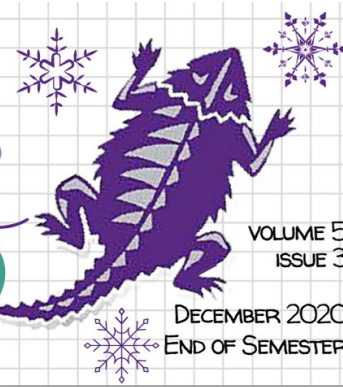


# SILVER STREAK



CONNECTING AND INFORMING TCU'S SILVER FROGS

## DAVID GREBEL: THE NEWEST SILVER FROG compiled by the Silver Streak Staff

This edition of *Silver Streak* is dedicated to David Grebel as he retires after 23 years as TCU's Director of Extended Education. It is with heartfelt thanks we acknowledge his unwavering support of the Silver Frogs program, not only as Director but also as an instructor. And it's not just about us — his contributions to TCU and the lifelong learning community are many, and he will be missed greatly as we move into 2021 and beyond.



David was surprised and speechless on December 17 when he was presented his basket of well-wishes, which were sent by friends, colleagues and members of Silver Frogs. He also received a Spring 2021 membership to Silver Frogs!

It has been a privilege to work for and alongside David. He has been nothing but supportive of the Silver Frogs and was instrumental in the creation and implementation of our great group.

We will miss David's treasure trove of historical trivia, his knowledge of the weather, and his genuine commitment to lifelong learning. We don't doubt that he will keep busy with his grandchildren, cycling and being a Silver Frog! We wish him all the best on this new facet of his life!

—*Extended Education Staff*

When the elders asked, "What to do with the senior citizens in Tarrant County? How do we, as elders, harness this rowdy group of wisdom holders?" one answer was to speak to the leadership of TCU and find a friend in David Grebel. Working with David on ideas to involve elders in sharing their knowledge and in continual learning was the beginning. A true partnership was formed and has blossomed into Silver Frogs of TCU.

Thank you, David, "The Philosopher of Extended Education," for teaching, leading and sharing your philosophy and ideas. Now you can join Silver Frogs in the continued exploration of life.

—*Elaine and Larry Klos*

At a brainstorming meeting over lunch in March 2014, I was seated next to a gentleman who was concerned about the lack of lifelong learning opportunities for older members of our community. As it turns out, that gentleman was David Grebel and that meeting resulted in the Silver Frogs program.

David's enthusiasm was contagious and several of us at the meeting stepped up to become the original board. David assigned Julie Lovett to be the administrator but his enthusiasm for the program has never waned. We have always been able to count on him for support.

—*Trish Shaw*

I'M GRATEFUL THAT MY TIME AT TCU HAS LED TO SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIPS I'VE HAD IN MY LIFE. I'VE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO WORK WITH A WONDERFUL TEAM OVER THE YEARS AS WE'VE HAD AN IMPACT ON SO MANY LIVES. AND NOW, IN THE IMMORTAL WORDS OF JED BARTLETT, I GET TO ASK, "WHAT'S NEXT?"

—*DAVID GREBEL*

We're thrilled that David will be "one of us," a Silver Frog, in the spring. We hope to be blessed with future classes from him after he's settled into retirement. David and his staff have made the Silver Frogs program possible, but there is so much more to his story. We profiled David as an instructor in the [August 2018 Silver Streak](#) —check it out for more about him!



## MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ



Good Riddance to 2020! By now I'm sure you are so sick of quarantine. Me too! I'm guessing that some of you either had COVID-19, know of someone who's had

"it" or know someone who's passed away from complications. Silver Frogs have big hearts, and to you, we send love and support. Hope is in the air since the vaccine is being released. I am looking forward for some semblance of "normal" in 2021.

I'm glad you have chosen to tough out Silver Frogs in this semester and I hope you found it to be a fun group. For myself, I reached beyond my "comfort level," and I'm so pleased I did, because I learned a lot.

Remember to be safe, especially over the holidays! Stay at home if you can! Wear your mask! Wash your hands! See you next semester via our friend ZOOM!

Happy Holidays to you all!

—Lisa Winter

## ARE YOU IN?

If you've renewed your [Silver Frogs membership](#) for Spring 2021, GREAT! You'll continue to receive all the information about signing up for next semester's virtual courses and lectures, as well as everything else going on. Any SIGs you have joined will keep you on their rolls and you will receive invitations to any special events as they are scheduled.

And if you've chosen to sit out the spring, know that we'll miss seeing you on our screens! Nearly 500 members are signed up (and there are 600 spots) so if you've changed your mind, you can still join. Not sure? Take a look at the classes planned for spring—visit the [Silver Frogs website](#) and look under Four-Week Courses and One-Time Lectures for the descriptions, or [view the catalog](#)—and you may change your mind! We'll request classes in January, so it's not too late.

*Note: there is not a "priority" waitlist for Fall 2021 so if you plan to return then, you'll sign up with the regular waitlist or general public.*

And here's an idea:

A membership makes a great gift for a friend or relative (who's over 50!) who is a fan of lifelong learning. With our virtual classes, they don't even need to live in the area!



## WANTED: SPECIAL EVENTS CHAIR by Lisa Winter

We are currently looking for a new Chairperson for the Special Events Committee. I headed it for six semesters and it was a ball. So much fun. I hope that you would consider taking the helm. We have a committee for you already, and I am one of the committee members. We also have a list of things that might be popular events when this pandemic is over. TCU would provide the Zoom link for virtual tours or performances or whatever you and your committee come up with for the spring semester, as we are going to stay virtual. Also, you would be invited to the monthly (2nd Friday) Advisory Board meetings as a non-voting member. That's another forum for bouncing off ideas.

Thank you for considering taking a bigger step up with Silver Frogs as a volunteer. This committee is a really great group. [Contact me](#) if you are interested or need more information!



## THANK YOU, ZOOMING INSTRUCTORS!

OUR INSTRUCTORS FOR THIS INAUGURAL VIRTUAL SEMESTER ACCEPTED THE ZOOM CHALLENGE AND PROVIDED SILVER FROGS WITH OVER 80 PROGRAMS, COVERING A WIDE VARIETY OF TOPICS. DEMONSTRATING THEIR DEVOTION TO LIFELONG LEARNING, THEY LEARNED AS THEY TAUGHT! TRAVEL, HISTORY, CLIMATE, HOME SKILLS AND MORE WERE AVAILABLE IN OUR VIRTUAL CLASSROOM. THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR TIME AND TALENTS.

Lee Ancona  
Randi Anderson  
Penny Armstrong  
Anne Bailey  
Shari Barnes  
Crystal Barth  
Denis Benjamin  
Larry Borne  
Sian Borne  
Ken Bowers  
Kathy Bowser  
Tena Burrell  
Joseph Cecere  
Jaime Cobb  
David Coke  
Bronson Davis  
Jerry Davis  
Mary Eads  
Mae Ferguson

Hank Fitzhugh  
Ronald Flowers  
Robert Frey  
Judy Furche  
James Godfrey  
David Grebel  
Mary Gugliuzza  
Sharon Harrelson  
Polly Hooper  
Elizabeth Jones  
Karen Kaigler-Walker  
Larry Klos  
Lalonne Lehman  
Wayne Ludwig  
Gordon Marchant  
Buddy McIntyre  
Nancy McVean  
Ralph Mecklenburger  
Darren Middleton

Thomas Morton  
Roger Norman  
Jim Parr  
Colin Plante  
Richard Ranc  
J Cy Rowell  
Ken Seeling  
Richard Selcer  
Joe Shannon  
Randy Smith  
Elaine Stoltz  
Ronald Tamada  
Joseph Tarride  
Eilene Theilig  
Diane Weaver  
Tim Wendt  
Lewis Woodard



## CHEERS!

**Darren Middleton** offers Silver Frog courses almost every semester. He is always superb. Take any of his offerings and you will be richly rewarded.

**Siân Borne** does a fabulous job in her course *Winchester, the Ancient Capitol*, a witty and informative introduction to her English hometown. You'll be pleased if you take this lecture next semester!

**Anne Bailey** teaches Civil War history through Silver Frogs. She is an expert in the field and really makes the era come alive. Sadly, the South still loses, but Anne is fantastic!

—Warren Russell

All the classes I took had excellent instructors!

—Nancy McVean

All of the instructors that Dave and I have had are doing an amazing job. While I do miss the more personal interaction you have in a classroom, it's going so well. Everyone is really stepping up.

—Linda Rodjak

**Siân Borne's** personal stories of Winchester were delightful — nothing better than first hand experience! Afterward I researched and watched a documentary on Winchester Cathedral to expand the experience.

—Vickie Gall

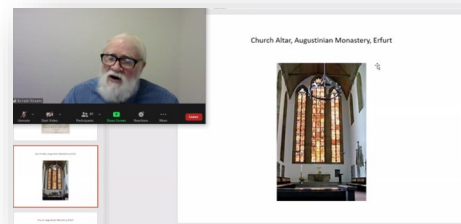
## INSTRUCTORS SPEAK: FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF ZOOM

When it became clear to me that I was going to have to teach my Silver Frogs classes by means of Zoom, I was terrified. It was fear of the unknown, I am sure. I had no knowledge of how to use Zoom and I didn't think I wanted to know, not a very helpful attitude for a college professor. But, if I wanted to teach, I would have to bite the bullet.

Fortunately, Julie Lovett and her staff took pity on me and said they were willing for me to come into their office and let them teach me. I did that. It turned out that I was still educable, even at my advanced age. I learned how to sign in and all the rest that was necessary to make the connection and to become a Zoom teacher. I am happy to say that it went much better than I had anticipated. It was possible for class attendees to ask questions (although not many did) and it was possible for me to see some of the members of each class.

I approach the spring semester with much more calmness of mind. I will never come to the attitude that Zoom teaching is better than in-class teaching; I can't wait until I can be in front of a class of real people again. This teacher, at least, feeds off the response of the people in the room with me. There is an energy involved in in-person teaching that is absent in online teaching. So I long for the days that we can look at Zoom teaching in the rear view mirror. I also hope that the Silver Frogs program continues to flourish for many years and that I will be able to teach in it until then.

—Ron Flowers



When my first lecture as an instructor was cancelled last April 1, like others I'm sure, was disappointed. I was reluctant at first to venture out this Fall semester and try teaching via Zoom, as I had not had the chance to see how the lecture would flow or be received. After many months of tweaking my slides and trying to make them as interesting as possible, I jumped in to this new normal of teaching!!! Our wonderful staff in Extended Ed allowed me to teach from the conference room (I was worried about my internet connection), and it was a great experience. There was only one minor technical issue which, thanks to one of my participants, I was able to fix easily. While it is a little odd not to be able to see everyone as one is speaking, I found the audience to be very gracious and generous for this inaugural lecture!! I will be teaching it again in the Spring and making some changes to the lecture, based on the comments I received. I am thankful that we have this technology so that we can still connect and learn together.

—Siân Borne

From an instructor viewpoint, using Zoom is much more complicated than a live class. It is difficult to manage the presentation, allow time for comments, and monitor the chat box. I also found I needed to modify the content somewhat (e.g. --fewer videos) to make it more viable for Zoom. Thanks to students for their patience. From a student viewpoint, I think we need some reminders about Zoom etiquette; for example, keeping audio muted unless you are speaking and turning off the video if you are going to be moving about.

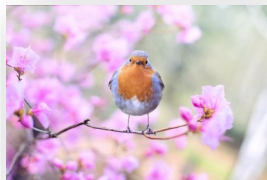
—Lew Woodard

Learned a lot and would do it again! Prefer face to face but when not possible this [Zoom] is an amazing way to connect.

—Nancy McVean

I had a lot of fun setting up a "studio" in my kitchen and learning how Zoom, a new computer and a webcam worked. Extended Ed was so great about helping test everything and getting each class started.

—Sharon Harrelson



## SPRING MEMBERS: WHAT TO EXPECT

It's not spring yet, but before you know it you'll be turning the page to a brand-new year (yea!) and here are the dates you'll want to know to start our Spring 2021 semester.

**JANUARY 19 – 22: Course and Lecture Request Process**—this is when you will request up to six courses and or lectures (any mix you want) and prioritize your requests for spring programs—don't miss it! Don't stress—you have all week to do it, and it doesn't matter who's first!!

**JANUARY 25 – 26 : Computer Allocation Lottery** TCU will run the computer-generated Request Allocation program to place members in courses and lectures based on listed priorities, space, etc in a lottery fashion.

**JANUARY 27: Notification of Courses and Lectures** you have a spot in

**JANUARY 29: Open Registration** for available spots (speed matters for this one, so don't wait!)

**FEBRUARY 3: Virtual Meet & Greet** on Zoom 10am—we'll have a chance to catch up with old and new friends, go over details for the spring and answer all your questions. The registration link for this event will be emailed to you.

**FEBRUARY 8: Courses and Lectures Begin**

Make sure you add TCU Extended Education to your contact list so emails don't head to your junk folder! As a reminder, TCU is closed to the public so please do not come to our office (even though we'd love to see you). You can email us at [lifelong@tcu.edu](mailto:lifelong@tcu.edu) or call 817-257-7132.

**TCU will be closed December 21 through January 10 for the holidays.**

*Note: This information was emailed directly to all Spring Silver Frogs on December 15.*

## SIG NEWS

The **Current Societal Issues** SIG has continued to meet virtually ever since physical meetings were curtailed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Although lack of face-to-face meetings has reduced some interactions, the pandemic has also provided us with interesting fodder for discussion. Topics that we've covered in twice-a-month meetings with an average of 15-20 participants each meeting this spring, summer and fall include: Presidential Direct Action, Systemic Racism, the presidential election, Modern Monetary theory, and the Fort Worth Crime Control District.

Current events continue to provide us with provocative subjects for further discussion and we are in the process of selecting topics for Spring 2021. Our best discussions occur when there are distinct alternate approaches to an issue, with well-reasoned and convincing arguments on multiple sides. In the spring we expect to address issues relating to the federal government, COVID-19 recovery, and other topics that can substantially affect our lives.

—Larry Klos

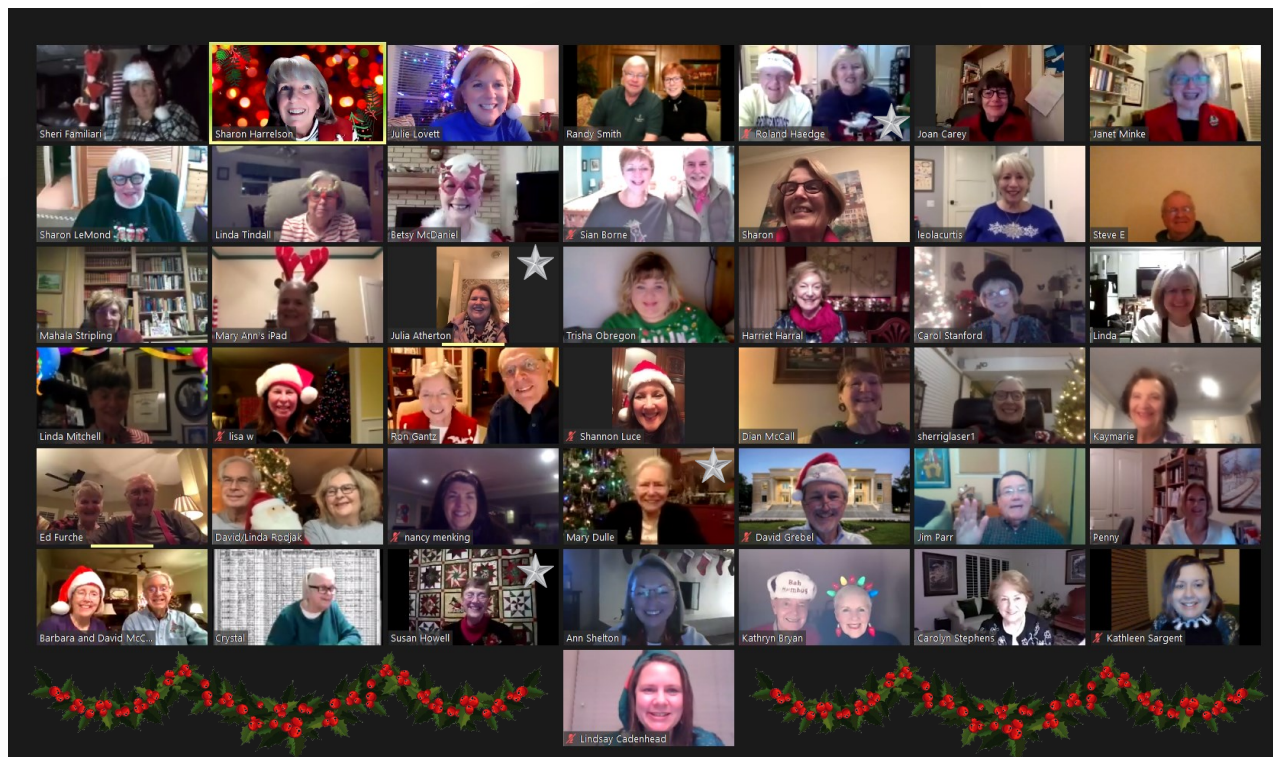


The new **Bake Anything Better** SIG held an organizational Zoom session on December 9. We planned to meet monthly (again using Zoom, which conveniently allows us to each be in a kitchen) beginning in January. Each meeting will be about a specific topic (starting with Biscuits), and the group also agreed to adopt a "bake-along" format where the meeting leader will share a relevant recipe in advance, and results will be shared and discussed at the meeting.

—Sharon Harrelson

# AN END-OF-SEMESTER CELEBRATION LIKE NO OTHER

by Sharon Harrelson



On December 15, this festive bunch of Silver Frogs and Extended Ed staffers came together (via Zoom, of course) for an end-of-semester celebration quite different from our past events. While we definitely missed the opportunity to get dressed up to mix and mingle—and eat from a bountiful buffet that someone else had prepared—we spent a fun hour together. Julie Lovett did her best to keep us in line while we admired each other’s holiday hats and twinkling attire, complimented the pretty decorations and raised a glass (more than once, since no one had to drive home afterwards!).

Three breakout sessions allowed us to chat with a random group of friends old and new, where we shared favorite holiday memories, what we’d be cooking in the next few weeks, and our wishes for 2021. There were lots of wishes with a universal thread running through them — all hoping that we will return to some degree of “normal” as we put 2020 in the rearview mirror.

Julie did the traditional door prize drawings, and awarded “Silver Frog Swag Bags” to Julia Atherton, Jo Ann Haedge, and Mary Dulle. The grand prize of a Silver Frogs Spring Membership went to Susan Howell. Congratulations to all of our winners!



## 2020's FINAL SILVER STREAK MAGAZINE HAS LOADS OF HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Want to read more? You'll find all sorts of special-interest stories written by our members in the third edition of Silver Streak Magazine. Take a look below, and click on the links to access just the stories you want. Or you can access the Silver Streak Magazine in its entirety using [this link](#).

**BOOKS!** We've done it again with recommendations to add to your winter reading list.

[Shari Barnes](#) revisits her family tradition of Jolabokaflokkur, with some gift ideas for the readers in your family, and you'll get [even more ideas](#) from our member recommendation page as several members tell us what they've been reading;

**HOLIDAY MUSIC** is on [Sharon Harrelson](#)'s mind as she shares a few favorites;

[Polly Hooper](#) is back with On One Tank of Gas, sharing her idea for a **PARTY ON WHEELS**;

See [what your fellow Frogs are watching](#) these days (hint: you'll want to get **NETFLIX!**);

**FILL UP YOUR PLATE** with [festive recipes](#) for sides & sweets from the Silver Streak staff;

Crafter [Carol Stanford](#) shares a pretty and easy way to create **UNIQUE ORNAMENTS**;

Master Gardener [Nancy Ranc](#) gets her hands dirty in **THE WINTER GARDEN**;

[Penny McAdoo](#) brings us another edition of the **POETRY BREAK**;

[Larry Klos](#) invites you into the **WRITER'S CORNER** for another short story with a twist;

And [Richard Ranc](#) continues to keep a close eye on **THE STOCK MARKET**.

Possibly the best part of all — throughout the Magazine you'll also find some fun photos, traditions and greetings from members who are into **THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON**.

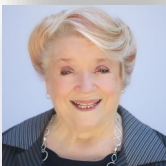


If the links above are not working for your computer, phone or tablet, you can [use this link](#) to access the entire Silver Streak Magazine, starting with the cover page

# 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; for Silver Frogs, she's active in several committees, is an instructor, serves on the Advisory Board and is the SIG Chair.



**Diane Griffin** has enjoyed Silver Frogs since Spring '16 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 as well as a student; She also enjoys cooking/baking, gardening, games and being a band mom to twin high-schoolers.



**Polly Hooper** 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** came to Silver Frogs four years ago following an affiliation with Senior University in Georgetown. He's a retired VP of Investments at Wachovia Securities. He is a Silver Frog instructor who serves on the 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 (when TCU's courts are available!) and volunteering.



**Carolyn Stephens** came to Silver Frogs four 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.



Office of Extended Education  
817-257-7132  
[lifelong@tcu.edu](mailto:lifelong@tcu.edu)  
[Visit the Silver Frogs website](#)

## SILVER FROGS SPRING MEMBERS DATES TO REMEMBER

January 19-22  
**Enter your class requests for  
Spring '21**

January 25-26  
**Course Allocation Runs**

January 27  
**Allocation Results Emailed!**

January 29  
**Open Registration  
for Available Seats**

February 3  
**Virtual Meet & Greet, 10am**

February 8  
**Session I Classes Begin**

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Whew—we did it! We made it through our first-ever virtual Silver Frogs semester, and the credit goes to... EVERYONE! Extended Ed, Silver Frogs instructors, Advisory Board members, and everyone who learned a little Zoom and attended courses and lectures. And I can't leave out all the members who contributed to the Silver Streak Newsletter and Magazine, or the amazing committee who literally spent hours on-screen with me to get all the commas in the right places! Chances are good that you are in at least one of those categories, so **THANK YOU**.

Our next issue will come out in mid-March, after the first session of classes when there is news to report. We look forward to your participation then, and in the meantime have a safe and beautiful "winter break" — Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Cozy Holidays to you all!

—Sharon Harrelson