

# SILVER STREAK

CONNECTING AND INFORMING TCU'S SILVER FROGS

## Welcome to a New Semester

by Nancy Box, 2018-19 Silver Frogs Advisory Board President

I am pleased to welcome our 500 members to the Fall 2018 TCU Silver Frogs Lifelong Learning Institute. This marks our eighth semester and we are thrilled with the growth, development and the enthusiasm of our members. This program owes its success to the active volunteers serving on all our committees that strive to provide unique and varied experiences and learning opportunities.

While the growth of our program is exciting and welcomed, it has also resulted in the expected "growing pains" that accompany our increased enrollment. We are very aware that our course and lecture registration experience has not always been user-friendly as several hundred members strive to go online to register at the same time. I hear from friends and know personally how we all have our index fingers poised to hit a button to choose a first course or lecture at exactly 9:00 a.m. on registration day. We should not be that surprised that the system has some drawbacks and that it is slow or freezes up at times. Even Amazon has had its problems, as proven by its crashing on Black Friday.

The Advisory Board met on August 10 and discussed this issue at length. The Board voted to change to a staggered registration with three distinct groups, with each having a

separate registration window. Members will be assigned randomly to a group, and each group will have an equal allotment of seats for all courses and lectures. We believe that this will give all members an equitable opportunity to get into a desired course or lecture and significantly reduce the load on the system.

There are many details that still need to be discussed and ironed out prior to spring registration. If you are interested in helping with this project, please consider [contacting me](#).

Another issue discussed was the significant increase in members who have not registered and are attempting to "walk in" to courses and lectures that they deem interesting. Other members who have not registered online are showing up for Special Events. One recent example is when twenty-five unregistered members presented themselves at Joe T. Garcia's for the end-of-semester celebration. We do not want to embarrass a member, but please understand that individuals who are not registered for a course or an event will not be admitted.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions and invite any member to come to an Advisory Board meeting. Let me know if you have an issue to discuss and I will be happy to add you to the agenda. The Board meets on the second Friday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the classroom.

I hope that all members, both new and returning, have a great fall Silver Frog experience.



Nancy Box

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## Fall Meet & Greet (& Eat): Tuesday, August 28

All members, please join us on Tuesday, August 28 at 10:00 a.m. in the Brown-Lupton University Union (BLUU), 2901 Stadium Drive, for the first official Silver Frogs event of the fall semester!

The Meet & Greet is a great opportunity to:

- Enjoy coffee and pastries with your fellow students
- Visit with members, instructors, and Extended Ed staff
- Hear a short program to learn all about Silver Frogs — how it got started, what’s happening now, and where we are headed
- Discover more ways you can participate by chatting with committee chairs, Advisory Board members, and SIG contacts before and after the program
- Proudly wear your Silver Frogs name badge — and this is the perfect event for your purple shirt!
- Receive your course packet (nametag, transcript, parking hangtag, campus map, etc.)

This event is not just for our newest Silver Frogs! It’s helpful for everyone.

Can’t make the Meet & Greet? No worries — your packet will be mailed to you, so you will have all the information you need when school starts. 

## Committees Offer Ways to Get Involved

**The success of Silver Frogs depends on the dedication and teamwork of our volunteer committees. Your help and involvement is greatly appreciated and needed. To offer your skills, click on the chairperson’s name below to send an email OR visit with them at the Meet & Greet!**

“No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.”

—Max Lucado

**Classroom Hosts:** Work with instructors to ensure they have what they need to teach; provide classroom support; greet participants. *Co-Chairs:* [Nancy Caudill](#) and [Betsy McDaniel](#)

**Curriculum:** Solicit course and lecture proposals, determine what will be offered and when; create printed/online schedule; (basic computer skills helpful). *Chair:* [Randy Smith](#)

**Luncheon Lectures:** Identify TCU and community speakers for high-profile luncheons; assist with planning and implementation. *Chair:* [Ann Shelton](#)

**Newsletter:** The Silver Frogs’ newsletter, *Silver Streak*, informs and connects our members throughout the school year. Join the committee or sign up to be a one-time, occasional, or regular contributor. *Chair:* [Sharon Harrelson](#)

**Scheduling:** Develop and maintain an integrated master schedule of the Silver Frog activities to enable us to plan and to track our progress; familiarity with project scheduling is a plus! *Chair:* [Ken Bowers](#)

**Special Events:** Plan activities for entire membership each semester (Meet & Greet, End-of-Semester Party) as well as extra special events (such as field trips to Planetarium, Cowgirl Museum, George W. Bush Presidential Center, etc.). *Chair:* [Lisa Winter](#)

**Special Interest Groups (SIGs)** — see description on page 3. *Chair:* [Sian Borne](#)



## What's Your Special Interest?

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are led by Silver Frog members to bring together members who share a common interest. Groups meet on a regular schedule at various locations, according to what the group members decide.

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

Interest in this group was forged in the Spring 2018 American Sign Language class taught by Dianne Fisher. Sign language will be important for seniors to know as they and their parents age. It is also a way to communicate with younger grandchildren who are sometimes taught sign language as a form of communication before they can talk. The group welcomes all skill levels. Come have fun while learning a new skill.

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

Discover Ft. Worth's unique and fascinating art scene. View the art in our area by visiting galleries, studios, special events and museums with fellow Silver Frogs. Tours are led by docents, artists and gallery owners and generally occur every two weeks. Attendees may decide to get together after a tour to discuss art and visit with new friends.

### Classic Canasta Contact: [Virginia Dias](#)

This group will focus on playing Classic Canasta which provides many hours of fun and the opportunity to make new friends. This game is played with two or more partners making it easy and faster to play and players have fun playing and trying various strategies.

### Discussion of Current Societal Issues

Contacts: [Larry and Elaine Klos](#)

This group explores societal issues chosen by the members. The goal is to provide a welcoming atmosphere where all points of view can be presented and respectfully heard. The group will have succeeded when members can "agree to disagree" with respect to others' viewpoints.

### Fort Worth Square Dancing

Contacts: [Penney and Russell Andrew](#)

Square dancing is a way to have fun, make friends, and it's a great form of mental and physical exercise. Members of this group will be advised on how they can participate in this rewarding activity. Couples and individuals are all welcome.

### German Conversation Contact: [Helga Gerlinger](#)

Members of this group enjoy having the opportunity to get together to enhance their working knowledge of German, brush up on grammar, add new vocabulary and join in discussions of current events and other topics of interest.

### Men's Breakfast Group

Contacts: [Gary Harrell and Jim Box](#)

A men's monthly breakfast group meeting with the goal of fostering friendships, networking and exploring common interests in a relaxed atmosphere. Social and/or service opportunities could arise out of any shared interests.

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

This group hopes to introduce fly fishing to interested beginners and offer meetings with experienced fly fishers. The group will explore local waters, learn more about casting, etymology, reading water, knots, lines, leaders and tippets, rods, reels, fly tying and fly selection. They plan to have regular meetings and field trips to local fishing holes within a 75-mile radius of Ft. Worth.

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

This group hopes to provide an opportunity for networking with other Silver Frog women who enjoy wine, plus possibly arranging for more formal tastings/trips at local wineries around the area.

Don't these sound like fun? For more information, or to propose a new Special Interest Group, [visit the Silver Frogs website](#) or email the contact (just click on the name) for any group that intrigues you! You can also meet them and join at the August 28 Meet & Greet.



## Your Advisory Board

The Silver Frogs Advisory Board consists of 9 voting members, plus the past president, all committee chairs and our TCU Liaison, Julie Lovett. Voting members serve a two-year term and are elected at the end of each spring semester for the following school year. The Board meets monthly on the second Friday, at 10:00 a.m. in the Secrest-Wible classroom. Meetings are open to any Silver Frog who wishes to attend.

Your current Advisory Board includes: **Nancy Box** (President), **Sharon Harrelson** (Vice President), **Linda Tindall** (Secretary), **Nancy Caudill**, **Fluffy Jones**, **Rick Price**, **Richard Ranc**, **Nancy Rowe**, and **Lisa Winter**.

Board members are always happy to hear your feedback about, and suggestions for, the Silver Frogs program. 

## The Southern Regional Conference for Learning in Retirement

by Nancy Box



Lisa Winter, Linda Tindall, Julie Lovett, and Nancy Box

A group of Advisory Board members had the pleasure of attending the Southern Regional Conference held August 1-3 in Huntsville, Alabama. Lisa Winter, Lynda Tindall, Julie Lovett and I had the opportunity to meet people from other programs and share information on how our individual programs operate.

We attended sessions related to topics such as: curriculum development and instructor support, encouraging and expanding volunteer opportunities, building travel programs for different length excursions, and scheduling activities and events outside the classroom.

One of the highlights of the trip was attending the reception, sponsored by The University of Alabama in Huntsville, held one evening at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.

We hope to apply some of our new knowledge and insights toward helping our program expand and improve. 

## Luncheon Lecture: Near Southside Redevelopment Update

by Ann Shelton

Near Southside, Inc. (NSI) President Mike Brennan is our speaker for the first Luncheon Lecture this fall! Mr. Brennan has been with NSI since 2006, and shortly after joining NSI, he led the effort to create an urban, form-based development code for the Near Southside, resulting in the largest city-initiated rezoning in Fort Worth's history.

Join us as Mr. Brennan shares his insights about the vision and redevelopment of the burgeoning Near Southside. Enjoy a delicious lunch, and meet some new friends! There is no additional charge for Silver Frogs but registration is required, and seating is limited.

**When:** Friday, September 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Sign up using [this link](#) by September 14.

**Where:** Brown-Lupton University Union (BLUU) 

## Silver Frogs 101: Class Attendance by Sharon Harrelson

The Silver Frogs program is very straightforward: your semester-long membership grants you the opportunity to register for up to three Silver Frog-specific courses (four sessions each) and three one-time lectures. You are also invited to the three luncheon lectures, the Meet & Greet, and the End-of-Semester gathering; registration is required and space is limited for these events. Do one thing or do them all; it's up to you! It works the same for everyone; there is currently no provision for adding additional courses or lectures.

Each time you register for a course, lecture, or other activity, you will be sent a confirmation email from TCU's Extended Education registration system. You'll also receive a reminder email shortly before the event date. If you do not receive these messages, then you're not registered. You can easily check

your current registrations at any time by logging in to your profile at the [TCU Extended Ed website](#), and clicking on **My Account**, then **My Courses**. Click on the **Current Courses** link to see everything you're signed up for!

Each event has a sign-in sheet. For courses and lectures, most sessions will have a classroom host who will check your name off the roster each time you attend. At larger events, there will be multiple hosts there to speed up the sign-in process, but you will always need to check in.

If you did not register for an event (or you tried to and it was full) then your name will *not* appear on the roster and *you may not attend that activity*, so always make sure you get the confirmation! Please do not attempt to "walk on" to a class or activity when you have not registered.

Since we're all adults (that's part of the age requirement for being a member of Silver Frogs!) everyone needs to understand and abide by these simple rules.

Finally, as a common courtesy, if you register for something and later discover that you cannot attend, please call the Extended Ed office (817-257-7132) as soon as you know, so that they can update the roster and someone else might get in. Many classes fill up and have a wait list in place, and that is where any vacancy will be filled from. Missing one class of a 4-session course is fine, but if you have conflicts for more than that, it is a good idea to give up the seat this time and register for something else — you may find the course is offered again next semester, at a more convenient time for you.



## Tips for New Members

Welcome Silver Frogs! We are so excited you are joining this wonderful group of people. You will definitely find new friends here, learn amazing things and embark on exciting new adventures.

— Boglarka Huddleston

**The only tip that I have is that when it comes to art it's important to recognize that everyone is entitled to their opinions. Everyone has a different view on the world, they've all experienced different lives and that can influence how they see a piece or interpret an artist's meaning. I found that being open-minded not only helps you when looking at art, but also helps with life in general. In short, my only advice is, approach new things with an open mind and understand that not everyone is going to see them the same way that you do.**

— Lillian Young

There is a large amount of high quality content from the trivial to the profound, offered by diverse instructors. There is something to match every latent interest. Try something new you know little or nothing about, you may end up developing a new, continuing or rekindled interest. It is even better when you teach a class, since you have to learn in depth the topic you have chosen, because you liked it, in much greater depth. Silver Frog students are articulate, experienced, and mutually supportive. It's a great group to fit into.

— Dan Calvin

**Volunteer. You will appreciate the Silver Frog experience much more and meet lots of neat people.**

— Lisa Winter

*Remember to wear your Silver Frogs name badge to every class and activity.*

It is a good idea to check your email regularly for Silver Frogs communications, as this is where you'll receive information about new events along with the links to register. You'll get class confirmations and reminders via email, as well as links to each issue of *Silver Streak* as it's published!

— Sharon Harrelson

## Silver Frogs 102: Waitlisting

by Sharon Harrelson

The numbers are impressive: 500 members, 47 four-session courses, 53 one-time lectures. Even with all the seats available as registration opens, there are inevitably going to be members who cannot get into everything on their first-choice list. Take heart — some of the same classes will appear in the spring catalog! And there's also the possibility of a seat opening up. Just like at the dentist's office, when someone cancels an appointment that means another person can take his place. So it is with our classes when a member has a change of plans and must cancel out of a popular class!

Members who are interested in being placed on a waitlist for a full Silver Frog course or lecture for the upcoming session have an opportunity to do so. The Extended Ed office will send an email prior to the start of each session, providing the day and time waitlisting will open as well as a list of classes that are eligible (only full/closed ones qualify). Of course there is no guarantee that a seat will open up, but you never know! Here's how it works:

- Registrations will be taken by phone ONLY. Do NOT attempt to leave a message! No requests are accepted via voice messages.
- There will be a maximum of 5 waitlist spots for full courses or lectures. It is unlikely that more than 5 seats will open up.
- You may be placed on a maximum of 1 course waitlist and 1 lecture waitlist per session.

If a space opens in your course or lecture and you are next on the waitlist, you will be contacted by Extended Education. If you have already taken your full allotment of courses and lectures, you would need to give up an existing registration to accept the new opening.



### HAVE YOU SEEN ME?



I'm in the Secrest-Wible classroom to collect travel-sized toiletries for donation. If you've picked some up this summer, please place them into a zip-lock bag and bring them along when you come to class.

*Please, no trash in this can.*

## Poll: Course Loads

Take a moment to answer this one-question poll to share your opinion regarding the number of courses and lectures members can take. A quick click on the link below will take you into the survey. Tell us what you think (you can be anonymous) AND you can see how others have responded!

With regard to Silver Frogs courses and lectures, check the response that you agree with the most:

- I think three courses and three lectures is just right.
- I would like an option to take additional courses and lectures, but would not pay more.
- I would take more courses and lectures if I could, even at an additional cost.
- I usually do not take a full load of three courses and three lectures, so this is not important to me.
- My opinion varies by semester, depending on what is offered.

[CLICK HERE TO PARTICIPATE!](#)

*Did you know...*

*Over 2200 individual course and lecture registrations were processed in the first two hours on July 31?*

*69% online  
19% via phone  
12% walk-in*

If you'd like to know more about registering for courses and lectures online, here's something to look forward to:

Extended Ed will offer training sessions — which allow you to ask questions and practice with test courses — before the next semester's registration dates.

Watch your email and take advantage of this learning opportunity if you're not comfortable with registering online!



## Inside TCU's Extended Ed Department by Linda Eastwick

You've had the pleasure of taking a Silver Frogs course and/or lecture (or you're about to embark on the journey this semester). You've received emails, confirmations, and answers to your registration questions. Maybe you've served as a classroom host and run to the office for tech help...or copies...or something else and have witnessed someone rushing to the rescue. And you've walked by the office and were greeted with a smile – most likely from someone you haven't even met, yet.

Who are these folks who provide such exceptional service to all Silver Frogs? It's our Extended Education staff!

According to Julie Lovett, Associate Director of Extended Education, TCU's Extended Ed program has been around since the 1930s, when it was known as the Evening College. The program switched to its current name in 1962.

The Extended Ed staff casts a wide net in their service to the community. "We serve the community-at-large through our Open Enrollment classes, Silver Frogs, Advanced Placement Institute, Summer Camps, Institute for Reading Development, support for TCU departments such as the School of Music, Center for Texas Studies, Bob Schieffer School of Journalism and many more. We also do custom training for organizations. We serve approximately 20,000 individuals annually," reports Julie.

*"We [Extended Ed] serve approximately 20,000 individuals annually."*

*—Julie Lovett*

The Silver Frog program launched in January 2015 with 160 members after almost a year of planning. Designed for community members age 50+ who have a love of both learning and community, it has grown to 500 members and sustains itself from member fees. *Silver Streak* was astounded at the growth rate, and wanted to know more about the people behind such success. Read on!

**Silver Streak:** Who do we thank for getting the Silver Frog program started?

**Julie Lovett:** The inaugural Silver Frog Board and Extended Education staff. They worked tirelessly developing a program from scratch!

**SS:** Anyone in particular we can say thank you to?

**JL:** Our inaugural board included Kakai Bowers, Ken Bowers, Nancy Box, Nancy Caudill, Claudia Coggin, Sheila Cole, Jackee Cox, Ron Gantz, Mary Goehring, Emily Harrell, Risa Payne, Trish Shaw, Resa Shipman, and Pam Smith.

Since launching the Silver Frogs program, the Extended Ed staff has seen Suzie Mahony retire, and Michelle Chappell come on board. The rest of us were all part of the initial planning.

**SS:** How are course offerings determined?

**JL:** The Curriculum Committee oversees the process from proposal distribution to final course and lecture determination. The committee looks for offerings in a wide variety of topics and interest areas. They also use evaluations to make sure the offerings are of high quality. They determine the final number of members we can have each semester based on the number of accepted courses and lectures. It is by far the largest committee!

**SS:** What are some of the changes that have taken place over the years?

**JL:** With the program being only three and a half years young, we're still putting systems in place! We're always looking to streamline and make the registration process as efficient and easy as possible. With 500 members registering at the same time, it's a huge challenge! We also have more TCU faculty (current and retired) teaching for us than when we first started. And more members are teaching, which is fantastic!

**SS:** What long-term plans do you have for the Silver Frogs?

**JL:** Space! We are looking for additional, consistent space on campus, which is hard to come by during the day. We are also exploring off-campus space, though that can change the dynamics of the Silver Frogs. We're also looking to make the course and lecture registration process better.

**SS:** What's the ONE thing that you want every new Silver Frog member to know about the Silver Frogs organization?

**JL:** The Silver Frogs can function only when members volunteer. Try a committee, teach a class, serve as a classroom greeter...but volunteer.

**SS:** Is there anything else you'd like to add?

**JL:** It continually amazes me how much work a staff of our size can do!

*Editor's Note: When Silver Streak first contacted Julie and her staff for this story, she and various members were on vacation, attending conferences, and/or completing the Silver Frog registration process. Nevertheless, they graciously provided information to us – and fast! We can't thank them enough, and we are amazed, as well, at what they can do!*

Meet the staff on page 7!

## Up Close and Personal:

# Meet the Extended Ed Staff

The Extended Education Staff is not a large one, but they certainly accomplish a lot and help the Silver Frogs in so many ways! Meet each of them below (listed in alphabetical order).



### Michelle Chappell

*Job title:* Program Specialist

*What do you do?* I implement and manage new programs such as: Paralegal Certificate Courses, Coding Boot Camp, Safe Sitter and provide support for existing programs including Summer Camps. I also manage our social media presence and make updates to the department web site. I've been here 23 months.

*Favorite part of your job:* Interacting with a wide range of people.

*If you could drop everything and take a course on anything, what would it be?* Photography

*Not to brag, but...* I have one daughter who is starting her sophomore year in high school. She loves science and plays goalie in soccer. I love the great outdoors.



### Sheri Familiari

*Job title:* Coordinator, Office Services

*What do you do?* I keep all the balls in the air to keep Extended Ed going. I have held this position for 2 ½ years and have been with Extended Ed for nine years.

*Favorite part of your job?* Making people happy.

*If you could drop everything and take a course on anything, what would it be?* How to live a stress-free, happy life.

*Not to brag, but...* I am a mom to two beautiful, strong, independent young women.



### David Grebel

*Job title:* Director of Extended Education

*What do you do?* I provide administrative guidance and support for Extended Education's mission "to engage TCU with the community through high quality courses, programs, conferences and other offerings that educate, enlighten, renew and serve." I will complete 21 years in this role at the end of this month.

*Favorite part of your job?* Engaging with my wonderful colleagues and the people we serve (especially the Silver Frogs!).

*If you could drop everything and take a course on anything, what would it be?* I've actually done this (not drop everything). I'd take additional classes in theology and ethics.

*Not to brag, but...* This year I will ride my 8th Hotter 'N Hell Hundred in Wichita Falls (a 100-mile bike ride in 100-degree heat). Additionally, I have brilliant grandchildren who are too smart to ride a bike in the heat.

(Continued on page 9)

## Meet the Extended Ed Staff

(Continued from page 8)

*Silver Frogs launched in January 2015 with 160 members and a total of 24 courses and lectures. As of August 2018, the program has 500 members and 100 course and lecture offerings.*



### Susan Harris

**Job title:** Director of TCU's Advanced Placement Summer Institute/Coordinator of Special Projects

**What do you do?** I coordinate professional development for K-12 classroom teachers, both on grade level and advanced academics. I started with TCU in November 2002.

**Favorite part of your job?** I have two favorite parts of my job: During the summer we hire student assistants to work with our programs. I love getting to know them and then hearing about their successes later in life. My other favorite is working with the instructors we hire throughout the year and creating new and relevant course topics for our participating classroom teachers.

**If you could drop everything and take a course on anything, what would it be?** I would love to complete a NOLS course in coastal sailing and kayaking in the Pacific Northwest or South America.

**Not to brag, but...** I have four wonderful children and two grandsons, all the light of my life. I am loved and supported by an amazing group of friends, and a very understanding husband. I practice permaculture in my daily life, enjoy reading, community organizing, gardening, bee-keeping, sitting on my front porch at the end of the day, and teaching. My goal is to exercise more, leave a smaller footprint on the earth, and spend more time with the people I love.



### Julie Lovett

**Job title:** Associate Director of Extended Education

**What do you do?** I oversee the Open Enrollment programs which include programs like those offered to the community, Silver Frogs and Summer Camps to name a few. I also work with campus departments to support their community outreach efforts. I've been doing this for 18 years.

**Favorite part of your job?** I'm not just saying this, but the best thing I have done professionally is the Silver Frogs, hands-down.

**If you could drop everything and take a course on anything, what would it be?** Literature. I wish I had paid more attention in college.

**Not to brag, but...** I've been married to my husband, John, for 18 years and we have two awesome kids, Carter (17) and Sarah (14). My favorite hobby is cooking (and I'm pretty darn good at it if I do say so myself!). I've always worked in higher education and have worked across the country—Pennsylvania, Colorado, California, Maryland, and Texas (Colorado was my favorite).



### Trisha Obregon

**Job title:** Extended Education Administrative Assistant

**What do you do?** A little bit of everything – providing support for all of the Extended Education programs. I will have been here three years in January.

**Favorite part of your job?** The people – our office staff and the people we serve.

**If you could drop everything and take a course on anything, what would it be?** If it was a Silver Frog class – it would be anything from Dr. Flowers.

**Not to brag, but...** I have been married for almost 21 years and have amazing daughters!



## Instructor Spotlight: Dr. Anne J. Bailey

by Richard Ranc

We were fascinated by Dr. Bailey's first lecture in her course, *Texas and Texans in the Civil War*. From learning about the Texans who defended against Indian raids during the Civil War—just outside of today's Ft Worth, to General Robert E. Lee's Texas duties, to the Texas regiments that fought in the Army of Northern Virginia, history came alive in Dr. Bailey's classroom.

Dr. Anne J. Bailey is a specialist in Civil War history. She is the author/editor of eight books, numerous book chapters, and over 300 articles and book reviews. She

has taught at Texas Tech University, the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and in the University of Georgia system. She has edited the Society of Civil War Historians newsletter for almost 25 years. Dr. Bailey is a member of Silver Frogs and graciously began volunteering her expertise in classes and lectures last year.

This semester she's giving two lectures: *Margaret Mitchell's Gone With the Wind Revisited: The True Story of the Civil War in Georgia* and *How the Other Half Lived: Women in the Civil War*.

**Silver Streak:** What inspired you to become a Civil War historian and teacher?

**Dr. Anne Bailey:** When I began the Ph.D. program at TCU several decades ago I knew exactly what I wanted to do—write about soldiers from this area of Texas during the Civil War. I was born and grew up in Cleburne, named for a Confederate soldier, Major General Patrick R. Cleburne, so I had an interest in the war early in life. My father's family lived in Granbury, named for Brigadier General Hiram Granbury. My dissertation on Texas cavalrymen became my first book and was published by the TCU Press. Since then I've written seven more books, some on Texas, some on Georgia, all focusing on the Civil War. When I finished my Ph.D. I took a job at Texas Tech University, but I wanted to go where the Civil War was more relevant so I left TTU after one year and took a position in the University of Georgia system. I taught there several years before leaving to teach at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville where I stayed five years. But I found that I missed Georgia; the states along the East Coast have a much richer Civil War history than those west of the Mississippi River and teaching in the East was more fun for a historian of the war. It's from Georgia that I retired back to Cleburne several years ago.

**SS:** Do you have ancestral ties to figures in the Civil War?

**AB:** I'm one of the few people living who can say I have a grandfather who fought in the Civil War. He was born in 1832 and I never knew him; he was dead forty years before I was born. (Both my grandfather and father obviously had children late in life.) He fought with a Tennessee infantry regiment, Confederate. I also have a great-grandfather who lived in Buchanan, the county seat of Johnson County (Cleburne is the county seat now). He fought in a Texas cavalry regiment and died during the war—of measles, not in battle.

**SS:** Have your travels taken you to many sites where the conflict was fought? Which, if any, would you like to revisit?

**AB:** I've been to all the major Civil War battlefields and most minor battle sites. The most moving was Gettysburg, in Pennsylvania, where some 40-50,000 men became casualties in the battle in early July 1863. Antietam in Maryland is another well-preserved battlefield as is Shiloh in western Tennessee, both where large numbers of Americans on both sides gave their lives. These are three of the largest and best-preserved battlefields, all national parks, and I always enjoy visiting. I'm also particularly interested in places where Texans fought and that has meant going to some virtually unknown sites from Virginia to New Mexico.

**SS:** Are you a collector of Civil War memorabilia?

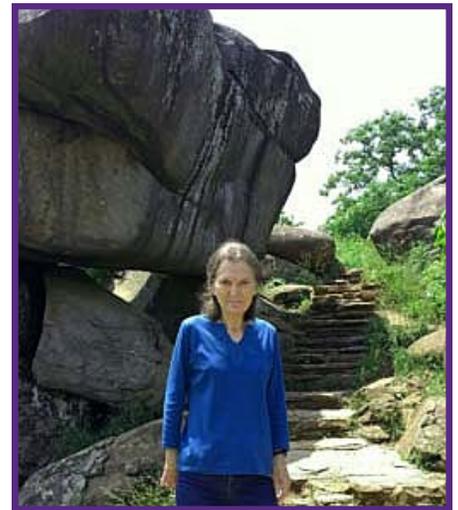
**AB:** No. Just too many books.

**SS:** How do you view the TCU Silver Frog Program?

**AB:** I've been extremely impressed. I have seen similar programs, both in the University of Arkansas system and the University of Georgia system, and I believe TCU has done one of the better jobs of organizing and presenting this to the public. The popularity of the program testifies to its success.

**SS:** Is there anything else we should know?

**AB:** I want to add that I don't just write about the southern side of the war. I have done a number of book chapters and articles on former slaves—African-American men who joined the United States army and fought for the North.



Dr. Bailey in Devil's Den at Gettysburg  
National Military Park





Shari Barnes on vacation and (gasp!) without a book in hand.

## Instructor Spotlight: Shari Barnes by Sharon Harrelson

Shari Barnes shares her passion for reading with thirty students every semester (since Silver Frogs began!) in her *Bucket List Books* class, where a different book is discussed at every class meeting. Many members take this class every semester, knowing that the conversation will be lively and that they will be exposed to a variety of books they would otherwise not encounter. A former TCU Human Resources Administrator, Shari's also a writer, consultant, interviewer, mediator, instructor, and community activist, serving on boards of directors for several Fort Worth organizations. And, she's a regular contributor to *Silver Streak*, sharing ideas for all sorts of reading adventures with our readers. We wanted to learn more about Shari.

**Silver Streak:** Have books always been an important part of your life? Who or what influenced that?

**Shari Barnes:** Books have been important to me for as long as I can remember. My mother was the most eclectic reader I've ever known, and she introduced me to the joy of reading and recommended authors to me throughout her life.

**SS:** Let's talk about your (Silver Frogs) *Bucket List Books* and (TCU Extended Ed) *I Love a Mystery* classes. First, how did you become an instructor for TCU Extended Ed?

**SB:** Julie Lovett asked me to teach a book class more years ago than I can remember, when I was working at TCU. We decided everyone likes mysteries, and I stole the title *I Love a Mystery* from an old '40's radio show. Some of the Silver Frogs original advisory board were in the class and asked me to submit a proposal for Silver Frogs. I figured everyone has a list of "never read / must read" books, and *Bucket List Books* was born.

**SS:** Have you found it at all daunting to assign books for other adults to read, especially if (as may be the case) you haven't read them yourself?

**SB:** It is truly frightening to choose books for other people. And, frankly, there will always be someone who dislikes a particular selection. I remember one class member saying, "I hated this book, but by the end of the class, you'll have convinced me I like it." I don't think I have those powers of persuasion, but I do think there's merit in discussing even works of literature we don't like. (Sometimes I don't like the books I've selected!) There's something to learn from those with whom we disagree.

**SS:** What has been your biggest surprise (good or bad) when choosing class material?

**SB:** One of my biggest challenges was the upcoming fall Bucket List. A prominent frog suggested we tackle banned books; but when I started reading the selections made by the spring class, I got nervous. The topics we're covering made me uncomfortable in some cases, but I'm looking forward to lively discussions.

**SS:** You've had the opportunity to meet and interview authors, which must have been very interesting. What got you started doing that? Any memorable moments or favorite people you'd like to tell us about?

**SB:** I started interviewing notable authors when Fort Worth's cable television channel asked me to host a book interview show. I have a wonderful collection of over 200 autographed first editions from those interviews including Gloria Steinem, David Baldacci, Nicholas Sparks, Jeffery Deaver, Robert Crais, and Janet Evanovich, among others. I've had the privilege of having Graham Nash (Crosby, Stills, and Nash) serenade me on camera, and I got to sing along with Peter Dinklage of Peter, Paul and Mary fame.

**SS:** It sounds like you have a large home library!

**SB:** I suppose I have a large library if you count the books in the garage and the trunk of my car. And then there are the stacks all over my bedroom. This is probably an indication that my "collection" is not well organized and finding a specific book can be a challenge. My most treasured books are my grandfather's Bible and a very old edition of *Little Women* given to me by my husband.

**SS:** If you could choose one author that you haven't met (living or dead) and ask one question, who would that be and what might you ask?

**SB:** If I could meet any author, I think I'd choose Louisa May Alcott, and I'd like to know how she feels about her classic *Little Women's* influence on generations of budding feminists.

**SS:** Moving away from books, or at least outside the classroom, what are some of your other favorite activities?

**SB:** Outside Silver Frogs, I enjoy serving on the boards of Stage West Theater, Tarrant Churches Together, and Dispute Resolution Services of North Texas. I love traveling anywhere with my spouse, children, grandchildren, friends...anyone who is up for an adventure in Istanbul, Morocco, New York City, or Podunk. And I love discussing literature with the homeless in the Book Club at True Worth Place. I feel God has given me a unique opportunity there.

**SS:** If you were asking the questions here...what would you ask yourself that I haven't?

**SB:** How about what drives me crazy? People who mispronounce "artisan" and "nuclear." Who is the biggest influence in my life? My husband. A hospital chaplain, he is a true inspiration and the kindest, funniest person I know.



## Instructor Spotlight: David Grebel

by Linda Eastwick

Most Silver Frogs know his name: David Grebel. As the Director of Extended Education (see more about his role in *Inside Extended Ed*, page 6), David serves as the liaison between TCU and the community. He and his staff help make all Silver Frog adventures possible, and that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Besides working with his staff to serve the community, David is a volunteer instructor, and this semester is teaching *In Science Fiction We Dream - Faith and Ethics in Science Fiction* for the Silver Frogs. He jokes about his two motivators for teaching: jealousy (Don Jackson and Ron Flowers were having too much fun!) and his desire to change the world.

On a serious note, David explains that combining literature and history is a great way to introduce new ways of thinking about theology and ethics. Science fiction provides an alternative way of viewing the world, while still being a fun read.

When asked to describe himself with three words, David responded with: *encouraging*, *curious* and *articulate*. We tend to agree with his assessment. Read on to find out why.



David Grebel on two wheels.

**Silver Streak:** How did you develop your interest in science fiction?

**David Grebel:** By watching Saturday afternoon science fiction movies on television when I was a kid in the 50's and 60's. *Earth vs. the Flying Saucers* and *The Day the Earth Stood Still* are guilty pleasures that I still enjoy.

**SS:** Do you have any advice for people who want to explore religion and faith through science fiction?

**DG:** Read widely. Look for women and people of color who are writing. Some of the best science fiction and fantasy of the past twenty years has been written by authors such as Ursula K. Le Guin, Octavia Butler, N. K. Jemisin, Ann Leckie, and Cixin Liu. Some books, such as *The Sparrow* by Mary Doria Russell and *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler, are explicitly religious, but religious and ethical themes relating to meaning and purpose inhabit many of the best writers.

**SS:** Are there other topics you'd like to teach?

**DG:** My primary academic discipline is theology and ethics so everything I've taught for the Silver Frogs relates to those topics. I'm currently working on a class on suffering using the biblical *Book of Job* and *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl that I may offer at some point. I also have an academic background in history and in adult education theory, so I'll be looking for ways to bring those together.

**SS:** How has being an instructor affected your role as the Director of Extended Education?

**DG:** Being an instructor has obviously given me a deeper appreciation for the service our instructors provide. There is a danger in academic administration of becoming disconnected from the people we serve. Teaching helps me reconnect with our work.

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

**DG:** Cookies. Not that a class has brought me cookies yet, but I imagine that if they did it would be the best part. Until they do I'll have to settle for the relationships I've developed with the participants in my classes.

**SS:** So...what's your favorite cookie? (*Silver Streak* is wise to the fact that the world turns more happily when favorite cookies mysteriously appear.)

**DG:** Oatmeal Raisin. Is there any other kind?

**SS:** What's at the top of your bucket list?

**DG:** A cross country bike ride from Washington State to Key West.

**SS:** Is there anything else you'd like to share with us?

**DG:** I'm grateful to the many members of the Silver Frogs for the new life that they've brought to our work in Extended Education. I never imagined the relationships that would develop for us as a staff that are a direct result of our work with each of you.



## Challenge Your Brain! by Shari Barnes

Summer is over. Face it, you spent this one reading beach novels, and you lost count of the margaritas you drank. You used the heat as an excuse to let the robot vacuum cleaner take care of the house, and your brain has turned to mush. That's why Google tells us that September is National Self-Improvement Month...and, no, you can't put it off until January. Get off the beach towel and get moving.

Self-improvement starts with your brain, and there's nothing like a book to energize the dormant gray matter. Here are a few suggestions to get more out of your reading:

### Write in Your Books...

You used to do that in school so you could remember the important parts. It's a great practice and will serve you well when you return to your favorite works.

Start with something by Doris Kearns Goodwin. Her historical biographies on several of our presidents will renew your interest in our great country. Try ***The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys*** to learn more about triumph and tragedy.

### Research Words and Ideas...

Yes, you have an exceptional vocabulary, but occasionally an author challenges you with new concepts. So, look them up and play with your new ideas.

Dan Brown's ***Origin*** is a good place to start if you enjoy pseudo science while technology runs amok. Challenge your religious beliefs and enjoy a romp through Spain.

### Read a Topic with Which You're Unfamiliar...

It's easy to get stuck in the same genre. Be brave and try something new, even if you're not sure you'll like it.

I'd suggest Amy Stewart's ***Girl Waits with Gun*** if you want a mystery based on a true story. Follow Constance Kopp, one of the nation's first female crime fighters, as she battles the bad guys to save her sisters.

### Follow the Season...

Try material that reflects the season. Summer dictates light and fluffy, but fall calls for something more sinister.

***The Graveyard Book*** by Neil Gaiman is a fantasy novel that is perfect for the approaching Halloween holiday. This is a young adult novel that is lots of fun for not-so-young adults, and I'd suggest this as a read-together opportunity if you have older grandchildren.

Improve yourself in September and enjoy stimulating your brain with a good book or two...or three or four.



## What Are You Reading?



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

***The Secret Rescue: An Untold Story of American Nurses and Medics Behind Nazi Lines***. Cate Lineberry stumbled upon this amazing forgotten story.

***An Odyssey: A Father, a Son, and an Epic*** by Daniel Mendelsohn. Daniel teaches a seminar at Bard. His retired mathematician father takes the course as they discuss *The Odyssey*. Funny and heart-warming book.

— Resa Shipman

A story of two young women, one in Texas and one escaping from Honduras and how their lives intersect in the end. A story of struggles, hope, courage and danger for both women under ***The Same Sky*** by Amanda Eyre Ward. Very interesting with what is going on today at the border.

— Anonymous

Been doing my best to win one of the prizes offered by the Summer Reading Program of Fort Worth Library! :) :) One of the best I read this summer was ***The Woman in the Window*** by A. J. Finn. This psychological thriller about an agoraphobe who spends her days looking out her window and her nights drinking...or sometimes doing both day and night! Keeps you intrigued until the very end. Also read a very good debut novel, ***Last Girl Gone***, by J. G. Hetherington which I also recommend. You can special request both from the library...you may have to wait a few weeks but they will be worth the wait.

— Betsy McDaniel

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## What Are You Reading?



I read several Martin Beck police mystery books by Maj Sjowall and Per Wahloo. They are Swedish authors who wrote in the 1960's and 1970's. They are known as the parents of the Swedish crime fiction genre.

— Lucy Brants

I'm working on *The Century Trilogy* by Ken Follett. The story begins right before WWI and it looks like the last book goes through the Kennedy assassination. I'm about 3/4 through the second book deep in WWII. The story follows events and families throughout the entire work.

— Linda Rodjak

*Empire of the Summer Moon* by S. C. Gwynne, and *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles.

— Warren Russell

I read *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead, *The After Party* by Anton DiSclafani, *Saints for All Occasions* by J. Courtney Sullivan, and *Moonglow* by Michael Chabon. They were all very different but enjoyable. I liked *Saints for All Occasions* best!

— Emily Harrell

A couple of my favorite reads this summer were inspired by school. First, I read *Galileo's Daughter* by Dava Sobel, inspired by the recommendation of other students in Silver Frogs *Astronomy 101*. It was fascinating, and non-fiction I'm sure I'd never have otherwise picked up. Then I read Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, because my son had it for a summer reading assignment. I loved it, can't believe I'd never read it before, and wanted the story to keep on going when it ended!

— Sharon Harrelson

[Tell us what you're reading!](#)



## Spies and Genius

by Richard Ranc

This summer's oppressive heat gave me an opportunity to catch up on my reading...it was too hot to be outside in the afternoons, so I relaxed with a book. I have to recommend two wonderful books as divergent as can be.

Several *Silver Streak* issues ago I introduced some of you to the character Gabriel Allon, chief of Israel's State Intelligence Agency. Allon is back in *The Other Woman* by Daniel Silva. Spies, traitors and modern-day Russian thuggery await you in this twisting and turning tale. With Allon as art restorer, master spy and assassin, Silva will keep you turning the pages for more.

Late in the 16th-century Italian Renaissance, the world was gifted by the out-of-wedlock birth of a genius named Leonardo da Vinci. **Leonardo** is brought to life in Walter Isaacson's biography of the same name. The paintings by da Vinci are priceless with their innovative perspective, color and technique. Da Vinci's unique engineering and architectural sketches are full of masterful detail and inventiveness; his designs of war machinery were widely sought by nobles. It is difficult to imagine all da Vinci accomplished without any formal education. When Leonardo requested patronage of the Florentine Medicis, he listed his skills in engineering and weapon design – mentioning, as an aside, that he also possessed talent as an artist. His genius may be seen in the *Mona Lisa*, *The Vitruvian Man*, *Salvator Mundi*, *The Last Supper*, and many other masterpieces. Isaacson, a master of storytelling, fluidly takes readers into the times of this genius in this biography of da Vinci's productive sixty-seven year life.



“No two persons ever read the same book.”

— Edmund Wilson



## On One Tank of Gas: Crystal Bridges by Polly Hooper

My goal with this column is to share trips that can be taken from Fort Worth on one tank of gas, either roundtrip in a day or spending one night.

Join me as I take you on a virtual trip to Bentonville, Arkansas. I went in mid-July with my sister and a friend to visit the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. The drive is roughly six hours so it is ideal if you have more than one driver and can make it an overnight trip. As soon as we crossed the border into Oklahoma the scenery got prettier — beautiful shades of green, rolling hills, and slightly lower temperatures had us feeling refreshed.

We breakfasted in Sherman, and arrived in Bentonville around 12:30 p.m. on Friday afternoon. The museum is open until 9:00 p.m. on Fridays so we decided to skip lunch and made a reservation for an early dinner in the museum restaurant, knowing we'd have time to explore after dinner.

Crystal Bridges opened in 2011. The museum was founded by the Walton Family and Alice Walton serves as the chairman of the board of directors. The architecture and grounds of the museum are as awe-inspiring as what is inside. This description of the setting is copied from their website:

"Crystal Bridges takes its name from a nearby natural spring and the bridge construction incorporated in the building, designed by world-renowned architect Moshe Safdie. A series of pavilions nestled around two spring-fed ponds house galleries, meeting and classroom spaces, and a large, glass-enclosed gathering hall. Guest amenities include a restaurant on a glass-enclosed bridge overlooking the ponds, a Museum Store designed by architect Marlon Blackwell, and a library featuring more than 50,000 volumes of art reference material. Sculpture and walking trails link the Museum's 120-acre park to downtown Bentonville, AR."

The museum's permanent collection has free admission. During our visit there was a special exhibit, "The Beyond — Georgia O'Keeffe + Contemporary Art." It runs through September 3rd; admission is \$10 (note: Kimbell Museum mem-

bers can get free tickets to the exhibit). The Backman-Wilson House — built by Frank Lloyd Wright — is a permanent exhibit on the grounds, with a separate \$10 admission (also free to Kimbell members).

We began our afternoon with the Georgia O'Keeffe exhibit which also included other artists. It was my first time to see her art in person and I was immediately a fan of the flowers. I could've looked at them for hours. Photography is allowed (without flash) so I took pictures of some of my favorites to savor. Some of her other works like body parts and sculptures were less my cup of tea!



Another exhibit within this space really had a wow factor for me as a photographer. The exhibit is by artist Cynthia Daignault of Brooklyn, NY and is titled *Light Atlas*. She travelled 9000 miles around the country. She took a photo of her home as she left and each time her odometer clicked over 25 miles, she stopped and took a new photo, no matter where she was. In all there were 360 photos when she finished. Now that is incredible in and of itself, but she took it a step further and painted each scene onto an 8x10 canvas. These are displayed in order that she took them in a three sided room from floor to ceiling. The last photo and painting is of the Manhattan skyline at the conclusion of her trip. This exhibit has been on my mind since then and has inspired me to take on a photo project although I won't be painting the results.



The Frank Lloyd Wright tour is self-led and by appointment so we headed there next. We were issued audio headphones to lead us through the grounds and through the home. There is no upstairs access, but you get a good sense of his style and great information on the details of his architecture as well as the "why" of what he designed from the tour and audio information. I was fascinated by the layout of the house and by the economies of scale he employed.



We took another trek through the O'Keeffe exhibit upon returning to the main building. We just didn't want to leave without seeing it again. It was less crowded during our second round and we enjoyed it even more.

The rest of the afternoon we spent touring the permanent collection. As the museum's name suggests, it is all American Art. The permanent collection is refreshed often with new acquisitions.



They also rotate items in and out of their vault to keep a fresh perspective for frequent visitors. Lots of thought and planning goes into the order the art is displayed, as well as the color the walls are painted to best show off the art. I listened to a recording on YouTube before our visit that detailed all of this by the young woman who is the mastermind and it was fascinating. Since the museum is designed as bridges over the ponds and they try to incorporate the surrounding nature as part of your experience, you move from darkened museum space to glass spaces overlooking water as you move from area to area.

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## Silver Summer Travels

We asked members to tell us where they'd been this summer, and we had a great response! Read on to find out what your fellow frogs were up to. You'll see that several agree with Polly Hooper's enthusiasm for Crystal Bridges.



### TRAVELING THE U S of A

Enjoyed being able to spend July and August at our home in **Ruidoso**. Love being in the mountains! — *Norma Loughridge*

Oh darn, "somebody had to do it"...three (count 'em folks 1-2-3) family / extended family weddings this summer - **Tampa-St. Pete, Missoula** (as a side note we were forced to also fly fish on the Clark Fork) and finally **Colorado Springs**...tough locations but we soldiered on and made it!  
— *Lee & Kathy Nicol*

We traveled to **Crystal Bridges** at Bentonville, AR. Spent 3 days in the museum looking at beautiful art and having time to study it. Tavallo Italian Restaurant off the town square and delicious pizza at the Pedaler. — *Pat Adams*

**Alaska**, and NOT a cruise. — *Laura Dyson*

**Mesa Verde National Park** in the southwest corner of Colorado is a fascinating walk through the entire history of a civilization. Around 500 A.D. the first pre-Puebloan people (formerly called Anasazi) arrived on this high (8,500 foot) mesa. They developed farming, and a progressively complex technique of building structures which culminated in the famous cliff dwellings located in the natural alcoves in the mesa walls. Archaeological restorations scattered through the park clearly identify each of the stages of this civilization's evolution and its sudden demise about 900 years ago. Other National Parks offer more striking natural beauty, but Mesa Verde offers a unique time capsule from the past. — *Jim Parr*

**New York City**. The people are very nice. Lots of different languages spoken here. Makes me feel like I'm in a foreign country. — *Leanne Ebeling*

12-day **Alaska** train tour from Fairbanks to Anchorage with 1-4 day stays in Fairbanks, Denali, Talkeetna, Seward and Anchorage. Best weather ever with clear views of Denali and some of its wild life; and glaciers and marine life near Seward. — *Barbara Hayman*

**Crystal Bridges** in Bentonville, AR — *Mary Slaney*

I participated in a VBS for children on the **Navajo Reservation**, helped Navajo women butcher a lamb for a festival, worked a week at Ghost Ranch, took a balloon ride out of Santa Fe, and purchased jewelry, pottery, and art.  
— *Larry Borne*

In May/June I visited **Yellowstone National Park** for a week. Although I had been there twice before, this time I stayed a week spending two nights in each of three hotels in different parts of the park. I was reminded again what a treasure our national parks are. Yellowstone to me is the most awesome place on earth. Its mountains, valleys, rivers, waterfalls, geysers, and wildlife took my breath away. — *Carolyn Kirkland*

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## Crystal Bridges

This was taken into consideration so your eyes can adjust and best see what is displayed.

The museum restaurant is named Eleven which pays homage to the museum opening on 11/11/2011. By day it is more coffee shop and they transform it with black tablecloths and candles by night into elegant dining. The food is all-American comfort food. My companions decided to order the wine pairing dinner. They were served a salad that had fresh flowers as a nod to the O'Keeffe exhibit. The main course was short ribs and dessert was a popsicle with more fresh flowers. I had the leg of lamb over pureed beets and it was outstanding, perfectly cooked.

After dinner, we explored the grounds. The Art Trail which is 0.6 miles and on a moderate slope is where the outdoor exhibits are placed. One of note is the sculpture created by artist Nancy Rubin made up of 70 aluminum boats. There are canoes as well as aluminum rowboats, jon boats and Instaboats, which are portable folding boats. We also saw the Fly's Eye Dome by Buckminster Fuller. It is a huge geodesic dome characterized by large circular holes. You are able to walk inside the dome and view the sky and trees through these openings. The rest of the grounds of the museum are split into six different walking trails of varying length and difficulty. The trails open at sunrise and close at sunset daily, but you can see the outdoor art during regular museum hours on the extended days.

There is lots of lodging nearby. We stayed in a Holiday Inn Express which was clean and comfortable as well as affordable. There are a couple of choices nearby within a half-mile of the museum. The 21c Museum Hotel Bentonville, which is more than \$200 a night, offers contemporary art along with luxury accommodations. You might also enjoy the Victoria Bed and Breakfast with six rooms located near downtown.

Near the museum is a children's museum called the Amazeum. It is a children's museum with lots of hands-on activities and outdoor playscapes. Be sure to visit if you have grandkids in tow for your trip.



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## Lost & Fun by Lisa Winter

In June, we went to Portugal for our wedding anniversary. After one restful night in Lisbon at the Hotel Britania (where you get a discount if you are over 55!), we rented a car and drove to Comporta. This is the place to go if you are a celebrity because paparazzi will NOT find you here. We stayed two nights and spent the days on the Atlantic coast beaches, eating delicious seafood.

Next, we drove to Sintra, where Siri let us down. We got “rerouted” for an hour before we found our hotel. The hotel staff admitted that the gate to the hotel compound was not well marked. They made it up to us with a complimentary bottle of champagne! When we told the hotel staff that we had just driven up from Comporta, they asked if we had seen Madonna there. What? Yes, she hangs out in Comporta. Remember what I just said about paparazzi?

The next day, we blew out of Sintra as fast as we could. We drove to Cascais, which is on the Atlantic coast. My husband did see a celebrity there (Helen Hunt) while I turned my back to get change for the parking meter. Really? After a scenic seaside Sunday lunch, we drove to a third area of Portugal.

I don't know where we were, but it looked like Big Sur, California. This, too, would be a great place for a celebrity to hang out. I'd tell you where it is but I don't know where we were. I DO know what should have been a twenty-minute drive turned into a “rerouting” nightmare, taking an hour, up and down mountains, with my husband driving a stick shift. Holy Road Trip, Batman!

We routed through London for one night on the way back to The Fort. England was playing in the World Cup that night, and we had the best time in a pub full of fans while eating fish and chips and drinking ale, watching England win that match!

P. S. When flying out of Heathrow, be sure to stay strict with the 3-1-1 rule or they will go through every bit of your carry-on! Yes, lesson learned.



This is lovely Comporta, at dusk, just before a storm blew in. Don't go there. It's Madonna's secret.

## Silver Summer Travels

### CLOSER TO HOME

Our “**staycation**” this summer included a stay at the Omni Hotel, horseback ride on Northside and watching the longhorn drive, trying indoor skydiving at iFly, and exhibits at both The Modern and the Kimbell. Our city has a lot to offer and we had a blast! — *Vickie Gall*

Randy and I have lived in Texas for 40 years — including a 5-year stint in Austin — but had never been to the Capitol building! Finding ourselves in the **Austin** area with an outside temp of 105 degrees we decided an indoor activity would be best. The guided tour we went on focused on the role of women in Texas government and was very informative and interesting. We really enjoyed the beautiful architecture and historic furnishing of the building. We would recommend this to anyone and also be sure to see the Bullock Texas State History Museum! — *Andi Smith*

Spent the hot days inside binge-watching Netflix and Amazon prime. Spent the hot afternoons at ball fields or on a golf cart watching my grandson's baseball and golf tournaments. — *Cynthia Walker*

### ADVENTURES for LIFELONG LEARNERS

My husband David and I went on a 14-day **Disney Transatlantic Cruise!** We traveled to ports in Spain and Portugal. It was my 6th Disney Transatlantic cruise and my husband's 5th...yes, we are addicted to Disney Cruise Line!!! — *Melinda Rubenkoenig*

**On board a container ship** from Miami across Atlantic to Algeciras then Malta and Italy, France, Spain and ended up in Miami 42 days later. Can accommodate up to four passengers but not I'm only one. Crew of 23. Very spartan but comfortable. Eat in officers' mess. No stop more than 24 hours. Lots of time to read, write, paint or just gaze off to sea. — *Tim Runkle*

I was part of a team who built for a family in **La Paz, Bolivia** with Habitat for Humanity International. Altitude over 9000 ft. Spent five days on construction site and finished off trip with one day at Lake Titicaca. — *Connie Langston*

This summer I worked at the **National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC**. My official title was the docent and intern programming intern; essentially this meant that I worked on programs for interns to do during their internship for the summer and I helped the docents organize their space and give tours to visitors from all over the world. Not only have I memorized most of the collection that is still on view at the National Portrait Gallery, but I also got to work with the Obama portraits. When I wasn't working at the museum, exploring DC was one of my absolute favorite things to do. There's literally history on almost every single block of that city. Some days I would just go into a new museum that I'd never heard of or I would just go sit on the waterfront with my roommates and we'd sketch the sunset. One of my most memorable adventures from my internship was the week in my roommate decided we needed to go to Baltimore to see Fort McHenry, which is where the Star-Spangled Banner was written. All in all, my summer was an adventure of me learning art history and just getting to explore the nation's capital. — *Lillian Young*

Went to **Puerto Rico** at the end of July for a week. What a wonderful island! The destruction of Hurricane Maria is still evident especially once you leave San Juan. We went for a day-trip to El Yunque, the only rain forest in the US park systems, climbed rocks, jumped off a 30-foot rock wall into the natural pool under a beautiful waterfall, waded through mud and small rivers. We also visited one of the very few bioluminescent bays in the world. The people of Puerto Rico are beautiful and welcoming. The food is some of the best we've ever eaten. It is definitely a place where we will return - so much more to explore. — *Boglarka Huddleston*



## Just for Grins

We asked for your favorite cartoon character, and your responses proved (once again!) that Silver Frogs are unique individuals! The only agreement we saw was around the Roadrunner and Wile E. Coyote, who were mentioned multiple times. Several people added "of course" after their choice, as if the answer was obvious...but apparently, it's not that clear...



- Storm
- Wonder Woman
- The husband and wife in Pickles
- The Far Side
- Zits
- Auntie Acid
- Daria

- Godzilla
- Elmer Fudd
- Charlie Brown
- Snoopy
- Franklin from Peanuts
- Gumby
- Wile E. Coyote



- Winnie the Pooh
- Donald Duck
- Minnie Mouse
- Ferb (from Phineas and Ferb)

Fans of the Roadrunner characters had more to say:

- Being too talkative myself, I prefer the non-verbal characters: Gerald McBoingBoing, Roadrunner and Wylie Coyote, and the Looney Tunes slowly walking and hopping [Myna Bird](#) (and its theme song by Felix Mendelssohn). — *Dan Calvin*
- *Geococcyx californianus*! AKA, El Paisano or Roadrunner. It is found throughout our great state and beyond into other U.S. and Mexican states. What's for supper Wile E. Coyote? Scorpion, lizard or birdies? — *Bill Taylor*



*Just for Grins in the October issue, tell us:*

[What's your favorite Halloween candy to have left over?](#)

**For Our October Issue:**

### SHOW SOME SCHOOL SPIRIT!

When the leaves turn and the weather cools down, we can still hear the slam of a locker and be transported back a few years to our own school days.

Were you an athlete, cheerleader, marching band or drill team member? It's time to drag out your yearbook!

[Send Silver Streak a vintage photo and a brief story](#)

(4-5 sentences including school, city, year) to go with it.  
High School or College (even if it's not TCU).

## What Are You Watching?

**C. B. Strike** - A rare quality series on Cinemax. Imported from England based on the detective novels by Robert Goldbraith (a pen name for J. K. Rowling of "Harry Potter" fame). I became acquainted with the first book in the series through the "I Love a Mystery" class taught by the energetic Silver Frogs instructor Shari Barnes. The first novel was engrossing and refreshingly mature. Sufficiently intrigued, I read the two subsequent books in the series, and eagerly awaited the TV incarnation. The actor playing the title role, Cormoran Strike, seems a good casting choice, but is surpassed easily by his adept secretary/co-investigating partner, Robin Ellacott (who has a richer, more sympathetic role to play than her employer). I recommend the books and the series both, and am looking forward to new books from the author. — *Dan Calvin*

TV show: **The Good Place**, a comedy television show that regularly explores concepts in ethics and philosophy. — *M.E. Majeske*

This summer, the funniest movie I've seen in a long time was **Book Club**. I laughed out loud through the whole movie. Jane Fonda's character takes her turn picking out the next book for Book Club and she picks *Fifty Shades of Grey*. (If you don't know of this book, you've been living under a rock.) Let's just put it this way, the ladies of the book club (rounded out by Candice Bergen, Mary Steenburgen, and Diane Keaton), gain a new perspective on their lives. You will enjoy the male mates of these ladies too! — *Lisa Winter*

**Peyton Place** original TV Episodes on YouTube! I've only made it through episode 120 (out of 514) so far. Addictive! — *Debby Garrett*



[Tell us what you're watching!](#)

# Thank you, Silver Streak Contributors!



**Shari Barnes** (*Challenge Your Brain*) has taught TCU Extended Education's *I Love A Mystery* for several years and has facilitated *Bucket List Books* since the Silver Frogs beginning. Shari has also written for numerous popular and professional magazines. She is happy with a book and a cup of coffee.



**Sian Borne** (*Newsletter Staff*) is in her 4th semester as a Silver Frog and is retired from a nursing/Human Resources career. Originally from England, she made her home in Fort Worth back in 1973 and has never lived anywhere else in the US. She has two daughters and five grandchildren.



**Nancy Box** (*Welcome, Conference*) is a charter member of Silver Frogs, serves on the Curriculum Committee, and is the 2018-19 Advisory Board president. Being involved in Silver Frogs has been a very rewarding experience. She enjoys reading a good mystery and playing with her two granddaughters.



**Linda Eastwick** (*Extended Ed, Instructor Spotlight, Newsletter Staff*) is a former educator and her passions – besides all things grandchild-related – include researching and writing. She embraces the Minimalist movement, but is 37 boxes and two file cabinets away from becoming one.



**Sharon Harrelson** (*Instructor Spotlight, SF 101 & 102, Editor*) is a Fort Worth native who has been editing various publications for work and fun since middle school. A Silver Frog since Spring 2016, she also enjoys cooking/baking, gardening, photography and the adventures of her twin teenaged sons.



**Polly Hooper** (*On One Tank of Gas, Newsletter Staff*) is a native Texan and is passionate about all types of photography. Her hobbies include macro (close up) photography, 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** (*Instructor Spotlight, Spies and Genius, Newsletter Staff*) came to Silver Frogs following a 10-year affiliation with Senior University in Georgetown. His background also includes time as VP of Investments at Wachovia Securities and contributing financial articles to various publications.



**Ann Shelton** (*Luncheon Lecture, Newsletter Staff*) is a charter member of Silver Frogs. She retired after many years as an Administrative / Executive Assistant, and now enjoys being a grandmother, playing tennis and volunteering. She serves as chairperson of the Luncheon Lecture Committee.



**Lisa Winter** (*Lost & Fun*) has been a Silver Frog since Fall 2016. She is a member of the Silver Frogs Advisory Board and also serves as Special Events Chairman. Lisa loves bringing together fun with friends and Frogs.

## Mark Your Calendar



August 28 — Meet & Greet @ BLUU

August 29 —

\*Special Event, part 1: Meet TCU Volleyball Team

September 8 —

\*Special Event, part 2: Women's Volleyball Game

September 10 — Session I Courses/Lectures begin

September 14 — Advisory Board Meeting

September 21 —

Luncheon Lecture: Near Southside, Inc.

September 22 —

\*Special Event: George W Bush Presidential Center with First Ladies Exhibit

September 28 — Silver Streak Deadline

October 5 — End of Session I

October 8 — \*Special Event: Painting with a Twist

October 10 — \*Special Event: Topgolf

October 15 — Session II Courses/Lectures begin

November 15 —

\*Special Event: VIP Tour of The Star in Frisco

\*Special events have limited space, so will require a reservation and there may be a fee to attend. You will see an email with additional details when registration opens for special events.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our spring survey to provide feedback about the newsletter. We loved your suggestions and are using them in this and future issues!

And we appreciate everyone who shared what you read, watched and did over the summer for this back-to-school issue.

Use the links throughout the newsletter to see your name in the next issue.

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



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