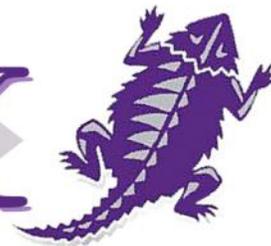


SILVER STREAK

CONNECTING AND INFORMING TCU'S SILVER FROGS



VOLUME 6, ISSUE 4
DECEMBER 2021
CELEBRATE

That's a Wrap!



We did it, Silver Frogs! We got back together! Whether it was in our Secret-Wible classroom (oh, how we missed you, classroom!) in our masks, or at SIG gatherings, or attending fantastic special events, we actually saw each other, in person. Yes, we had to get out of our pajamas, comb our hair and find our name badges, but what a small price to pay!

For some of us, we had only met our Silver Frog friends during Zoom sessions—but we instantly knew each other's faces. For others, this meant finally seeing old friends again. Either way, this fall semester has been like emerging from a cocoon and stretching our wings in the sun. And now we look forward to more steps toward "where we were before" as we plan for Spring 2022.

Will we have large gatherings? An in-person Meet & Greet? Our end-of-semester celebration? More wonderful events? Additional opportunities for unique learning experiences? Yes! Your Advisory Board and committee chairs are busily planning for a return to these activities and more (subject to TCU's guidelines) and we can't wait.

Are you in? 

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Spring Membership Registration Results

During the week of December 13 members were able to renew their memberships, and folks on the waitlist were able to join, for the Spring 2022 semester. In addition, the doors opened for the general public to snag a spot on the last day. Here's the result:

489 (of 600) memberships have been claimed as of 5pm on December 16

That means **there is still room for your 50+ friends and family members** who have been wanting to join our organization—whether they're into lifelong learning or social activities (or both), this is the place to be!

If you'd like a preview of class offerings for the spring, [the catalog is here](#). Course and lecture requests will be accepted in the system January 11-17, with allocation/notification happening shortly afterwards. Spring members will see an email reminder with more details in early January.

From Your Curriculum Committee by Randy Smith

COURSE SELECTION

Silver Frogs often ask why they don't get more of the classes they request? The answer is simple: demand versus supply! More Silver Frogs want seats in many classes than there are seats available.

Of the 101 classes we offered this fall, 67 (66%) had a waiting list. Several classes had more than 24—that's another full classroom—on the waiting list. For example, 113 members requested Don Jackson's *Fractious Times: Understanding Freedom of Expression in the 21st Century* course; 24 got a seat.

Other classes with 24 or more on the wait list:

- ◆ *The Making of America: Migrations and Immigrations from 1800-1960*
- ◆ *Religious News in America 2020-2021*
- ◆ *Who was Quanah Parker? The Comanches in the Years After the Civil War*
- ◆ *What They Didn't Tell You About the Civil War*
- ◆ *The Enduring Legacy of Walter Cronkite*
- ◆ *Black Holes: The Weirdest Objects in the Universe*

◆ *Listen to the Helpers: Freedom of Expression in Our Constitutional History*

◆ *The Professional Organizer's Guide to Organizing All the Photos & Paperwork in Your Life*

A couple of instructors were able to offer a second session to accommodate many on the waitlist (thank you!), but that is not possible for all classes. There was a total of 906 unfulfilled requests on the waitlists. The short answer is, if members are competing with an average of 50 other Frogs for the same classes, many will be disappointed.

Of course, after the initial allocation period, members may enroll in the many classes that still have seats available. The total seats available in all classes was 2765 with 2365 filled. Overall, there were 400 unfilled openings.

ATTENDANCE ISSUE

The Curriculum Committee and Extended Ed staff have tracked class attendance since the program began in the spring of 2015. During that time, we have usually had a couple of no-shows for each class meeting; however, this semester the no-shows have become a significant issue. Where we've historically had three to four no-shows for a class of 30 seats, this semester we are having 25-30% empty seats for a lecture or the first class of four-session courses. We all have things pop up that keep us from attending an occasional class; however, this situation seems to have gotten out of

The following data is for campus classes only in Sessions I & II. Zoom and Session III class data are not yet available.

- ◆ For all 22 four-session courses; 453 total seats; 59 (13%) never attended any of the 4 class periods.
- ◆ For the 15 four-session courses with a waitlist; 338 total seats; 34 (10%) never attended any of the 4 class periods.
- ◆ For all 33 lectures: 646 seats; 192 (30%) did not attend class.
- ◆ For the 12 lectures with a waitlist; 83 (29%) did not attend.

Examples for some of our most requested classes:

- ◆ Four of 24 (17%) did not attend even one session of Don Jackson's *Listen to the Helpers: Freedom of Expression in Our Constitutional History*.
- ◆ Five of 24 (20%) never attended Joe Cecere's four-week *Greek and Roman Mythology in the Visual Arts*.
- ◆ Thirteen of 24 (54%!) of Judy Furche's *Marfa, Ft. Davis, Alpine, Marathon and Big Bend—Why Go?* skipped class.

(Continued on page 3)

We Love Our Volunteer Instructors!

Thank you to these Fall 2021 Silver Frogs instructors — whether it was your first class or your tenth, whether you taught in person or using Zoom (or both!), we appreciate your enthusiasm, generosity and expertise...and we look forward to seeing many of you again in the spring.

Lee Ancona
Randi Anderson
Anne Bailey
Shari Barnes
Crystal Barth
Sian Borne
Donna Burnette
Joe Cecere
Tom Clark
Sharon Cooper
Barbara Crotty
Jack Crowder
Jerry Davis
Virginia Dias
Mary Dulle
Maynard Dyson

Michael Erwine
Dianne Fisher
Hank Fitzhugh
Andrew Fort
Robert Frey
Judy Furche
Katherine Godby
Jim Godfrey
Ramon Grado
David Grebel
Sharon Harrelson
Polly Hooper
Boglarka Huddleston
Donald Jackson
Elizabeth Jones
Karen Kaigler-Walker

Kent Knudson
Wayne Ludwig
Jeremy Main
Lynn Main
Dina Malki
Buddy McIntyre
Nancy McVean
Kerri Menchaca
Darren Middleton
Thomas Morton
Roger Norman
Jim Parr
Jane Pawagan
Colin Plante
Ken Seeling
Richard Selcer

Ann Sheets
Randy Smith
Elaine Stoltz
Jim Stripling
Cathy Sunkel
Angela Tacco
Joseph Tarride
Susan Turner
Robert Vartabedian
Diane Weaver
Tim Wendt
Jeffrey Williamson
Richard Wolf
Lew Woodard



(Attendance, continued from page 2)

Why is this important? There are two really big reasons. The first is that our instructors—who so willingly give of their time and expertise—are talking to a lot of unnecessarily empty seats. They receive rosters for each class, and often tailor their planned activities according to the number of students who have registered. Especially in classes that are not “sold out,” having five people who just don’t show up can really alter the class dynamic.

We have always encouraged members to call the office and cancel their registration when they determine they can’t make it to a class; when folks don’t do this, that seat goes to waste and members who want the class are denied that opportunity. Please, as soon as you know you cannot make it to a class, call the office and allow someone else the opportunity to attend that class. It takes time to contact folks on the waitlist, give them a reasonable time to respond, then move to the next person, if necessary, so early notification would be appreciated.

Email reminders are sent prior to the start of each class. For Zoom sessions, you receive the link and any handouts via email. If you are not seeing TCU’s messages, please first check your spam or junk folders, and then notify Extended Ed. If you use an electronic calendar, setting a reminder there when you enter your class dates and times will provide extra insurance that you won’t forget what you have scheduled!

Silver Frogs should not, under any circumstance, take this as an invitation to just show up to a class they are not registered for in the hope of taking an empty seat. The Advisory Board and the TCU staff have clearly stated, since the beginning of the program, unregistered people will not be admitted, regardless of how many empty seats are available. Also, instructors are not permitted to allow unregistered people into their classes. If you are not registered—please don’t come!



We'll Miss You, Sheri



Sheri Familiari, you have been a mainstay of the Silver Frogs experience from our beginning.

You have patiently answered our many questions, kept us organized, and rescued us when technical difficulties arose—and you always did it with a smile. Thank you!

As you move to your next adventure, we send our heartfelt appreciation and best wishes. We will miss you!

—Your Silver Frogs Friends

Cheers!

A big thanks to Susan Turner for her lectures on the American Flag and on Human Trafficking. Great job.

—Roger Norman

Thank you to everyone on the planning committee who works so hard to put together such excellent class offerings every year. As an instructor, I appreciate the opportunity to teach, and I love hearing all the positive feedback from my students about all the different classes they attend.

—Boglarka Huddleston

History classes have always been popular among Silver Frogs. I think they're even more interesting when they involve the history of Fort Worth, especially when the instructor has a connection to the subject. Thank you to Jim Stripling for presenting such an interesting lecture *The 1920-1925 Fort Worth Panthers: A Minor League Dynasty*. Baseball plus old Fort Worth made a great combination!

—Sharon Harrelson

Shining Brightly Through TCU's Silver Frogs

Sometimes I think about the simple things we might do to make our lives better.

Yet, it is much too easy to let matters slide by effortlessly.

A commitment to Lifetime Learning offers a shining example of a different approach:

When we no longer "have to" learn,

When we no longer "need to worry" about grades,

What – then – becomes important?

We can become seekers!

Seekers for **What?**

For understanding –

For compassion –

For learning from **Whence**, we have come –

For hearing ideas about our future –

For thinking about things that might have been –

Or **Yet** might be –

For trying to make things a bit better --

All these Silver Frog windows are open, and the light of learning shines brightly!

— by Donald Jackson

What the Dickens? by Susan Turner

It's been proven yet again—TCU Silver Frogs know how to let loose, laugh a LOT and thoroughly enjoy one another's company.

On Sunday afternoon, December 5, a delightful group of Silver Frogs enjoyed ***Scrooge in Rouge*** at [Stage West Theatre](#). While not knowing what to expect from the show, we found ourselves laughing our way through a lot of really bad puns, bawdy malapropisms (go ahead - look that one up!), naughty double-entendres and fast-paced, witty songs. Ill-fitting costumes and intentionally missed cues plus a missing Tiny Tim added to the craziness of the performance. This raucous rendition of ***A Christmas Carol*** loosened the group up (understatement) to the point that we were a

"punny," bawdy, witty and terribly clever bunch of diners at [Macaluso's Italian Restaurant](#) afterwards.

A planned "quick bite to eat" found us still enjoying one another's company two-plus hours after arrival. The fare at Macaluso's was divine, but the company of our SF friends (new and old) was even better.

There's nothing like a Silver Frogs outing to make new friends, deepen existing friendships and well...to have a whole lot of FUN! Be on the lookout for news about the next outing and grab your spot. You'll be SO glad that you did!

I love my SF friends! 



Bah, humbug!

God bless us, every one!

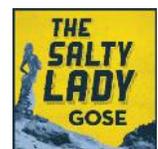
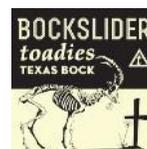


Hoppy Holidays



[Martin House Brewing Company](#) was the destination on December 8 for a group of fun-loving Silver Frogs, along with Julie Lovett and Trisha Obregon from Extended Ed.

While the event was all about having a good time, it was also a learning experience as attendees had a tour of the facility and learned about the brewing process. Then it was all about the tasting! Silver Frogs sampled several beers and had delicious snacks to accompany them.



Special Interest Groups Specialize in Fun

Photography SIG on Safari

The Photography Special Interest Group conducted their December activity at Randy & Andi Smith's ranch in Palo Pinto County. Six members gathered at the ranch the afternoon of December 9 to attempt photographing the Mouflon rams which live on the property. We were mostly successful. Randy had discovered we could get closer, without frightening the animals, from a vehicle rather than being on foot, so he towed the crew on a trailer behind his tractor—like a real safari guide! We were able to circle the rams for nearly 30 minutes before they tired of our intrusion and headed into the woods. After the rams abandoned us, we trekked into the woods to explore the large rock formations and try some portraits in the soft woodland light. We also picked among the many fossils found along the trail.

The purpose of this SIG is to provide a social and instructive forum for Silver Frog members to learn more about photography, the operation of their equipment, and share their artistic work with others. A goal is to improve everyone's photographic skills and possibly capture photos of Silver Frog activities for the *Silver Streak* newsletter. The group plans to conduct at least one activity a month, with a goal of trying different types of photography in a variety of interesting settings around the DFW area.

Nearly all SIG members are inexperienced photographers so this was an opportunity to learn about the manual functions on their cameras, with help from the couple of more experienced members and have fun meeting new folks and going interesting places. While there aren't any specific camera equipment requirements, we are focusing on learning to use digital SLR and mirrorless cameras in manual mode. There are still openings in the SIG and any Silver Frog interested in participating is welcome. Please contact Randy Smith (smithrc@flash.net) for details.

—Randy Smith



Top: Andi & Randy Smith;
Clay Geran; Mouflon ram.

Bottom: Don & Donella Ware;
Tom Clark; Don & Donella
Ware, Mike Hooper, Randy
Smith, Clay Geran (photo by
Tom Clark)



SIGs continue on page 8

Special Interest Groups *continued from page 7*

The Artful Frogs Celebrate Five Years

By the time we reach the Silver Frog stage in our lives, we know what we want, we know what we like, and we know what we still want to learn. So...in Spring 2016, with a sparkle in her eye and a lifelong passion for art, founder Ann Heinz initiated the special interest group, Art of Fort Worth.

As we celebrate our fifth anniversary, the planning committee has offered over 90 programs...with artists, collectors, gallery owners, and our beloved Kimbell, Modern, and Amon Carter museums. Some of the best-loved programs include Hefestus foundry; a morning with Morris Matson and his incredible Fort Worth Circle collection; and the amazing corporate collections of Burlington Northern, Acme Brick, and Worthington National Bank. We've had behind-the-scenes tours of multiple aspects of curation, collection, and restoration by our museums' extraordinary staffs.

Tours and programs are followed by casual lunches that create the opportunity to build personal relationships and share ideas and opinions about the experience. It's little wonder the Art of Fort Worth SIG has a waiting list.

As Shakespeare said, "With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come." The art SIG keeps Frog relationships with our fabulous art community thriving!

*—Colleen Blair for the Art of Fort Worth SIG
Photos by Dave Rodjak*



The artful frogs gather around a KAWS sculpture at the Modern Art Museum.



The steering committee for Art of Fort Worth working hard at a member's home. L to R: Colleen Blair, Penny McAadoo, Linda Rodjak, and Lee Wimp.



A docent conducts a fascinating tour focused on the art of the Japanese garden.



Silver Frogs gather onstage as we learn about the amazing art and architecture of Bass Hall.



Artful frogs visit at lunch after enjoying a tour of the art collection at Burlington Northern railroad.

SIGs continue on page 9

Special Interest Groups *continued from page 8*

Women & Wine SIGs Raise a Glass

The Women & Wine SIGs met in November at the homes of Jane Swanson (November 16) and Gail Stephens (November 18) for their final get-togethers of the semester. We always have such a good time together and this was no exception!

—*Siân Borne*



Penny Dickerson, Sarah Cowan, Susan Turner, Kay Edmonson and Lori Whitnell



Adrienne Rosen, Judy Coolidge, Susan Whittaker, Gail Roberts, Chris Shahan, Claudia Blalock, Gail Stephens, Andi Smith, Sue Smith, Lisa Duhamell, Sharon Ward and Cathy Sunkel



Polly Hooper, Sarah Cowan, Connie Ivy-Swanson, Jane Swanson, Cynthia Hooper and Cynthia Redden.



Sue Smith, Andi Smith, Susan Whittaker, Chris Shahan (distant), Lisa Duhamell and Cathy Sunkel.



Katie Bray, Sheila Carson and Linda Mitchell



Jane Swanson and Connie Ivy-Swanson



Claudia Blalock, Gail Stephens, Sue Smith and Andi Smith.

SIGs continue on page 10

Special Interest Groups *continued from page 9*

Bake Anything Better Finally Meets in Person

After spending nearly a year baking together via Zoom, members of the Bake Anything Better SIG met face-to-face for the first time on December 9 at the home of Mary Dulle. While we usually have a demonstration by one of our members and learn a new recipe, for this meeting we all baked ahead of time so that we could come together for a cookie exchange. And what a beautiful array of delicious treats!

Among other things, we discussed our recipes and shared tips for making them. Then we got to sample as many as we wanted, and collect a boxful to carry home. Mary put together a packet of the recipes for us.

— Sharon Harrelson



Above: The cookies!

Left: Carolyn Stephens, Colleen Petosa, Sherri Glaser, Mary Dulle, Marybeth Guenther, Laurie Mikitka, Lori Whitnell, Cathy Sunkel and Sharon Harrelson

Below: Kit Van Nostrand, Lori Whitnell, Laurie Mikitka, Cathy Sunkel, Carolyn Stephens, Sharon Harrelson, Marjorie Deutsch, and Sherri Glaser



[Click here](#) to see the full descriptions of all of our Special Interest Groups on the Silver Frogs website.

If you don't see YOUR special interest represented there, you are welcome to lead your own SIG for the spring semester! [Simply send in a proposal.](#)

When your SIG meets, be sure to take a few pictures, then [send them to Silver Streak](#) to be featured.



Silver Streak Staff



Siân Borne (SIGs) 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, serves as Advisory Board President, is the SIG Chair, and is active in several Silver Frogs committees.



Mary Dulle joined Silver Frogs in 2020 when the pandemic abruptly halted her travels and classes went virtual. She retired after a 25-year career in public relations and now enjoys gardening, reading, cooking, baking and playing with her cat, Sparky.



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) 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-school seniors.



Richard Ranc came to Silver Frogs following an affiliation with Senior University in Georgetown. He's a retired VP of Investments at Wachovia Securities. He is a Silver Frogs instructor who serves on the Curriculum Committee in addition to writing for Silver Streak.



Ann Shelton (Spotlight) 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.



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.



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[Visit the Silver Frogs website](#)

THANK YOU, CONTRIBUTORS

All contributions to the Silver Streak (both the newsletter and magazine) are very much appreciated. Thanks to everyone who shared your experiences and advice with our readers. This time we offered an extra incentive with our special prize drawing for a freshly-baked Mary Dulle pie.

And the winner is...

Judy Clinkscales

CONGRATULATIONS!

(Mary will contact you about your prize.)

Spring 2022 Dates to Remember

December 22–January 4

TCU Closed

January 11-17

Course & Lecture Request Period

January 18

Course & Lecture Allocation

January 20

Course & Lecture Confirmations sent

January 21

Open Registration for Empty Seats

February 2 3:00-4:30pm

In-Person Meet & Greet

February 7–March 4

Session I

March 7–11

TCU Spring Break

March 8–April 8

Session II

April 11-15

Holiday Break

April 18–May 13

Session III