others who share a common interest. SIGs are member-driven and meet at various locations on a regular schedule (such as bi-weekly or monthly), according to what the group members decide. **SIGs are open to current Silver Frogs members only**; membership or participation in specific events may be limited and a waitlist may be in place. For details about any of these groups, click below to contact the organizers or [click here](#) to see all of the descriptions on the Silver Frogs website.

### *Working Together, Developing Skills*

American Sign Language, [Lisa Winter](#)  
 Contemplative Practices, [Katherine Godby](#)  
 No Fears Writers Group, [Judith Soriano](#)  
 Positive Aging, [Anne Carlson](#)

### *Food and Fellowship*

Ladies Lunch Out, [Virginia Dias](#)  
 Men's Breakfast Group, [Gary Harrell](#) and [Jim Box](#)  
 Women & Wine, [Sian Borne](#)

### *Culture*

Art of Fort Worth, [Ann Heinz](#)  
 Discussion of Current Societal Issues, [Larry and Elaine Klos](#)  
 German Conversation, [Helga Gerlinger](#)  
 Spanish Club, [Virginia Dias](#)

### *Sports and Games*

Classic Canasta, [Virginia Dias](#)  
 Liverpool Rummy, [Virginia Dias](#)  
 Silver Frogs Fly Fishers, [Ken Bowers](#)



## We Salute our Longtime Instructors: Keeping Things Interesting

Our Silver Frog instructors change the world. (At least, they change ours!) Whether we're amused, inspired, enlightened, or all three, we're better people for having taken a class or listened to a lecture. We enjoy brand new topics as much as tried-and-true ones, and our instructors never fail to offer a new way to view the world.

As we celebrate the completion of five years, Silver Streak wanted to recognize the handful of instructors who have taught 10 or more times for the Silver Frogs. Who are these people who never tire of providing repeat performances for us? Their backgrounds are varied, but one characteristic is common to all: their passion for teaching and learning.

Read on to learn a bit more about these longtime instructors and what makes them keep coming back for more. (Hint: You're as important to them as they are to you!) *Each instructor's name is followed by the impressive number of times they have taught us. Steve Huddleston (13), Dennis Beck (12) and Rick Wolf (12) were unable to participate in our survey.*

### Were you a teacher (as a career) prior to instructing Silver Frogs?

**Dr. Ronald Flowers** ★(26): Yes, I was a professor in the Department of Religion at TCU. I taught full-time for 37 years. I retired in 2003, but I have taught as a part-time instructor ever since, teaching (usually) one course a year. I taught my course on church-state relations, which no one else in the department could teach.

**Roger Norman** (24): I taught estate planning and other subjects in the TCU Continuing Education Department for 25 years, and gave sexual purity presentations to kids in our Fort Worth inner city schools for 10 years and our Tarrant County detention center for 15 years.

**Dan Smith** (18): No, I've not been a teacher or instructor, per se. I just enjoy talking about interesting things that others might become interested in.

**Lew Woodard** (16): I am not a professional teacher, but throughout my career I have written and conducted training classes on a variety of subjects related to the work of the American Red Cross.

**Randy Smith** (15): I was not a school teacher, but was a graduate teaching assistant at UT for one semester. I was an instructor navigator in the Air Force and have taught many adult Scouter training courses for the last 35 years.

**Dr. Donald Jackson** (14): I left the practice of law many years ago to pursue a PhD at the University of Wisconsin – Madison to become a professor. I didn't much like the work I was doing in our law firm on corporation reorganizations. That work was successful, financially rewarding, but quite boring.

I taught at Idaho State University for four years and left when I was chosen as a Supreme Court Fellow to work with Warren Burger, then the Chief Justice of the United States.

I came to TCU in 1975, and after several years I was chosen to become the Herman Brown Professor of Political Science. I am still teaching undergraduates, now as the Green Distinguished Emeritus Tutor. I routinely teach courses on Civil Rights and Liberties, on the Powers and Relationships under our Constitution, on Equality under the Law, and on Due Process in the Criminal Courts.

**Angela Tacco** (14): Not only was I never a teacher, I was a horrible tutor in high school!!! But I'm passionate about investing and that just takes over when I'm in front of the class.

**Dr. Darren Middleton** (13): I am in the middle of my 22nd year at TCU, my 27th in US higher education, and I feel exceedingly fortunate to do what I do. On any given day, I find myself around inquisitive and generous-hearted students, almost all of them simply thrilled to be on an intellectual adventure and an existential journey.

**Ken Bowers** ★ (12): I was an instructor pilot for a few years in the aircraft, simulators and classroom. I taught primary flight training to military pilots and worked with corporate pilots as well as some air carrier chaps. I also taught new civilian pilots and gave instruction to civilian pilots to meet their biennial requirements. It included curriculum development and class material preparation.

**Jim Parr** (12): Prior to my Silver Frogs lectures, I was not a professional instructor by any means. My career path was commercial real estate brokerage, investing, and small business entrepreneurship.

**Virginia Dias** (11): I discovered my passion for teaching at an early age and have been so delighted that now, at this older age, I am still able to live out my passion by participating in Silver Frogs! I have enjoyed living

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## Longtime Instructors *continued*

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and teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) in four countries to include Peru, Canada, China and the U.S./ Texas. In 1994, we were transferred to Fort Worth. I taught ESL at Texas Wesleyan University and Spanish at TCU for the Department of Extended Education starting in 2001. Then, in 2006, we were transferred to Hong Kong for three years; I was hired by the University of Hong Kong to teach college Spanish. I marveled that my students were studying their fourth and fifth language! Upon returning to the US, I rejoined TCU Extended Education. Did I mention that teaching is my passion? Hopefully, you can see how much I am enjoying Silver Frogs!

**Shari Barnes** (10): Teaching has always been a part of my career although it was typically incidental to my main job in human resources. I've done more training classes for more organizations than I can remember, including mediation and conflict resolution. I've also taught a mystery class for Extended Education for many years.

**Crystal Barth**★ (10): No, my first teaching experience was with Silver Frogs.

**Dan Calvin**★ (10): No. My brother was the confident, outspoken one in our family. I was known for technical writing and developed a lot of training documentation, but taught very little of it formally.

### Briefly, tell us three things that keep you coming back to teach Silver Frogs.

**Ron Flowers:** 1) I love to teach; 2) I loved teaching undergraduates—I REALLY loved teaching undergraduates. But I have learned that teaching older adults is great fun also; 3) I love to teach. (Also, I don't have to grade papers.)

**Roger Norman:** Challenge, friendship and learning.

**Dan Smith:** 1) Sharing what I've learned with others; 2) learning from others; and 3) improving my own skills in communicating.

**Lew Woodard:** It's fun, challenging, and rewarding.

**Randy Smith:** Challenge of researching and presenting new information; interacting with the class; and I like to talk.

**Don Jackson:** Teaching creates a happy illusion for me that what I am teaching might make some difference for those whom I teach.

**Angela Tacco:** The students, the Silver Frogs office staff, and it's fun!!!

**Darren Middleton:** The sheer love of learning among the Silver Frogs, which is married to an exquisite kindness, and because the leaders haven't put me on trial for heresy. Yet.

**Ken Bowers:** 1) It's fun for an old ham; 2) encourages me to delve into a topic a bit more deeply, so as not to rely on what I think I already know; and 3) the interaction with people.

**Jim Parr:** 1) The enjoyment of preparation and sharing; 2) the engaged, interested participants; and 3) the satisfaction of participating.

**Virginia Dias:** The variety of courses, instructor enthusiasm, and knowledge.

**Shari Barnes:** 1) The things I learn from the class participants; 2) the joy of reading new and old authors; and 3) the desire to learn through teaching.

**Crystal Barth:** People / Rewarding / Fun

**Dan Calvin:** Curiosity, fellowship, and I like to learn new things especially in areas where I know little but have always craved some background.



Dr Ronald Flowers



Roger Norman



Dan Smith



Lew Woodard



Randy Smith



Dr Donald Jackson



Dr Darren Middleton

(Continued on page 11)

## Longtime Instructors *continued*

(Continued from page 10)

**Tell us the most surprising lesson—or any other kind of lesson—you've learned as a SF instructor.**

**Ron Flowers:** Teaching older adults is a different kind of teaching. Mainly, because older adults have much richer life experience, and, often, much more curiosity than undergraduates. (That is not the fault of the undergrads, of course.) Older folk often ask much better questions. They make me think on my feet. Fun!

**Roger Norman:** Not everyone sees things the way I see them ☺, but so what? That's part of the learning process.

**Dan Smith:** I think the most surprising thing I've learned as a teacher is how much my "students" have been able to teach me!

**Lew Woodard:** Becoming reasonably proficient with the audio-visual equipment in the different classrooms has been a challenge. It's great equipment, but each classroom has some sort of variation from the others. Also, it's highly likely that someone in your class or lecture is more knowledgeable on some aspects of your subject—embrace it.

**Randy Smith:** How easy it was to keep going once I did the first course. I've since challenged myself to come up with a new topic each semester, in addition to continuing with some of my previous classes. You may think you know a subject but organizing a presentation solidifies your understanding. I learn more by teaching than by attending a class on that subject.

**Don Jackson:** One of the most important facts for my teaching through Silver Frogs is that I don't have to grade papers; the pursuit of knowledge is an end in itself rather than a grade on a transcript. For Silver Frogs who are still open to such learning, we have the opportunity to continue to learn together.

**Angela Tacco:** If you love your subject, no matter how boring it is, your students will too!!! (Mine is boring to many people!)

**Darren Middleton:** As a coal-miner's son from the English East Midlands, born and raised an arrow shot removed from Robin Hood's Sherwood Forest, I did not grow up listening to Country Music. But the stories it tells, those tricky tales of cheatin' hearts and amazing grace, eventually worked a strange alchemy on my outlaw soul. I have twice-taught my "Country Music Jesus" for Silver Frogs. If the truth be told, though, I think the Silver Frogs taught me so much more on both occasions – in poignant and funny ways, Silver Frogs have shared with me that they discovered how to move through the world with Country Music as the soundtrack to their lives. They saw the light, in other words, and then helped me see it, too! I have just finished editing a special issue of an academic journal, one that's devoted to Country Music and Christianity, and I dedicated the entire publication to the Silver Frogs who've helped me grasp this uniquely American artistic form.

**Ken Bowers:** An hour and a half is not all that long.

**Jim Parr:** I've been forced to learn a lot more about PowerPoint presentations!

**Virginia Dias:** People are willing to learn something new, make new friends, and exchange ideas, regardless of their age.

**Shari Barnes:** Some of our most stimulating discussions have featured a difference of opinion. In an age when we tend to avoid discussing tough subjects, I've learned that intelligent adults can really disagree without being disagreeable.

**Crystal Barth:** It is easier than I thought it would be.

**Dan Calvin:** I guess this shouldn't be surprising to "real teachers," but I found I learn a lot more about a subject that I've always been interested in, in my case classic movies, when I have to develop a four-week course dealing with a topic (or a luncheon lecture). I'm always surprised about new things my students bring up in class. Everyone's life experience is very rich. There is a lot of wisdom floating around in the SF pool. I've always believed that great schools are the ones that attract and retain great students, and the SF program brings out people who continue to crave new learning opportunities.



Jim Parr



Ken Bowers



Virginia Dias

(Continued on page 12)

## Longtime Instructors *continued*

(Continued from page 11)

**Helen Keller had Annie Sullivan. Luke Skywalker had Yoda. Who is/was your inspiration and what lifelong lesson did they share with you?**

**Ron Flowers:** A couple of teachers when I was an undergraduate here at TCU (yes, I got my BA here, 1957), George Fowler and Ambrose Edens, both in the Religion Department. It was from them that I "caught the vision" that college teaching might be a career for me. There were two or three inspirational teachers when I was in seminary at Vanderbilt Divinity School. The one I will name was a church history professor named Bard Thompson. I took a course on Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation (a digest of which I teach for the Silver Frogs). It was the most electric, exciting, learning experience I EVER had. I copied many of Thompson's teaching techniques that I used all during my career of teaching undergraduates. All three of these gentlemen are now deceased, but I still think of them regularly and know I am who I am as a teacher largely because of them.

**Roger Norman:** I have Jesus. Lesson? Pray, plan, anticipate, and prepare. Quote? "Do unto others as..."

**Dan Smith:** Nearly 50 years ago, when I was completing my last year in grad school (Florida State), I audited a history class "just for fun." It turned out to be, I think, the most useful class I took! Most of the history work I've done in the years since (I'm a scientist, not a historian) traces back to Prof. Jones' course. Years after that class I contacted the professor to tell him "thanks." He was as grateful for what I told him as I was for what he had shared with me!

**Don Jackson:** I was inspired while an undergraduate at SMU by the opinions of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. and Justice Louis Brandeis on human freedom. When I worked at the Supreme Court I became a friend of Justice William O. Douglas, who further inspired me to carry on the work of John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty* (1859).

**Angela Tacco:** My grandparents—they taught me too many things to list them all!

**Darren Middleton:** My wife, Elizabeth Flowers, is an American religious historian. "People on the ground, caught up in life's messy truths, are far more complex than the scholarly or theoretical assumptions we have about them," she once said to me. To this day, this is one of the most sharply observed pieces of wisdom I've ever heard.

**Ken Bowers:** My wife, Kakai. She will strike up a conversation with strangers. You can find the most interesting stories about people's lives that connect with larger history. Ask me about Cheltenham, Singapore or Hastings sometime.

**Jim Parr:** My father was a great source of inspiration. His motto was "always leave a place better than you found it."

**Virginia Dias:** My husband of 41 years and my biggest fan always told me his favorite quote, "Be proud of yourself, your accomplishments and where you come from—but never too proud—because after a game of chess, the kings and pawns are tossed into the same box."



Shari Barnes

**Shari Barnes:** My father, who died at 98, was an inspiration to me as I listened to his carefully-crafted sermons and watched him mesmerize his congregation with amazing teaching skills.



Crystal Barth

**Crystal Barth:** My husband was always my biggest champion...he was the "wind beneath my wings," encouraging me take on challenges and grow...personally and professionally.

**Dan Calvin:** I went to Catholic school in the days when most of the teachers were members of a religious order. Some of the Sisters and Brothers that taught there engendered a real appetite for learning and critical thinking that has helped me all my life. My parents were my first inspiration; both were highly educated and read constantly, and inspired me to do the same. During my senior year in high school (1970), I saw a random TV interview of a student who was asked why he wanted to attend college, and what guided his selection. His simple answer was that "he wanted to be someone who is interesting to talk to." I found this to be inspirational.



Dan Calvin

*"Live as if you were to die tomorrow;  
learn as if you were to live forever."*

— Mahatma Gandhi

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## Longtime Instructors *continued*

(Continued from page 12)

### What piece of advice do you have for fellow SFs who aspire to be instructors?

**Ron Flowers:** Get ready for an adventure, especially if you have not previously taught older adults. Be prepared for questions coming from angles that you have never had before.

**Roger Norman:** The more we teach, the more we learn. We all need challenge. Proceed with a servant's heart.

**Dan Smith:** You just never know where inspiration is going to come from.

**Lew Woodard:** Go for it. Silver Frogs are very forgiving and supportive if you have any troubles in class. It's a sharing experience as much as teaching.

**Randy Smith:** It's enjoyable to share what you like, so just make a commitment to try it once. We have folks who can help you organize your presentation and make PowerPoint slides.

**Angela Tacco:** Jump in!!!! Again, if you're passionate about your subject your students will enjoy the class.

**Darren Middleton:** Listen to your fellow Silver Frogs, ask them what they'd like to learn, and then find a beautiful way to teach it.

**Ken Bowers:** You don't have to impart a tremendous amount of knowledge. There is no test that the class has to pass. Remember, your interests are interesting.

**Jim Parr:** Just do it!. I have now prepared several different classes on traveling in Italy, one on building financial security, and one on the facts about hospice. This spring I will offer a new class on what to expect from a real estate broker in Texas. Each class has been a challenging and rewarding effort for me.

Since teaching my first Silver Frogs class, I have been certified by the Texas Real Estate Commission and the National Association of Realtors to teach continuing education classes to real estate licensees, I now offer several classes to Realtor groups around the state on a regular basis. Would I have taken this path without my Silver Frogs teaching experience?

**Virginia Dias:** Be kind and attentive to your students' needs or questions; you never know if your class is the highlight of that person's day. Share your knowledge with love and patience without being impressed with yourself or with how much you know.

**Shari Barnes:** Just dive in and do it. You have something to share with Silver Frogs, and they, in turn, will share with you.

**Crystal Barth:** Share your interests and passions and have fun.

**Dan Calvin:** Good writers just write a lot. Good math students solve problems a lot. The same is true for good teachers. It is often most interesting to talk to a person who has a great interest or love of a particular subject and is willing to talk about it. You can learn something valuable from people like that; be one yourself.

### What other question should we have asked?

**Ron Flowers:** "Do you think you can give one, two, or three word answers to my questions?" My answer would have been: Are you kidding? I am a college professor. I am used to speaking in 50 minute blocks of time (now 90 minutes for Silver Frogs).

**Roger Norman:** "Do you have any spare time?" ☺

**Darren Middleton:** "Is it true that soccer (aka: proper football) is your real religion?" Yes, by a country mile...

**Ken Bowers:** "The price of eggs in Ethiopia?" (Now, will you be more careful what you ask for?)

**What can we say to our longtime teachers who have so selflessly shared their passion? We are forever changed because of you, and to paraphrase Shakespeare: We cannot answer any other way "but thanks, and thanks, and ever thanks."**

**Resa Shipman** taught for Silver Frogs 12 times, and was a charter member as well as our second advisory board president.

We featured Resa in the May 2017 issue of Silver Streak, and she told us then how she loved teaching for Silver Frogs and had taught every semester since the beginning!

Her secret to a happy life was to smile daily and let God take care of the big stuff. "Take time to smell the roses" was Resa's favorite quote. She credited her husband David with changing her life for the better because he supported her new adventures.

Sadly, we lost Resa just over a year ago to cancer. She was an enthusiastic instructor and volunteer who was devoted to making Silver Frogs the very best lifelong learning experience for us all!



## What Silver Frogs Means to Me

I took a class in continuing education in the spring of 2014. My mom had Alzheimer's and I needed to know more about it. I think as a consequence of signing up for that class I received an invitation in May to register for Silver Frogs. I knew nothing about it, had never heard of it, but thought it sounded like a good place for me to keep my brain sharp.

I live 90 miles west of Fort Worth in Graham, so do I get the prize for driving the furthest to class??? I will admit I have a place to stay in town that makes this a bit easier.

I did not know what I was signing up for, but I am so glad I did. I had to "learn the ropes" and I am still learning names and forgetting them too. I love my excuse to "go to FW to class." I have learned about religions, law, self-defense (wasp spray), history (do you know the Candy Bomber?) Medicare, Social Security, current events, computers, Mah Jongg (love this game), murder trials, brain function, art, and WINE! (Wine SIG). I hope to teach a class someday if I can ever figure out what I know enough about (that is teachable). I have made new friends and love having people to call and eat with when I come to FW. I have missed classes because they were full and field trips because they conflicted with other things. I hope we continue to offer these opportunities and repeat some so I have more chances to sign up.

I was at a transitional place in life (aren't we all) when the first email came to my inbox. I am so glad I said yes to it and signed up. I also must say a big thank you to all the volunteers who keep this rolling. They are the heart and soul of the organization, and the wonderful group in the office who are the muscle and minds (computer smarts) to keep us all informed and on our deadlines. I can't imagine a better-run group at any college campus in any town. My daughter went to TCU and now I do too!

Thank you all!

—Gail Stephens

It is hard to believe it has been five years, and even longer since that fateful luncheon with David & Julie that started the ball rolling. We (my husband Ken and I) have enjoyed the growth of Silver Frogs, but it is the new friends we have made starting with everyone in the Extended Ed department. The list of interesting and enjoyable individuals that are now our friends is too numerous to mention.

The opportunity to learn new, unusual and thought producing subjects has made the Silver Frog years not only fun, but added to the feeling of growth in retirement.

We thank everyone who gave their time at the beginning, and those individuals who continue to teach, donate their time on committees, and sit on the board. It would not have become the hottest ticket in town without their time and expertise.

—Kakai Bowers ★

Being a Silver Frog means so much to me. It's a place where I can be someone I never had an opportunity to be because I was running through life so fast that I did not have time for ME. (I was constantly concerned about earning a living and raising the next generation.)

As a member of Silver Frogs, I have had leadership opportunities that I didn't have to "play politics" to be part of. It's always interesting to hear the "life stories" of fellow members. And it is so humbling to be a part of such a generous group of people who are so knowledgeable and skilled and FUN.

—Lisa Winter



(Continued on page 15)

## What Silver Frogs Means to Me *continued*

I have taken a few classes regarding genealogy and ancestry and it has become my passion. I am working online on my family tree and have traced some of my father's ancestors back to the 16th Century in Switzerland and Germany. I have even joined the Fort Worth Genealogical Society. Based on the family history I have discovered, I can qualify for the DAR, which I will pursue next year. It has been an exciting and fulfilling adventure!

Crystal has been the instructor for one course and one class I attended. She is very knowledgeable about genealogy research and resources. She makes it interesting and fun.

—Jan Nevins

Five years ago, I was working for a large corporation and looking forward to completing 30 years of service there. I had no idea that just across town, a new learning adventure was about to start for hundreds of local residents, following many meetings and months of planning.

What I also didn't know was that within six months I'd be laid off from my job and looking for ways to continue using some of the skills I'd acquired during my career. It was just a piece of luck, really, that my kids were participating in summer camps on the TCU campus and that I even looked at the Extended Ed catalog when it arrived.

While I had to spend a semester on the waitlist (a real exercise in patience!), I was able to join Silver Frogs for Spring 2016. Not quite sure what to expect, and not knowing anyone else in the program, I took a couple of classes and didn't even consider the lunch lectures or other activities. But eventually that changed as my eyes were opened to all the opportunities

### ***WHAT'S YOUR SILVER FROGS STORY?***

Even if you don't feel comfortable sharing your story with everyone, you know you've got one.

Silver Frogs means many things to many people, whether it's about keeping your brain sharp making new friends or trying new things. As we head into the new year, it's a great time to reflect on what you've learned and enjoyed here.

If you decide you'd like to share, just [email your story](#) for inclusion in a future issue.

available to members. As I got to know a few people and eventually ran into others who I'd known before, I realized Silver Frogs was more than a "program"—it's a community, made up of the kindest, smartest and most accomplished people in town!

My dad got interested (I kept talking about it) and was also able to join, so now we can take classes together and share things we've learned. I even got up the courage to teach, and that's been extremely rewarding as I have gotten to know other members who share my interest in baking!

I'm grateful to everyone who put the time and energy into starting Silver Frogs and all of those who have kept it going—Extended Ed, instructors, committee members and advisory board—as well as the members who keep coming back to class and making the program better every single semester. Life was good before Silver Frogs, but it's been so much richer since I joined!

—Sharon Harrelson



## Time to Celebrate Reading by Shari Barnes

Anniversaries are tricky occasions. We inevitably question where the time has flown while we revel in happy memories. It's that way with the 5th Silver Frogs anniversary. When I was first asked to teach a book class, I thought of all those novels on my own bucket list book...thus the name Bucket List Books. Ten classes and approximately 300 students later, I've managed to work my way through a small portion of the books on that list.

What a privilege it is to engage in literary dialogue with a group of similar book lovers. Stimulating conversations and new ideas flourish, and I learn something new from each class. Every book has taught me something, but these five are among my favorites:

### Spring 2017

I include a children's book in each four-week session, and this time we talked about C. S. Lewis' *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. From a brilliant theologian and author, this book is the first published in The Chronicles of Narnia series. A fantasy novel for children, it is also a great read for adults. Talking animals and mythical creatures abound. Aslan, a lion, gives his life to save a child and later rises from the dead. This spiritual analogy offered ample room for theological and religious debate in our class.

### Fall 2017

*The Girl Who Fell from the Sky* by Heidi Durrow. Bi-racial Rachel, sole survivor of a family tragedy, is thrust into a black community where her light skin and eyes bring her attention. She has survived a fall from a rooftop and is attempting to put her life back together. The class had many opportunities to discuss ideas of race and class while addressing social justice issues. The idea for the book was taken from a real-life event, and the subject is of interest to anyone who wants to grapple with hard topics.

### Spring 2016

Sometimes it's good to stray from current best seller lists and go back 100 years. So we studied Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence*. The 1921 Pulitzer Prize winner for Fiction made Wharton the first woman to win the prize. Set in the 1870's, the book focuses on New York City. We discussed post WWI society and were able to question the morals of the time. Another discussion centered on how literature has changed in the last 100 years.

### Fall 2019

This session brought us to F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. Gatsby is a young, mysterious millionaire in 1922. His infatuation with Daisy thrives in the Roaring 20's and gave rise to a class discussion about the American Dream. Considered by many as the Great American Novel, Fitzgerald wrote a literary classic which calls for readers to read and re-read.

### Spring 2020

Looking forward to Spring 2020, I anticipate a heavy discussion around Canadian author Louise Penny's *A Better Man*. This is the latest in her series about Chief Inspector Armand Gamache. As rivers rise to threaten the population, Gamache returns to his job to pursue a mysterious disappearance while battling a social media campaign against him. Family values and questions like "What would you do if your child's killer walked free?" will provide grist for the discussion mill.

Try these five books for good reading and mind stimulation. And thanks to all of you who have made class so enjoyable. Upon walking into one class, a participant said, "I hated this book, but by the end of the class I'll be convinced that I liked it." That's the beauty of hearing what other class members have to contribute. A book is often worthwhile even if we didn't think we liked it much.







Many of us either have grandkids here in Fort Worth or will have them visiting us during their break from school in late December, and we need to plan some fun activities to celebrate the season and make memories!

While a lot of the Holiday activities in December happened in the first two weekends, there are plenty of places you can go and take your grandkids or enjoy with friends through the end of the year and into 2020.

One of our favorite activities is to ride around after dark and see the lights that Fort Worth neighborhoods display each year. Here are some I found through a little research. It is the inside scoop on places to see spectacular light displays. And of course this is my favorite activity because there is no entrance fee!

- Luther Lake, where many residents decorate the backs of their homes facing the water and even on the lake. Located in Ridglea (76116)
- Riverhills Phases 1, 2, and 3 (76109)
- The lights at Interlochen in Arlington: Westwood Drive & Randol Mill Road (76012)

Some specific addresses and locations to put on your not-to-miss list:

- 1100 Montego Road (76116)
- 1700 Desperado Road, Eagle Mountain (76131)
- Thornhill Road at Steppe Drive, Benbrook (76132)
- Olive Place Baptist Church (76116)
- 3600 Locke Avenue (76116)
- Deepdale at Westover Drive & nearby (76107)
- 5013 Blanco Drive, Haltom City (76137)
- Cummings Drive @ Brookside Court (76021)
- Rushing Meadow Court & Harder Drive, Dalworthington Gardens (76016)

In recent years some commercial light installations have drawn big crowds and really have over-the-top drive-through locations (caution: there could be long wait times). There are admission fees to these. Check the web sites for pricing.

[Vitruvian Lights](#), located in Addison and operating through January 1, 2020, has millions of lights and free photos with Santa. The activities all start at 6:00 p.m.

[Holiday In The Park at Six Flags](#) in Arlington is open through January 5, 2020. After all, what could be more exciting than seeing the light displays from the top of a roller coaster?

Venturing a little further from Fort Worth, take the Chisholm Park Tollway to Cleburne and visit the [Whistle Stop Christmas](#) through December 31.

Also in Cleburne is [Mainstay Farms](#). It is a Christmas tree farm of the cut-your-own variety (you choose it and they cut it) but there are so many activities that you can (we have) spend the whole day there. But hurry—it is only open through December 22.

Head east on I-20 and discover Lynn Creek Park on Joe Pool Lake for [Prairie Lights](#) through December 31.

Crossroads Church in Grand Prairie has a [Christmas Light Spectacular](#) nightly through December 24 from 6:30-9pm. Music, concessions, and Santa. FREE.

Go on over to Grapevine to see what is billed as [The Christmas Capital of Texas](#) through December 31. You may even want to [take the train](#) and have dinner at one of the many restaurants.

And speaking of eating, if you haven't experienced the Christmas display at [Campo Verde Restaurant](#) in Arlington you will certainly want to go. This restaurant is decorated for Christmas all year long but they really kick it up a notch with 120,000 lights, 3,000 yards of multicolor garland, 50 Santas, 30 Christmas trees and two model trains that click clack around the diners over their heads. This extra-special display is through March 2020 when they revert to their usual year-round Christmas. It is kitschy by most standards but something the kids will never forget. It makes for great photos too!

Still looking for a way to impress your friends and family or want a once in a lifetime kind of experience? [Epic Helicopters](#) in Fort Worth offers light tours starting at \$199 through December 31.

I hope this list entices you to get out and about this holiday season. We all need to remember to stop shopping and cooking and decorating long enough to enjoy some family time. Happy Holidays and have fun!



## Members Recommend...



*The Peanut Butter Falcon* is an adventure story that has a modern Mark Twain vibe. Zak (22), a young man with Down syndrome resides in a retirement home. He desperately wants to become a professional wrestler and attend the school of his hero, The Salt Water Redneck. One night with the help of his elderly roommate, he escapes and runs away from the nursing home. Zak runs into Tyler and they develop an unlikely attachment in what turns out to be a buddy tale that's about forgiveness, hope and love. You will not be disappointed in this film!

—Vickie Gall



Let me start by saying if you have the skill, homemade Christmas cookies are always the best.

But, if you need iced Christmas cookies for a family gathering or a get together with friends let me recommend the iced Christmas cookies from **McKinley's Bakery** at University Park Village not far from TCU. I have been on a 2-year quest to find the best Christmas cookies with lots of icing. Without a doubt, McKinley's Bakery cookies are by far the best I've found. Give McKinley's a try this Christmas season. While you're there stop for a sandwich and some soup.

— Jeff Frazer



I recommend *You Can Fix Your Brain*, by Dr. Tom O'Bryan. "For anyone worried about any type of brain ailment, ranging from the chronic conditions to simple brain fog and fatigue, this essential guide covers the full spectrum of prevention to treatment." This is a most informative book about what we can do for our brain health.

—Janet Sale

## An Opportunity to Make A Difference

by Richard Ranc

This is a time of year to consider contributions to charitable organizations while also enjoying some secondary tax benefits. It is also a good time to consider gifts to children for their future educational needs.

If you are required to make a minimum distribution from a retirement account, you may direct the plan custodian to make a contribution directly from your retirement account to a qualified charity. A contribution, made in this manner, counts toward your required distribution. A donation made directly from the retirement plan custodian to the qualified charity will, for tax reporting purposes, reduce your gross reportable income. This direct transfer is more efficient than receiving the distribution and then making the donation.

The stock market has been good to many shareholders in 2019. Donating an appreciated stock directly to a charity avoids capital gain distributions and permits the donor to claim the appreciated value of the security as a gift. The charity receives the appreciated asset.

Consider establishing an education trust for a child. There are many forms of so-called 529 plans so check with your financial advisor to determine which plan is most suitable for the child. Generally, these plans allow anyone to donate funds for the educational expenses of a beneficiary. Aggregate limits are high—most plans \$200,000-\$529,000—and gifts can be limited to gift tax exclusions. Educational plans are very flexible allowing for changes; e.g. if a child, beneficiary of a 529 plan, decides not to pursue college, the plan may be designated for the benefit of another child who desires to pursue higher education.

Charitable gift annuities allow for income to be derived from gifts made to certain non-profit organizations such as Consumer Reports, the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross. Income is paid to the donor for his or her lifetime, and the "gift" portion is determined based on age and payout structure. Major investment companies, e.g. Vanguard, Fidelity, Merrill Lynch and others manage Donor Advised Charitable Funds. These funds provide the donor an immediate tax benefit and the opportunity to direct gifts to designated public charity.

Consult your financial advisor to explore charitable giving strategies but don't delay; 2020 will be here before we know it!



# Silver Streak Staff



**Siân Borne** A Silver Frog since Spring '17, Siân 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, is active in several Silver Frog committees, serves on the Advisory Board and is the SIG Chair.



**Linda Eastwick** is a former educator who has called Fort Worth her home since 2006. She enjoys researching, writing, and all things grandchild-related. She has been a Silver Frog since 2017.



**Diane Griffin** 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, etc.)** is a Fort Worth native who's been editing various publications for work and fun since middle school. She's delighted to be a Silver Frogs instructor and Advisory Board president this year; she also enjoys cooking/baking, gardening and being a band mom to twin high-schoolers.



**Polly Hooper (On One Tank of Gas, Photographer)** 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.



**Richard Ranc (Make a Difference)** came to Silver Frogs following a 10-year affiliation with Senior University in Georgetown. He's a retired VP of Investments at Wachovia Securities. He serves on the Advisory Board and Curriculum Committee in addition to writing for Silver Streak.



**Ann Shelton** 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 recently wrapped up several semesters as chairperson of the Luncheon Lecture Committee.



**Carolyn Stephens** came to Silver Frogs three years ago following a career in journalism, public relations and crisis communications. She loves the concept of lifelong learning and enjoys reading, cooking, gardening and new adventures.

What do you enjoy about Silver Streak?  
[Click here](#) to send feedback. [Click here](#) to view past issues.



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## Up Next in Silver Streak

The next issue of Silver Streak will appear following Session I of the Spring semester, giving the committee a little break!

We'll be sending out a request for contributions after school starts and will let you know the theme then.



## SPRING 2020 DATES TO REMEMBER

January 6-10

**Submit Your Course and Lecture Preferences**

January 21

**Allocation Results Revealed**

January 28

**Meet & Greet Kickoff**

February 3

**Session I Classes Begin**

February 21

**Silver Streak Deadline**

February 28

**Session I Classes End**