



SILVER STREAK MAGAZINE

A SUPPLEMENT TO TCU SILVER FROGS' SILVER STREAK NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the April 2021 issue of Silver Streak Magazine! We invite you to enjoy these special-interest features contributed by members and instructors, as well as many beautiful garden pictures which prove—without doubt—that this is a most wondrous season.

Here's what we've got inside for you:

- ◆ No matter the season, there's always a need for a good read! Take your cue from [Shari Barnes' seasonal classics](#), or pick up a book [recommended by members](#),
- ◆ In the mood for some lighthearted verse? [Penny McAdoo offers a poetry break](#),
- ◆ [Elaine Klos](#) shares a grandparent's love and heartache,
- ◆ Take a nostalgic trip to [meet an electric-company icon](#) with Dick Ramsey, and [make some soup](#) while you're at it,
- ◆ Pick up some ideas for a variety of outdoor pursuits from our [members](#),
- ◆ Find out [where Silver Frogs are eating](#) these days,
- ◆ [Pie, anyone?](#)
- ◆ See [what members are watching](#) this spring,
- ◆ Visit Silver Frogs' backyards and [see what's growing!](#)
- ◆ Richard Ranc muses about [a taxing topic](#),
- ◆ And Buddy McIntyre urges us to [be prepared](#) for spring's crazy weather.





READING LIST: A SPRING READING GARDEN by Shari Barnes

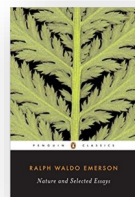
You're determined to transform the winter weed yard into blossoms, and that physical energy will be rewarded. But spring should be devoted to mental energy as well. It's time for some good change-of-season books.



ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND (Lewis Carroll)... "You can learn a lot of things from the flowers," says the Disney version of Alice. Set in England, this work follows Alice as she falls through the rabbit hole into a fantasy world of strange and wonderful creatures, including those flowers. It's not just a children's book. Adults will enjoy the literary nonsense.



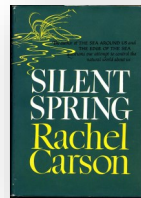
ROMEO AND JULIET... Star-crossed lovers and spring somehow go together even though Shakespeare's perhaps most popular work actually takes place in mid-July. (And, yes, I recommended Shakespeare last month, but you can't really get enough of the bard.) A feud between the lovers' families destined them to a tragic end. Romeo and Juliet cannot overcome the family friction, and their pure love cannot survive the trauma imposed by the relatives. Take out the Kleenex box!



NATURE AND SELECTED ESSAYS (Ralph Waldo Emerson)... Emerson believed in harmony with nature. He also believed in political and social activism; this book gives us a look at Emerson's persuasive philosophy. For Emerson, nature is the world unchanged by man. In the spring, we see what Emerson meant when he said the mind is influenced by the beauty of nature and inspires poets to write.



THE SECRET GARDEN...Published in 1911, Frances Hodgson Burnett's beautifully illustrated book takes the reader into the life of young Mary Lennox. You will be enchanted by Mary's transformation from rude and sour to confident and loving as the secret garden works its magic.



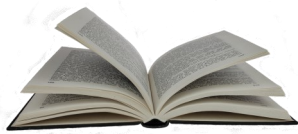
SILENT SPRING...Written in 1962 by Rachel Carson, this is a true story about how humans misused chemical pesticides. It was a call to social revolution that inspired the current environmental movement. It sparked action for changing the world and our future.



ABSENT IN THE SPRING...Agatha Christie wrote several romances under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott. This book finds Joan Scudamore alone after returning from a visit to Iraq. She assesses her life and truths about herself as she looks back over the years. She's not sure she likes the person her reflections reveal. Characterized as a novel of romance, this is a departure for Christie's most famous writing style. But it's considered a masterpiece by many reviewers.

After you've finished pulling the weeds, spreading the fertilizer, and planting the petunias, reward yourself with a classic spring-themed tome.





MEMBERS SHARE: WHAT ARE YOU READING?

Goodbye to a River by John Graves is a love story about a man and nature. Graves grew up in Fort Worth. As a boy he spent much of his time hunting, fishing and exploring the Brazos River in the counties to the west of town. In his middle years, he embarked on a three-week-long canoe and tent camping pilgrimage from Possum Kingdom, floating downstream over a hundred miles on the river and wandering ashore in an attempt to reconcile his memories of boyhood with the realities of the river today. It is an enjoyable narrative touching on natural sciences, history and introducing some true Texas characters. It looks like a fun adventure, one I might enjoy making but I fear that ship has sailed.

Nomadland by Jessica Bruder (2017). The Academy Award-winning film was based on this book. I likely will not see the movie but found the book fascinating, revealing and chilling. Picture Silver Frogs who for any number of reasons might be unable to maintain a permanent place of residence. The story follows some who have taken up a nomadic life in which they live in vans or small RVs as they pursue various part-time or seasonal work opportunities. Some may spend the summer as campground hosts in state or national parks. Then they might work the busy holiday season at one of the countless Amazon fulfillment centers around the country. They may work in fruit or grain harvests in season. All the while they are struggling to exist in a culture that demands a physical address, health insurance and reliable income sources—a few of the many things they often lack. The SF connection is that many times more seasoned people will assist or even conduct classes helping newcomers adapt to a life on the road. They often band together for security and camaraderie, forming strong bonds of friendship.

—Tim Runkle

The Midnight Library (if you could change something about your past, how would that look?), **The Library Book** (true story of the burning of the Los Angeles public library/everything you want to know about libraries and librarians), **Last Boat Out of Shanghai** (true story hardly reported on of the evacuation of Shanghai—"Paris of the East"—during the Japanese invasion and before communist takeover.)

—Leslie Dell

The Secret Hours by Santa Montefiore. Arethusa Clayton has always been formidable, used to getting her own way. Upon her death, she leaves unexpected instructions. Instead of being buried in America, on the wealthy East Coast where she and her late husband raised their two children, Arethusa has decreed that her ashes be scattered in a remote corner of Ireland, on the hills overlooking the sea. All Arethusa told her daughter Faye was that she grew up in a poor farming family and left Ireland, alone, to start a new life in America—but why? And who is the mysterious benefactor of a significant share of Arethusa's estate?

The Last Letter from Your Lover by Jojo Moyes. Following a serious accident, Jennifer wakes up in a hospital room unable to remember anything. Nothing is familiar to her, not even her husband. She finds a series of love letters addressed to her, but who was her lover? She hesitates to grasp at a remembered chance of happiness, even after learning the identity of the man for whom she was willing to risk so much. Forty years later, a journalist uncovers those love letters in the newspaper archives. She can't help but compare the letters with messages she receives from a married man with whom she is having an affair... causing her to re-examine the choices she has made.

Galveston by Suzanne Morris. It's a novel that sweeps you into a long-ago world of passion, love and splendor, an epic of the Texan town they called America's island of lost dreams. It is a saga of three beautiful, headstrong women: Claire, whose memory of lost love poisoned the lives of everyone who cared for her; Serena, who sacrificed her last hopes of happiness for the child she would never see; and Willa, liberated as only a Texas oil heiress could be... a woman who could have anything, except the secret of her own identity.

Into the Water by Paula Hawkins. A single mother turns up dead at the bottom of the river that runs through town. Earlier in the summer, a vulnerable teenage girl met the same fate. Left behind is a lonely 15-year-old girl. Parentless and friendless, she now finds herself in the care of her mother's sister, a fearful stranger who has been dragged back to the place she deliberately ran from—a place to which she vowed she'd never return.

(Continued on page 4)

TELL US WHAT YOU'RE READING FOR THE NEXT ISSUE!



WHAT ARE YOU READING?

(Continued from page 3)

The Paris Secret by Natasha Lester. A wardrobe of Dior gowns, a secret kept for 65 years, and the three women bound forever by war.

The Rose Code by Kate Quinn. The book is told in two different timelines. One starts in 1940 and follows three very different women who all begin work at Bletchley Park to break German military codes. Osla is trying to prove herself as more than a society girl. Mab comes from poverty and is determined to find a husband. And Beth, whose shyness conceals a brilliant mind perfect for codebreaking. The three eventually become friends as they navigate secrets, romance, betrayal and more during the war. The other timeline is set in 1947 right before the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Phillip. We learn that the three women are now estranged and that they have betrayed each other in some way (but we don't know how until later). However, a traitor worked with them at Bletchley Park and the three come back together to find out who it was and stop them. They just have to solve one last code...

—Siân Borne

The Boys in the Boat: The true story of nine Americans and their gold medal in the 1936 Olympics by Daniel James Brown. Crew members from the University of Washington compete, against all odds, in the Berlin pre-war Olympics. The boys in the crew are not from upper class families, but from farming, shipyard and logging backgrounds. How could these boys defeat the elite teams from Ivy League schools, much less the cream of Nazi Germany crew team? They did, and their story is truly gripping.

From time to time I find that I want to re-read a novel from my younger days, vaguely remembered, to refresh my memory. Ernest Hemingway's **A Farewell to Arms** is such a book, semi-autobiographical set in WWI Italy amid the carnage of war. The story of the American serving as an ambulance driver in the Italian Army and his love for an English nurse is timeless. Hemingway's theme is that in both love and war there is a loss and an end to everything. Enjoy the good and when it ends, as it will, be able to move on. The novel was first published in 1929 and was made into two films of the same title. It is said that this novel established Hemingway as the premier American writer of the 20th Century. If you haven't read this early work, it is definitely worth the time.

—Richard Ranc

Lately I've been reading non-fiction—about people I admire, but really know little about. It's proved to be very interesting with my admiration level zooming to new heights. I recommend:

Love Is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times by Episcopal Bishop Michael Curry. He first came to my attention when he presided so beautifully at the wedding of Prince Harry and Megan Markel, but this book reveals what a beautiful soul he is.

Every Day Is a Gift is a memoir by Tammy Duckworth who was a soldier (severely injured helicopter pilot), a political voice (two terms in the U.S. House of Representatives and elected to the Senate in 2016), and the proud mother of two daughters. She is the biracial daughter of an American father and Thai-Chinese mother whose childhood began with life/death challenges in war-torn Phnom Penh, serving in Iraq and then the US Congress. She lost her legs, but won the hearts and admiration of many.

Eunice: The Kennedy Who Changed the World is written by Eileen McNamara. Eunice Kennedy Shriver grew up in the shadow of the Kennedy brothers, but her great inner strength and tenacity saw her through great accomplishments in human rights including founding the Special Olympics.

Trust: America's Best Chance is Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg's pre-election thoughts on how essential trust is to the future of America's democracy. I was impressed with his quick wit and knowledge during an unrelenting hour-long interview with the World Affairs Council and decided his book was a must read. I wasn't disappointed.

—Carolyn Stephens

Still using the library's Libby app and downloading to my iPad (can make the font as large as I need!!). Recently finished these fairly new titles: **Dark Sky** by CJ Box featuring Joe Pickett; **The Sanatorium** by Sarah Pearse... what's not to like with dead bodies, snow and more snow, and liars at every turn; and **The Four Winds** by Kristin Hannah, an up-close look at the Great Depression and its effect on families. Enjoyed all three!

—Betsy McDaniel



TELL US WHAT YOU'RE READING FOR THE NEXT ISSUE!



POETRY BREAK:

I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH

shared by Penny McAdoo

It's been award-show season, and don't you just marvel at the ready acceptance speeches (and wonder about the ones tucked in the pockets or minds of the also-rans, never to be delivered)?

Lynn Powell, the author of "Acceptance Speech," teaches in Oberlin College's renowned creative writing program. Why not try making up your own acceptance speech, either academy-award style or following the example of Lynn Powell?

Acceptance Speech by Lynn Powell

The radio's replaying last night's winners
and the gratitude of the glamorous,
everyone thanking everybody for making everything
so possible, until I want to shush
the faucet, dry my hands, join in right here
at the cluttered podium of the sink, and thank

my mother for teaching me the true meaning of okra,
my children for putting back the growl in hunger,
my husband, *primo uomo* of dinner, for not
begrudging me this starring role –

without all of them, I know this soup
would not be here tonight.

And let me just add that I could not
have made it without the marrow bone, that blood-
brother to the broth, and the tomatoes
who opened up their hearts, and the self-effacing limas,
the blonde sorority of corn, the cayenne
and oregano who dashed in
in the nick of time.

Special thanks, as always, to the salt
you know who you are – and to the knife,
who revealed the ripe beneath the rind,
the clean truth underneath the dirty peel.

—I hope I've not forgotten anyone—
oh, yes, to the celery and the parsnip,
those bit players only there to swell the scene,
let me just say sometimes I know exactly how you feel.

But not tonight, not when it's all
coming to something and the heat is on and
I'm basking in another round
of blue applause.

The poem was published in Lynn Powell, *The Zones of Paradise*, University of Akron Press, 2003. Used with permission of the author.





I SIT AT MY COMPUTER WITH TEARS IN MY HEART AND EYES

by Elaine Klos

This letter is about my 15-year-old Chinese born granddaughter and the racist incident she experienced with her family on spring break. Both Larry and I were heartbroken. Silver Frogs may find it disturbing to realize the little ways that racism is all around us and think about what we should do to stop it from spreading and continuing.

Last night my son and his family came home from a spring break vacation with two of their three children. They stayed away from the college spring break areas and enjoyed themselves with the change of scenery, parasailing, sightseeing and relaxing. Their son is 17 years old, and their daughter is 15 years old; their eldest is in a college which had no spring break this year.

Their daughter is adopted; she is one of the abandoned female babies of China. She was found in front of a restaurant at one day old. It took almost two years of process before they received the best phone call of their lives. A little daughter of 10 months old was ready for them. Arriving with adoption agency personnel and 12 other families in China, they met their Molly and joined the other families in this wonderful life-changing occasion.

When they arrived home not only were we overwhelmed by our new granddaughter, but the entire group of family members and friends joined us in celebration.

Our pride and love for Molly equals the feelings we have for our other five grandchildren. The Yiddish word for these feelings is “kvell – to burst with joy and pride.”

Molly is bright, clever, beautiful, thoughtful and a true animal lover. What could possibly bring tears of sadness to grandparents’ hearts?

When our son and daughter-in-law called us last night to say they were home safe we could hear in their voices that all was not perfect.

They explained that they stopped at a familiar roadside family restaurant to have dinner on their trip. The place was not packed and when they were seated and as they looked at the menu, they saw

another family a few tables away. Nodding hello in a friendly manner they ordered their dinner. Molly noticed that the woman at the other table was staring at her and had an angry look on her face. The woman continued to glare at Molly during their entire meal; what was causing this look of disgust and anger at a teenager?

When they were leaving the restaurant, the woman was also in the doorway and slammed the door in Molly’s face uttering “Chinese Flu.”

Molly said that she has previously had snide remarks made to her, but she just considered them stupid. The gravity of this situation did not dawn on me until I read in the newspaper this morning about a local Asian gentleman walking with his wife when he was intentionally run down and killed by a car – a cowardly hit and run. This incident, Molly’s experience, and the recent murders in Georgia of Asian women hit me like a lead balloon.

What have we become as a country? When and why have we Americans watered the seeds of hate for those who think, look and believe differently? What could bring such hatred from a middle-aged woman in a restaurant toward a 15-year-old girl sitting with her ordinary-looking family?

If you have an answer, please share it with all of us Americans who do not understand.

More importantly, tell us what can be done to fix it. It is difficult to understand, but Molly now must worry both about discrimination because she is Asian, as well as because she is Jewish.

Proud Grandparents,

Elaine and Larry Klos
March 22, 2021





FORT WORTH HISTORY: LUNCH WITH REDDY KILOWATT by Dick Ramsey

In 1972, while Director of Communications at Texas Electric Service Company, I had the opportunity to meet an electric utility industry icon during a visit to New York City.

We arrived at Reddy's office a little before 1pm. The plan was to avoid the busy New York lunch hour. Reddy bolted from behind his desk to greet us and kissed my wife Bette's hand. She was shocked! Then, on our way to the restaurant, he took her arm and they walked as a couple. She got a little charge from this. At the table he sparked her with a toast: "Here's to our eyes, our eyes have met. Here's to our lips, they've not met yet!" An electrifying experience! Reddy was, in fact, the alter ego of his creator, Ash Collins, Sr, our energetic host and a very proper gentleman. At age 86 he was a "real live wire."

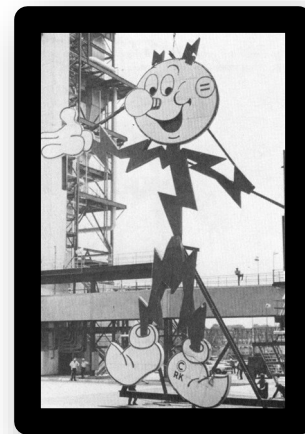
In 1926 (at age 40) Collins was the commercial manager for Alabama Power Company. At his desk working during a thunderstorm, he saw lightning strikes that seemed to form a human shape. He then sketched out the first Reddy Kilowatt, a



skinny awkward figure that, during the next several decades, became the most widely-used and popular trade symbol of his time. Reddy was licensed extensively in the US, South America, Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. His monthly wages were a fraction of one cent for each meter served by a licensed electric utility; in return, users received a volume of ready-to-print Reddy artwork to illustrate everything from recipes to recycling.

Reddy helped humanize an invisible service. The terms of his contracts required good taste in his use and for him to be "genial, likable, well-mannered and even-tempered." As a result, Reddy was in that rare group with Sara Lee—nobody didn't like him. At Texas Electric Service Company he was a spokesman, better-living-electrically salesman, lineman, safety instructor, patriot, money- and energy-saving tipster...you name it.

TESCO held one Guinness book Reddy record: the world's tallest. Erected in 1963 at the Handley power plant in east Fort Worth, he was 50 feet tall and 45 feet wide, with approximately 900 feet of lights to illuminate him. Reddy fans were jolted when he was removed in 2013.



At the Handley Power Plant, 2013

Over the years Reddy evolved, with the help of professional artists, from that first skinny stick figure to a much better looking electric servant. One of those artists was Walter Lantz, better known for Woody Woodpecker and Andy Panda. He helped create a film, *Reddy Made Magic*, that featured a song we called the Reddy Kilowatt jingle. Texas Electric was a sponsor of the 10pm news on Channel 5 for many years and for about 15 of those followed Harold Taft's weather with that jingle to put an exclamation point at the end. You might recall some of those words that Reddy sang: "I can cook your meals, turn the factory wheels...I wash and dry your clothes, play your radios...I'm on your TV set with every show you get...I'm a real live wire and I

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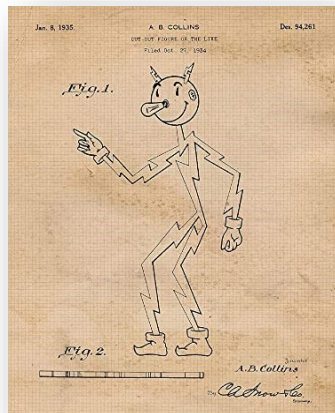


REDDY KILOWATT

(Continued from page 7)

never tire...." As Reddy's services grew we added another verse at the office: "I can mow your grass, I can shock your ____." Oops! Did we violate the good taste required in the contract?

It was inevitable. Reddy couldn't last forever, and his use declined starting in the 1970s with changes in corporate climate, energy costs and conservation. Sadly, there are now a couple of generations that never knew Reddy. At some point we dropped the jingle from the Sunday night news. The next morning Mrs. J. Lee Johnson (nee Ruth Carter, Amon's daughter) made a call, I'm pretty sure to TESCO president Beeman Fisher, demanding to know why there was no jingle. Her grandchildren stayed up until 10:30 every Sunday night to see Reddy. Well, they didn't have to stay up late anymore. Now, what if Amon had still been alive and he had made that call?



Want to learn more about Reddy Kilowatt? Check out [this piece](#) from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and see where he "hung out" downtown for years! [This story](#) from Reddy's birthplace in Alabama details more about his beginnings.



IN A RELATED STORY...

I've cooked this simple and easy-to-make recipe for many years and shared it with friends and family. I've taken it many times to a sick friend or neighbor or someone for comfort. They always rave and want the recipe.

If you've lived in Fort Worth long, you'll remember (before de-regulation) that our electric provider was Texas Electric...represented by Reddy Kilowatt. Our monthly bill always came with a page that had a calendar for the month as well as a recipe. This recipe was in a bill from 1977 and I've made it faithfully since then. It's good with a nice, crusty piece of bread or a corn bread muffin and a salad for a hearty meal.

—Carol Stanford



HOMEMADE CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP

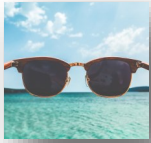
- 4 C **chicken stock**
- 2 C diced **cooked chicken**
- 1/2 C sliced **celery**
- 1/2 C sliced **green onion**
- 1/2 t **poultry seasoning**
- 1/2 t **salt**
- 1/4 t **pepper**
- 2 C **uncooked noodles** (medium is best)
- 2 T **flour**
- 2 C **milk**

Add chicken, celery, onion and seasoning to stock. Bring to a boil.

Add noodles. Cover and cook until noodles are almost tender (5 to 10 min).

Mix flour with small amount of milk until smooth. Add remaining milk. Stir into soup. Cook to desired thickness.

Makes 6 Servings.



MEMBERS SHARE: THE GREAT OUTDOORS

David Grebel spent part of the spring preparing for a cross country bicycle trip next year. In the photo he's riding a bike and carrying everything he'll need for three months on the road.



My hydrangea is coming back from the frozen arctic weather we experienced. Though it was covered, I didn't hold out much hope. This says to me that we should always have hope.

—Marsha West



[Cedar Hill State Park](#) is a mere 30 minutes from TCU, but so different from an urban existence that you will truly feel that you have been "away." The park is on the shore of Joe Pool Lake and has plenty of paths to walk, tables for picnicking, and the historic relics of a family farm to explore. While you are there you can pick up a senior pass which admits you to any Texas state park at a reduced fee. Head east on I-20, exit south at FM 1382/South Belt Line Rd, and you are soon there. Note: If you prefer a café patio to a picnic, nearby [Dick's Uptown Café](#) is a friendly place to try.

—Penny McAdoo



Another story of hope, as Monitia Turner's blooming plant comes back to life!



Bull in bluebonnets, spotted on a trip I took this spring to south central Texas.

—Polly Hooper



[Cleburne State Park](#)—about a half hour's drive from Fort Worth—is beautiful. The lake is a spring-fed creek dammed with a small spillway the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935. Recent improvements make it a really great destination.

—Barbara Crotty



MEMBERS SHARE: EATING "OUT"

Last fall, when COVID decided to stick around, we opened our own French bistro. I wrote up a menu for each get together. Menus were a hit as we had to stop eating out! Now as the weather warms up, we have been having "Peanuts on the Patio." We just litter the patio with the shells. It's such fun not to clean up, just sweep off later. Friends in Brooklyn sent this photo (near right) of sidewalk dining. We are tres chic!

—Lisa Winter



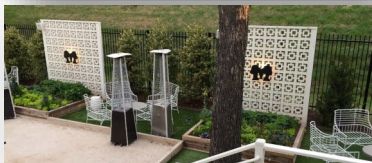
I have a recommendation for a great outdoor patio space for those ready to get out. **Wine Haus** on Park Place has new ownership this year, and they have set up a terrific patio space to enjoy some wine and charcuterie with friends. They have live jazz on Friday nights as well. We've really enjoyed the music, wine, and cheese boards there with friends and family. If weather is bad, the music moves indoors, which is also an awesome, eclectic space. Give it a try!

—Lisa Duhamell

Chef Tim Love's latest restaurant is like a breath of fresh air – literally!

Gemelle (Italian for twin girls and a tribute to Love's daughters) is located at 4400 White Settlement Road across the street from the protected banks of the Trinity River. It's open every day starting at 11am.

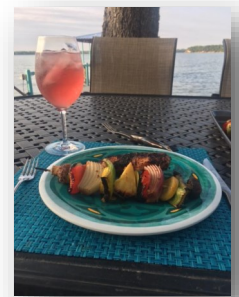
Love bills Gemelle as "very fun Euro-American" Italian fare that emphasizes freshness, and that couldn't be more evident with its mostly outdoor dining overlooking gardens growing vegetables and herbs. Even the upstairs semi-enclosed patio has flaps that can be opened to view the garden area on pleasant days and overhead heaters to provide warmth when the weather is cool. My first time there was on a cool day and I can attest to the effectiveness of the heaters.



The menu is pretty generous with Italian fare, but I haven't been able to get past the delicious pizza. There are also antipasti, ample salads, pastas, house dinners and Italian-style desserts. The cocktail menu – yes, it includes that wonderful peachy Bellini – stands side-by-side with beer, a great wine selection and mocktails.

With music on the weekends—local artists 12-3pm on Saturdays and a Sunday Gospel brunch from 11am to 2pm—Gemelle is more than a restaurant; it's more like a destination retreat where you can have lunch in a garden setting and dinner under the stars.

—Carolyn Stephens



Grilled chicken and veggie kebabs on our own patio with lake view. Hard to beat!

—Marsha West



MEMBERS SHARE: PIE, ANYONE?

In a new-to-Silver-Frogs course this spring, Mary Dulle has brought pie to the table — in all sorts of variations, from fruity to savory to just a little bit nutty! Class members are encouraged to bake their own pies and show them to the class (either via photo, if somehow the pie is all gone by class time, or live on the Zoom call). Sometimes those bakers can even be found EATING pie DURING CLASS! Here's one of the recipes and photos of some of the results.

FRESH TOMATO TART FROM MARY DULLE

Good as an appetizer, main course, or leftover for breakfast

- 1 pre-made crust or your favorite **pie crust**
- 1-2 T **pesto**, store-bought or homemade
- about 1 pound fresh **sliced tomatoes**, drained on paper towels if juicy
- 8 oz fresh **mozzarella cheese**
- 1 oz crumbled **goat cheese**
- ½ to 1 oz freshly grated or shredded **Parmesan cheese**

- 1) Fit pie crust dough into a 9" pie plate or square tart pan.
- 2) Prick the crust to allow air to escape, line with parchment and fill with pie weights; blind bake at 400°F for 10 minutes or until golden brown. Allow to thoroughly cool.
- 3) Spread pesto on the cooled crust.
- 4) On top of that, alternate fresh sliced tomatoes and mozzarella cheese in one layer.
- 5) Sprinkle the tomatoes and mozzarella with crumbled goat cheese, then sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.
- 6) Bake at 375°F until the cheese is melted, bubbly and slightly brown on top. You may want to hasten the browning under the broiler.
- 7) Cool slightly and serve warm, or cool completely and serve at room temperature, sprinkling with fresh herbs if you like.



baked by Carolyn Stephens



baked by Mary Dulle

DEPRESSION (WATER) PIE

FROM JEFF FRAZER



This pie was developed during the Great Depression in the 1930s. It is made with simple ingredients that would be available in every kitchen. Be sure to serve it cold!

- 1 deep-dish **pie shell**
- 1 1/2 C **water**
- 1 C **sugar**
- 3 T **flour**
- 2 t **vanilla**
- 5 T **butter**

- 1) Preheat oven to 400°F.
- 2) Pour water into a deep-dish pie shell.

- 3) In a bowl, mix together sugar and flour. Use a spoon or your hands to evenly sprinkle this mixture over the water in the pie shell. **DO NOT STIR.**
- 4) Pour vanilla over the sugar-flour mixture in the pie shell. **DO NOT STIR.**
- 5) Cut butter into 5 pieces (or even smaller pieces) and evenly place around in the pie shell.
- 6) Place a foil or silicon ring around the edges of the pie crust, so it will not burn in the oven.
- 7) Place pie on a cookie sheet and put into oven. After 30 minutes, reduce the temperature to 375° and bake for the final 30 minutes.
- 8) Remove pie from the oven and allow it to cool. The pie will still be "soupy," but it will firm up as it cools. After the pie has cooled, cover with foil and place in the refrigerator to chill for several hours. It will continue to firm up in the refrigerator.
- 9) Cut pie and serve cold.



MEMBERS SHARE: WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?

If you like British television, particularly mysteries, you will enjoy **BritBox Channel on Amazon Prime** (only \$6.99/month if you have Prime). One of the best series is ***Silent Witness*** about a team of forensic scientists who help detectives solve murders through the “silent witness” of the deceased body. Lots of science and the character development is exceptional, so that you get to see the crime solved but also the ongoing story of the characters. The writers are very creative with unexpected twists in the story. As evidence of the success of this series, there are 24 seasons with eight episodes in each season.

We are currently watching ***MI5*** (the equivalent of our CIA) on BritBox. Each episode is much like watching an abbreviated 007 movie. Personally I like them better than the 007 movies. There are 10 seasons with 10 episodes in each one and again, great character development with lots of surprises in the story. In both of these British detective stories, they often include current events of the time (early 2000s to the present) so you get a review of British history. MI5 often is involved with the CIA as well.

In addition, an extra benefit in these series is that you will learn a lot of British vocabulary such as “nicked” for stolen or “torch” for flashlight. Lots of hours of entertainment for \$6.99 per month.

—Jo Ann & Roland Haedge

The Bridge (FX/Hulu); mystery takes place on the border between El Paso and Juarez. ***The Resident*** (FX/Hulu); medical show addressing many of the real problems in healthcare today—but good drama like *Grey's Anatomy*. Finally, any Masterpiece on PBS.

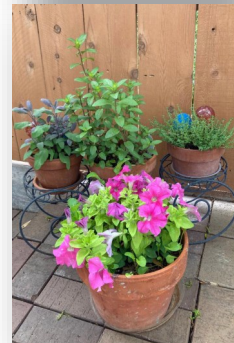
—Leslie Dell

You know how difficult it can be to find something on TV. We dropped cable and now have Prime and YouTubeTV. We found a show on Prime called ***New Tricks***, which is a British police procedural comedy-drama that follows the fictional Unsolved Crime and Open Case Squad (UCOS) of the Metropolitan police. The members of this group are retired and unusual former policemen. There are some familiar faces for those who have viewed *As Time Goes By* and *Broadchurch*. The show was created by Roy Mitchell and Nigel McCrery and premiered in 2003 with a 90-minute special, which later resulted in the show's first full series airing.

—Richard Ranc

Randy and I are watching the Netflix reality series ***Formula 1 Drive to Survive***. It is a very interesting behind-the-scenes look at the drama and excitement of this international racing series. We are big fans of Indy and NASCAR here in US but didn't really know much about Formula 1. The series has us thinking about attending the only US Formula 1 race, which is held at the COTA race course in Austin each year!

—Andi Smith



I don't have a back garden so have to rely on pots for my flowers and herbs. All of our bushes in the front had to be pulled out!!

—Siân Borne



There's nothing like a pretty place setting for brunch.

—Marsha West



MINDING YOUR MONEY: MUSING ON THE 2021 OUTLOOK

by Richard Ranc

Inflation and anticipated capital gain tax increases continue to weigh heavily on my outlook for a robust recovery. Taxation as a form of redistribution of wealth has been around for centuries. The hope is that the current thinking does not view it as a form of punishment.

Also of concern is the effect of individual stimulus payments dampening incentives to go back to work for many currently unemployed Americans. These developments will have to play out in an economy that seems to be recovering after more than a year of stagnation.

Many have now filed their 2020 tax returns to find an interesting surprise. Stimulus payments were based on the latest tax returns—most recent for many was the 2019 return. For many individuals over age 70, the requirement to withdraw from IRA and 401k accounts was suspended. By not exercising required minimum distributions some senior taxpayers found themselves in a lower tax bracket which qualified them for stimulus payments

based on their 2020 returns. These payments came in the form of refund or credit to 2021 taxes.

For Americans who own small businesses and those planning for generational transfers of wealth at death, take heed. The administration is floating repeal of the so-called stepped-up basis as a quick means of paying for the “infrastructure investments.” Currently, upon death, the value of assets is based on the date of death and the recipients value is now the current value. Under consideration is regulation using the original cost of the asset, and on the date of death or transfer, the gain will be considered taxable as a capital gain. Implications for business owners and individuals will certainly impact estate- and business-succession planning. This is an area where it would be wise to consult your accountant and/or financial advisor.

Malcolm Forbes once said, “It’s never a good deal when only one party thinks it is.”



IT'S A GREAT YEAR FOR IRISES

Irises from the gardens of Carolyn Stephens (1,2), Richard & Nancy Ranc (3), and Sharon Harrelson (4,5,6,7).





IT'S SPRING!



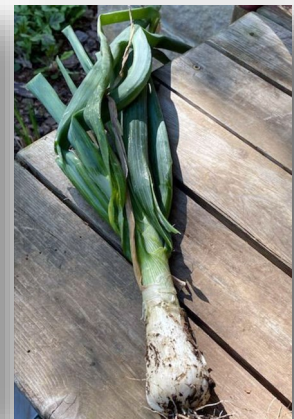
Our Knockout Roses were really knockouts this year.
—Charlotte Ray



This is a picture from our front porch at Twisted Cedar Ranch in Palo Pinto county.
—Andi Smith



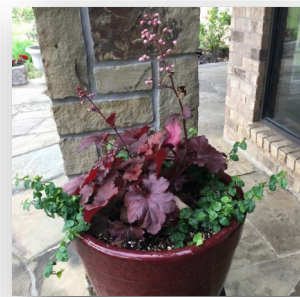
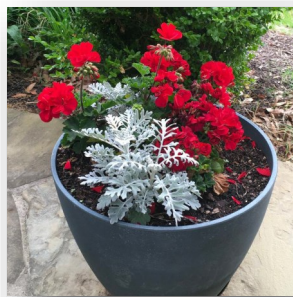
My peonies are looking fabulous right now. The plant has been in the ground for three seasons, and it keeps looking better and better. It's in a raised bed with daylilies and a lavender.
—Grace Nowlin



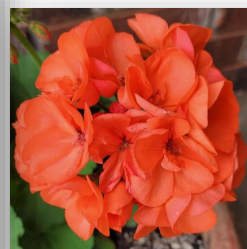
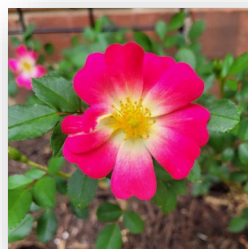
Celebrate spring with these beauties from Nancy & Richard Ranc's garden, including roses, heuchera, clematis, onion and arugula.



From Susan Turner's backyard oasis—it's clear that she loves flowers! She's got a mixture of annuals including pentas and marigolds; perennial phlox; clematis; mock orange; allium; and petunias gone WILD.



Carolyn Stephens shared these pretty pots from her patio.



Drift rose (winter survivor!), busy backyard pet, and a bright new geranium.

—Sharon Harrelson



LET'S TALK WEATHER: IT STRUCK WITHOUT WARNING!

by [Buddy McIntyre](#)

It's spring! Although severe weather can occur at any time of the year, spring is the most likely time for severe weather in the Fort Worth/Dallas area.

While surveying tornado-ravaged areas and visiting with survivors, the most common refrain heard is "it struck without warning!" Once in a while that may be true. But most of the time there were tornado warnings issued with adequate time for residents to take cover prior to the event.

When many survivors say "it struck without warning," what they really mean is that they did not receive the warning which was issued. To protect you and your family, it is important to be alert for warnings and have a means to receive them. Prior to the most significant events, National Weather Service meteorologists often start communicating the threat of severe weather days in advance.

Last year there were 1,075 tornadoes in the US resulting in 76 fatalities. And don't forget that lightning, hail and high winds from thunderstorms can also cause injuries and fatalities.

Tornadoes are rated on the Enhanced-Fujita Scale from EF0 to EF5, with the EF5 tornadoes being the strongest. Weaker tornadoes occur considerably more often than the stronger tornadoes, but most tornado fatalities occur with the stronger tornadoes.

In 2020 there were 30 tornado events resulting in EF3 - EF5 tornadoes. Ninety-five percent of those tornadoes had warnings issued prior to the beginning of the tornado, with the warnings being issued an average of 18.2 minutes before the start of the event.

Tornadoes are low-probability, but high-impact events. It is unlikely that you will ever experience a tornado. However, you need to be ready just in case. The impact on lives can be devastating.

I like to think that thunder during the spring is Mother Nature's way of alerting you that something bad could happen. Know your weather forecast. Know whether or not severe weather is in the forecast. Have a way to receive warnings, even at night when you are asleep. Plan ahead, developing a plan you can implement if severe weather does occur. For more information on tornado safety go to <https://www.weather.gov/safety/tornado-prepare> or contact me at buddy.mcintyre@att.net.

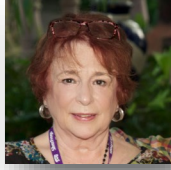


*April 10, 1979 Seymour, TX tornado. This tornado preceded the one which struck Wichita Falls, killing 42 people and injuring more than 1,800.
Photo Credit: National Severe Storms Laboratory*

**"The storm starts when the drops start dropping;
When the drops stop dropping then the storm starts stopping."**

— Dr. Seuss

CONTRIBUTORS



SHARI BARNES (*Reading List*) 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.



SHARON HARRELSON (*Editor*) 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 enjoys cooking/baking, gardening, games and being a band mom to twin high-schoolers.



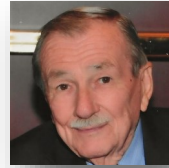
ELAINE KLOS (*Societal Issues*) has been in Fort Worth since 1972. An avid reader, she is a passionate advocate for children, women, and poverty and education issues (first professionally; now as a volunteer). She and husband Larry are charter members of Silver Frogs with two rescue dogs, Josie and Jasmine.



For **PENNY MCADOO** (*Poetry Break*), Silver Frogs is the perfect combination of learning and friends. Penny has a 54-year career as an educator at every level from preschool to graduate school in urban, rural and suburban settings. Penny is a reader, a quilter, a traveler, and in these times, an observer of clouds.



BUDDY MCINTYRE (*Weather*) 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.



DICK RAMSEY (*Reddy Kilowatt*) is a graduate of TCU where he served as student-body president. An avid gardener, golfer and sports fan, he's now an avid Silver Frog.



RICHARD RANC (*Financial*) 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.

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