

SILVER STREAK

CONNECTING AND INFORMING TCU'S SILVER FROGS

There's Room in the Inn by Carolyn Stephens

On any given day, 1,994* homeless people are struggling to survive on the streets of Fort Worth and Arlington. Dangers abound for those "on the streets" or in encampments, but the three coldest and two hottest months of the year are especially torturous.

During those five months, a number of local churches open their hearts and houses of worship for **Room in the Inn**. Silver Frogs are among the volunteers in the faith communities who answer this call to offer authentic hospitality — which includes a home-cooked dinner and breakfast, fellowship, a safe and comfortable space for a good night's rest, and facilities for a hot shower.

Room in the Inn gives people who lack secure shelter a night off the streets and away from overcrowded emergency shelters at times when the demand is highest. Many of the

men say RITI makes them feel comfortable, like being a guest in someone's home.

[A four-minute video from First Presbyterian Church](#) gives insight to their RITI program where two communities come together, hosting 14 men on Monday evenings. Steve Christian, one of the speakers, says "It's to show hospitality, to leave our masks at the door and share our stories. We come to see our own vulnerability and understand our common humanity."

We often see a homeless person as a stranger, and perhaps someone to fear. But sitting down and visiting over a meal or playing dominoes removes barriers, allowing friendships to develop.

As a volunteer cook/host for the past several years, I have tried to bring my tastiest dishes to Room in the Inn at First United Methodist Church in downtown Fort Worth, where we host 12 to 14 men on Thursday evenings.

One of my specialties is beef strips, slow roasted in a clay cooker until they are tender and juicy. It's always a hit. In fact, one man wants me to adopt him so he can eat like that every night. His appreciation warms my heart and I'm the one who is blessed!

I am part of Team Tutt when it comes to dinner. David and Judy Tutt, both Silver Frogs, have a faithful group of volunteers to make the appetizers (usually chips and salsa), salad, entree, and vegetables. There are always plenty of desserts



Claudia Blalock and Kay Johnson (l-r) gather bed linens for a good night's rest for 12-14 unsheltered men.



David and Judy Tutt begin preparations for a homemade dinner for Room in the Inn.

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Room in the Inn

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thanks to another Silver Frog, Carol Harrell. Together, we volunteer at least one Thursday in the winter and one in the summer.

The Tutts have made friends among the men who come to RITI as well as in other outreach programs of mission and hospitality at First Methodist. Judy Tutt says she especially enjoys when guests feel comfortable enough to laugh and tell stories. "I like being in community with people I would otherwise never have known," she said.

Kay Johnson and Claudia Blalock, also Silver Frogs, cook and often stay the night with our guests and Claudia oversees the entire operation on those nights. Kay says her volunteering is out of gratitude for all the gifts she has been given. It is a life-changing ministry for both guests and volunteers. "I love that my church reaches out to people who don't have a church home and we can be home for them."

Three years ago when my husband passed away, I chose to spend that Christmas Eve, a Thursday, in a different and special way. I volunteered as an overnight host, giving other volunteers time to be with their families. Several of our guests chose to join me in attending the Christmas Eve candlelight service in the sanctuary – in that time and place we were family! After the service, our candles lit the way back to the building that would shelter us that night, where we knew there would be "room in the inn."

Most of the RITI host faith communities work in partnership with DRC Solutions, uniting hundreds of volunteers and pre-screened guests in mutually beneficial experiences. Most volunteers come from the hosting churches, but others from differing faiths that don't have an RITI program also step up to volunteer. All volunteers submit to training and background checks.

Broadway Baptist Church was the first local church in the RITI program and set the model for current churches. In recent years they have discontinued the program and instead offer a large-scale emergency service when needed.

RITI volunteers begin early in the day with tasks that include readying the beds for the guests, cooking preparations, food service clean up, at least two overnight hosts, breakfast service and finally volunteers who come later to wash the bed linens and towels.

Persons interested in filling volunteer slots are urged to contact the participating churches (see list). If interested in exploring a RITI program for your church, contact DRC Solutions at <http://www.drc-solutions.org> and scroll down to Room in the Inn under "Our Solutions."

* On the night of January 25, 2018, hundreds of volunteers and law enforcement agents canvassed Tarrant and Parker counties to count the homeless population with a total of 2,015. The 1,994 count is for Fort Worth and Arlington.



Room in the Inn

Participating Faith Communities and Contacts

If you have questions
or would like more information,
just click a contact name to send an email.

Bread of Life Community Church — [Anthony Callahan](#)

Broadway Baptist Church — [Dan Freemyer](#)

Calvary Lutheran — [Mindy Schumann](#)

City Point United Methodist Church — [Jack Teddlie](#)

First Christian Church — [Dennis Rose](#)

First Congregational Church/South Hills Christian Church:

First Congregational — [Margie Lawrence](#)

South Hills Christian — [Trisha Stanfill](#)

First Presbyterian Church — [Donna Laminack](#)

First United Methodist Church — [Nancy Froman](#)

Genesis United Methodist Church — [Troy Chapman](#)

Holy Family Catholic Church/St. Andrew Catholic Church/
St. Peter Catholic Church:

Holy Family — [Andy Cordell](#) and [Mike Mocek](#)

St. Andrew — [Marilyn Woodridge](#)

St. Peter — [Elvia Acevedo](#) and [Sylvia Mendez](#)

Ridglea Christian Church — [Konnie Myers](#)

St. John the Apostle Catholic Church — [Colleen Cargile](#)

St. Stephen Presbyterian Church — [Paige Daniel](#)

University Christian Church — [Carol Stewart](#)

Our special coverage of Silver Frogs' Giving
continues on page 6

Membership Increases for 2019 by Sharon Harrelson

The Curriculum Committee's big challenge every semester is to ensure that there will be enough interesting and high-quality courses and lectures to support our growing Silver Frogs membership for the next semester. And to that end, the committee has been working hard to line up the offerings for next spring. After the proposals come in, the committee meets to review and approve which ones will be offered. They aim for a balance of returning and new instructors as well as both new and previously-offered classes. Once that is complete, the scheduling is tackled, which involves fitting the classes into our available space at times when each instructor has indicated they can teach. Add in creating and editing the course catalog, and this project keeps committee members and Extended Ed pretty busy!

Randy Smith, Curriculum Committee chair, reported at the November Advisory Board meeting that we will have 57 courses and 55 one-time lectures on the schedule for Spring 2019. He recommended that we increase Silver Frogs membership for next semester from 500 to 525, based on the available seats, and this was approved by the board. The continued growth of our program is dependent on our volunteer instructors and Randy says, "Thanks to all who have volunteered to teach next semester. Without you we wouldn't have a Silver Frogs program."

Current members will be able to renew their memberships on December 3 and 4 (no stress, you will have a place as long as you register one of these days). People on the membership waitlist may register on December 5 and any remaining places will be opened to the general public on December 6. The next week, members can expect to learn when their assigned course/lecture registration time is on January 9. 

Take Advantage of Free Registration Tutorials

Online registration for the Spring 2019 semester will be here just after the holidays! Will it be your first time to register online? You can do it, but maybe you'd like some practice and guidance so that, when January 9 (mark your calendar!) rolls around, you'll be ready.

Attend one of several hour-long tutorial sessions (listed below) to practice and ask questions. Choose the time you like and sign up. You can even bring your own laptop if you like. Opt to learn now or closer to the actual registration date; we've got you covered either way!



Thursday, November 15: [11:00am](#)
 Friday, November 30: [11:00am](#)
 Thursday, December 13: [8:30am](#) or [10:00am](#)
 Tuesday, December 18: [8:30am](#), [10:00am](#), or [1:00pm](#)
 Friday, January 4: [1:00pm](#) or [3:00pm](#)
 Monday, January 7: [8:30am](#) or [10:00am](#)

TCU Press Come & Go Event

Exclusively for Silver Frogs

Join the TCU Press on Thursday,
November 29 from 10am – 12pm
for some holiday cheer
and gift browsing!

At this Silver Frogs event, come learn about the [TCU Press](#), located at 3000 Sandage Avenue (right behind Secret Wible) and discover the perfect gift for that special person in your life...or for YOU!

Traditionally, the TCU Press publishes historical and creative works related to Texas and the American West, including fiction, poetry, trade nonfiction, biography, scholarship, children's, art, and architecture.

Luncheon Lecture: Captain Jonathan R. Townsend

by Sharon Harrelson

Silver Frogs convened on October 12 at the BLUU for a briefing by **Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Captain Jonathan R. Townsend**. He is the 12th commanding officer of this facility since it was established for its current mission in 1994, and is halfway through his 3-year assignment. Originally from upstate New York, Captain Townsend has worked in various locations including at the Pentagon. He first gave us a history lesson and then spoke about the base's current operations.

The Fort Worth site first opened in 1941 as the Tarrant Field, then was renamed the Fort Worth Army Airfield and repurposed in 1942 as a heavy-bomber training school. Following WWII, it was commissioned in 1948 as Carswell Air Force Base and this continued until its closure in 1993; in 1994 the [NAS Fort Worth JRB](#) was established. The name Carswell Field was also retained.

"Joint Reserve Base" indicates that this installation houses all branches of the military reserves, including Air Force, Army, Marine Corps and Navy as well as the Texas Air National Guard.

The facility covers around 2300 acres and has 2.9 million square feet of space. The base employs approximately 11-12,000 active duty, guard and reserve, and civilian employees and houses a variety of aircraft.

North Central Texas is home to about 212,000 Department of Defense retirees, and the site includes legal and family services, medical and dental facilities and more to support them, as well as the personnel stationed onsite. The base has an annual \$6.6 billion impact on the area's economy.

Its number one purpose is to train and deploy combat-ready forces. There's a lot going on in addition to this primary mission, and you can follow along on the base's [Facebook](#) page.

If you'd like to learn more about the history of NAS Fort Worth JRB, additional information is available online on [Wikipedia](#).



Captain Townsend speaks at the October Luncheon Lecture

This semester's final Luncheon Lecture is coming soon:

Friday, November 16

Speaker: Councilwoman and Political Science Professor
Dr. Victoria Farrar-Myers

New Special Interest Groups!

These three new SIGs have recently been proposed. Join one or more by emailing the contacts below.

No Fears Writers Group

Contact: [Judith Soriano](#)

Writers of prose or poetry come together to exchange ideas, find support and write. If you are not a writer yet but long wanted to muster up the courage, this group is for you, providing a safe space for aspiring writers.

Ladies' Lunch Out

Contact: [Virginia Dias](#)

This group will meet once a month to share experiences, foster new friends, and socialize in general. Every participant will have the opportunity to suggest a nice restaurant to explore, have lunch and more importantly, have fun!

Spanish Club

Contact: [Virginia Dias](#)

Practice the Spanish language in an enjoyable way, such as sharing experiences, cultural insights, ideas, learning new vocabulary and common expressions. Basic Spanish knowledge is necessary.



A Great Day “Fore” a Drive

by Lisa Winter



You shoulda been there! The 17 Silvers who attended the October 10 special event at Topgolf highly recommend you attend another event here! The weather couldn't have been nicer, a little chill in the air, but overhead heaters kept us comfortable. Some folks were serious, but ended up just swinging golf clubs for fun. We shared lots of laughs at the “swings and misses.” The food was excellent, and drink refills kept us satisfied. Two hours were just right for food, fun, and golf.



It's a Small World After All



One of the really fun things about Silver Frogs is the people you meet. And that doesn't have to occur only on the TCU campus! Sometimes it can happen 7,300 miles away.

Jane and Tom Swanson boarded a cruise in Shanghai and the first people they met were fellow Silver Frogs Steve and Janie Christie! They're pictured here on their tour at the Port of Seoul. It really is a small world.



You're Invited

To the Silver Frogs End-of-Semester Celebration

Thursday, December 13 from 6 - 9pm

ACH Child & Family Services' Great Hall, 3712 Wichita St, Fort Worth

Complimentary valet parking available — No charge to members; guests \$47

This event includes:

- * Appetizers and buffet dinner, catered by Reata*
- * Cash bar (beer and wine)*
- * Door prizes*
- * Your fellow Silver Frogs for company*

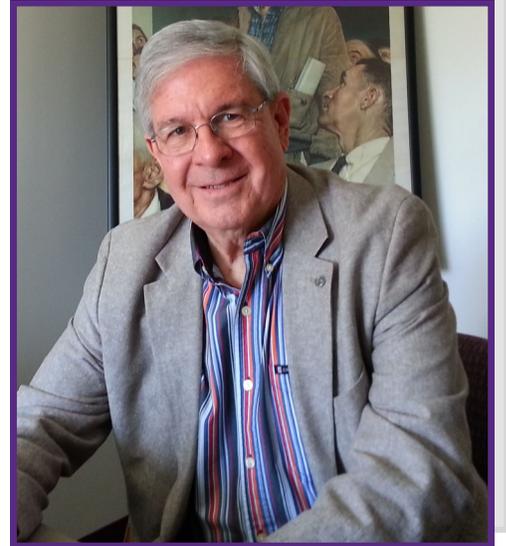
Space is limited! [Register online](#) or call 817-257-7132 by the December 3 deadline.

Instructor Spotlight: Dr. Donald Jackson

by Polly Hooper

Courses taught by Don Jackson are popular with Silver Frogs each semester. He is currently teaching *The Bill of Rights and What it Means Today*; earlier this semester, he graciously took on a couple of additional classes when Dr. Ron Flowers was unable to teach them. Students in *An Introduction to the History and Procedures of the United States Supreme Court* and *The Genius of America: The Separation of Church and State — And What it Means* had the good fortune to learn about the Supreme Court from a professor who previously worked there!

Don Jackson has spent his career on issues involving the Constitution of the United States and on human rights law. He attended SMU Law School and then was chosen as a Supreme Court Fellow and was assigned to work in the office of Chief Justice Warren Burger. He then became a consultant to the American Bar Foundation and pro bono counsel with the Greater Fort Worth Civil Liberties Union. Don was a member of the National Board of the American Civil Liberties Union and a board member of the Executive Committee of the National Board of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. He is a Green Distinguished Emeritus Tutor, a Herman Brown Professor of Political Science at Texas Christian University, and author of a number of books, most recently *Even the Children of Strangers: Equality under the U.S. Constitution* (1992) and *Presidential Leadership and Civil Rights Policy* (coedited with James W. Riddlesperger, Jr., 1995). With the US Supreme Court (USSC) in the news so much lately, we wanted to talk with him about his experience there.



Dr. Donald Jackson

What particular USSC decision do you consider most relevant today?

I believe that *Brown v. Board of Education*, which was decided unanimously in 1954 and put an end to segregated public education in these United States, is still most relevant today. Under the leadership of then Chief Justice Earl Warren the Supreme Court then launched a broad spectrum of constitutional decisions that confirmed and still support most of the civil rights and freedoms that we cherish today. We have become a more inclusive society. Yet, we are not done, for we have not learned to respect the dignity of all our people. Respect for human dignity requires that we listen carefully to those with whom we may disagree. When we understand our differences we may be able to discover commonalities and values that most people can support. We may be able to avoid both tribalism and hatefulness.

What USSC decision that you worked on in your time there is most memorable?

When I worked at the Supreme Court of the United States, I was not a law clerk who worked on decisions. I worked on reforms that might improve the administration of justice. Probably my best work was on the reform of American legal education to include

more practical clinical legal education to better prepare law graduates for work that would benefit more of our people, rather than simply following the pathways where seeking profits through legal representation might lead.

Do you think the size of The Court should be increased?

While the number of Justices of the Supreme Court is not set in the constitution, the provision for 9 justices has been with us since 1869. When President Franklin Roosevelt attempted to “pack the court” in 1937 by adding as many as 6 additional Justices, his attempt failed because of its obvious partisan motivation. The Supreme Court of the United States is not overworked. It takes the votes of 4 Justices to bring a case before that Court, and fewer than 100 cases are thus chosen each year. Most of those are not controversial. Fewer than a dozen cases each year offer the serious prospect of a 5-4 division of the Justices. Increasing the size of the Supreme Court is inevitably a highly partisan process.

Any comments about the recent process to select our newest Supreme Court Justice? Was the process fair and balanced? What, if anything, should have been done differently?

A duly-elected President is entitled by our Constitution to nominate Justices to the Supreme Court of the United States. Should you prefer the nomination of different persons for membership, you should have voted for a different president, with the hope that others will share your preference. Justice Brett Kavanaugh graduated near the top of his class at Yale College, and at Yale Law School. He was on the Board of Editors of the Yale Law Journal. He was a Law Clerk for Justice Anthony Kennedy, whom he eventually replaced. He touched all the right bases on his way to the Supreme Court. While we may not always agree with his decisions on cases before the Supreme Court of the United States, the process for his selection was entirely consistent with American constitutional requirements and traditions.

What do you enjoy most about the TCU Silver Frogs program?

Most members of the freshman class of September 2018 were born in the year 2000. That means I cannot rely on their personal memories of the awful events of 9/11/2001. They lack context. Silver Frogs come from a range of ages and experiences, many of which I share. It is encouraging to discuss important issues with folks of commonly shared experiences.



Prison Entrepreneurship Program by Rick Price

For over 31 years as postal inspector, my investigations resulted in offenders going to jail or prison for crimes they had committed against the US Postal Service, such as theft of mail, robberies or assaulting postal employees; or for using the mail to defraud people or to send dangerous items like drugs, poisons, and bombs.

About four years ago through a presentation at my church, Arborlawn UMC, I was introduced to, and became involved in, an organization called **Prison Entrepreneurship Program**. The average recidivism rate for people released from prison in the United States is 40-50% (about 25% for men in Texas). That is, within three years of release, almost half of the inmates will recycle back into the system. The cost to society is enormous. We have about 140,000 people incarcerated in the Texas prisons, at a cost of over \$22,000 per year per inmate. By comparison, our Texas legislature budgets about \$9,600 per year on education per student.

The cost to society is not just the cost to incarcerate offenders, but the impact on children who grow up in homes without fathers and/or mothers, the loss of wages in a family which causes families to depend on welfare programs to be able to get by, and reduction of taxes collected when people could be gainfully employed.

For inmates who complete a nine-month program through PEP, the recidivism rate is **7%**!

PEP was started in 2004 and the program is operated at two prison units in Texas, the Cleveland Unit at Cleveland, TX and the Sanders Estes Unit at Venus (near Alvarado) by volunteers and by paid PEP staff members. A third program has just been started in 2018 for women inmates at the prison at Lockhart, TX. Prisoners who are within three years of release and who have not been convicted of a sex-related crime can apply to enter PEP. Applicants must complete a 22-page questionnaire and be interviewed to be accepted into the program. If accepted, they are transferred from to either Cleveland or Sander Estes (or Lockhart, in the case of women).

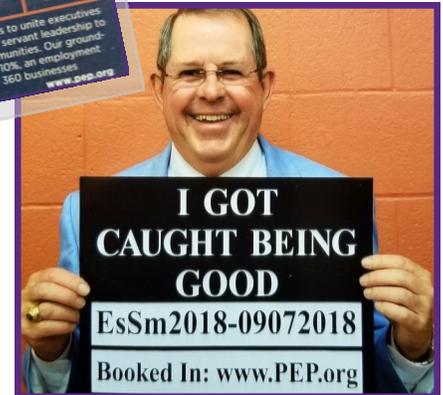
Usually a cohort class starts out at about 85 men (smaller for women) and the program they go through lasts nine months. The first three months involves character development. During the next six months, participants are involved in learning how to develop business plans. The program is exhaustive and participants are expected to hold each other accountable. Not everyone who enters the program will finish. Some cannot handle the work involved (lots of reading and writing is required), some do not like to be held accountable, and some don't finish because they leave early on parole.

Volunteers have opportunities to go into the prisons about eight times per cohort class. These opportunities include events such as Excellence in Etiquette, Think Tank, Business Plan Workshop, Pitch Day, Business



www.pep.org

Plan Competition, and Graduation. There is no expectation that individual volunteers attend all events for each cohort class.



Rick Price's mug shot

Graduation is an amazing, emotional day. Those who make it to graduation have truly transformed their lives. PEP graduates can invite family members to the ceremony in the prison, they wear caps and gowns, are awarded a Certificate of Entrepreneurship from the Baylor University Hankamer School of Business (graduate school studies are used in PEP) and are given time to have photos taken in their caps and gowns with their families. Some of these graduates have not seen their family members in years. After the ceremony, PEP graduates are allowed some time to visit with attendees and to enjoy cakes, cookies, sandwiches and punch. In the last graduation class, one participant's parents traveled from Idaho to attend. It was the first time in 12 years he had seen them, and his class members donated money so his parents could attend.

PEP is funded entirely by donations and grants. The state does not support the program financially at all. There are rooms set aside for PEP activities at each facility where the program operates, and they allow those of us who volunteer to come into the facilities, but the state does not budget any money for this program. Most of the staff members now are previous graduates of PEP. The new CEO is Bryan Kelly, who was in prison for over 20 years for murder involving a drug deal that went bad when he was in his early 20s. PEP likes to say that CEO not only means not only the Chief Executive Officer but also stands for Chief Empowerment Officer, because PEP empowers people to change their lives and the lives of their families.

Of course, not everyone who graduates from PEP is going to actually start a business at some point after they have been released. All will have a job within 30 days of release from prison. Some return to work where they were previously working prior to incarceration; some will

(Continued on page 8)

Careity Foundation



Beverly Branch, co-founder (left) and Vickie Gall setting up for a Celebrity Cutting event last year

In 1998 I was introduced to **Careity Foundation** and quickly became a volunteer at their fund-raising events. Ultimately, I worked for the foundation from 2008-2015. Careity Foundation is a Texas 501(c)(3) with two primary initiatives. Careity is dedicated to providing on-site support services in an oncology setting for economically challenged

cancer patients and through early detection in North Texas. The Pediatric Palliative Care program is directed at providing relief to children with devastating diseases and life-threatening illnesses, through symptom and pain management, at Cook Children's Hospital in Fort Worth. The pediatric oncologists working with Careity are proud of the advancements that have been made in the past few decades to dramatically improve cure rates for kids with cancer.

Their mission and their commitment to patients has always been inspiring. Uniquely, their services extend beyond Tarrant County into Parker and Johnson counties, where access to care is often limited.

Careity social workers are available to help patients with the support that they need to push through each of the next days that they face. Nurse cancer navigators help and enable patients throughout their cancer treatment, no matter how many months or years that may be. Licensed dieticians keep patients healthy in order for them to get through their treatment. A Careity psychotherapist and chaplain help not only the patient but their families, too. Medical massage therapy,

reflexology and acupuncture programs also play a huge part in alleviating some of the anxiety. Careity Foundation was the first in the nation to offer oncology massage in the chemotherapy room to relieve the side effects of drug therapy in patients.

Since 1995, Careity Foundation's Celebrity Cutting Horse event has brought together international celebrities from all walks of life for an evening of fun, thrills and philanthropy. Sports figures, performing artists, physicians and more come to try their hand at the fast-growing sport of cutting, held in one of the world's leading cutting horse centers in the heart of Texas.

Careity Foundation's new Careity Rocks event celebrates the lives and hearts of the young critically ill and terminally ill patients, as well as the professionals who provide the best of care for them. At the center of the event is a musical program featuring country music legend Sonny Burgess and some of the patients he works with each day.



— Vickie Gall

[Click for more information or to volunteer](#)

Prison Entrepreneurship Program

(Continued from page 7)

find work as excellent employees for the rest of their lives; others will try to start a business after working and raising some capital. Recently, Chase Bank paid for a study that found that the annual economic impact from businesses that have been launched by these returning citizens (361 since 2004) to be \$122 million per year, with an estimated savings to Texas taxpayers to be over \$4 million per year. Nearly 25% of the graduates have started a business with 57% of them remaining open in 2018 (by contrast, in Texas during the same time period businesses started by non-PEP graduates that remain open is 53%).

PEP is not a faith-based program; however, many of us

feel that it is a faith-infused program in that most of the volunteers are active church members and became volunteers because of other church members encouraging them to get involved. People and officials from other states are coming to study the PEP program in Texas because they have heard about the impact of this program, and they want to start similar programs in their state prisons.

Every time I leave the Sanders Estes Unit, I drive home tired but inspired! If you are interested in becoming involved in a program that impacts so many lives, contact me at 817-798-5148, and I will give you a *Get Into Jail Free* card and discuss with you about how you can become a PEP volunteer.



Pet Partners / Delta Hearts of Gold

A few years ago when my mother had some health issues, she had to be in some rehab facilities. At the time, when my husband would visit, he would bring our special dog Cokeita with him. Cokeita was a rescue dog that we had gotten from a rescue group in Weatherford when she was two years old. She is an Old English Sheep Dog and she is so very calm and loving. Each time that she was at a facility, you could see the cheerfulness in the people that she visited.

As a result of this, when we signed her up for obedience training, we asked our instructor about becoming a therapy dog team. We were very fortunate and she did in fact work with us to first pass the Canine Good Citizen Test and then to complete the requirements to become a Pet Partner Therapy Dog Team. We have been registered with **Pet Partners** for three years, through their community partner group **Delta Hearts of Gold**. For the last 10 months I have served as the president of Delta Hearts of Gold.

Cokeita does regular visits at Cook Children's Hospital, Medical City Alliance, Medical City Fort Worth, Moncrief Cancer Institute, Martin Crest Assisted Living and Memory Care, and TCC Trinity River Campus, and True Worth Place. She also visits periodically at TCU, UNTHSC, and various schools. They love that she is so calm. It is not unusual for her to lay on a person's feet or lay down with a group of children or adults and let them braid her hair.

This has been, and continues to be, a wonderful opportunity for us. 

— Donna Jett

[Click here for additional information or to volunteer](#)



Donna Jett and Cokeita

FW Public Library



Carol Vlasich and Betsy McDaniel
at the shelves

We love the Fort Worth Public Library, especially the Wedgwood Branch!!

It is our pleasure to volunteer weekly at the same branch library where we once took our children. We shelve, we pull, we do whatever Laura Anderson, Librarian or any other of the excellent staff ask of us.

As avid readers, being around the books and the people that love them is a great fit for us. The library has loads of services for the public, and it's a safe place where you can be

alone or interact with others...whatever you wish. Drop by anytime; we'd love to see you!



— Carol Vlasich and Betsy McDaniel

[Click here for volunteer information](#)

Boy Scouts of America



Randy Smith is prepared!

In my "spare time" I am a Boy Scout leader, something I have been doing since 1985 (34 years). I was a Scout in my much younger years (11 years, Cub Scout & Boy Scout, earning the Eagle Scout rank). I got involved as an adult when my son was Cub Scout age. I served as the Cubmaster for his pack, then as committee chairman for his troop. While involved at the troop level, I worked

with the boys and went on nearly every camping trip for seven years.

During that time up until the present, I have also held many positions at the Texas District and Longhorn Council levels, where my activities have been focused mostly on adult leader training, having taught on nearly every training course offered in the council. I am now trying to learn to say 'no' more often and currently only have two jobs: district committee member and unit commissioner. Someday, I actually may retire from Scouting – when it's not fun anymore. 

— Randy Smith

[Click here to learn more about Scouting](#)



I am thankful for family and friends, health and home, and all of the people who go out of their way to make a difference. You know who you are! You really do change the world.

— Linda Eastwick

I am thankful that my 91-year-old mother made it through major surgery and that I am able to be with her as she recovers. I am missing my Silver Frog friends, however!!

— Sian Borne

I am thankful for the friends I have made through Silver Frogs and for the incredible Extended Education staff.

— Ann Shelton

I'm thankful for the opportunities I have to give and serve in my community — places like First Street Methodist Mission, United Community Centers, Room in the Inn and with our Silver Streak newsletter.

— Carolyn Stephens

I'm thankful that my Dad — a TCU graduate and enthusiastic lifelong learner — is a Silver Frog with me! We are able to attend classes and events together, and learn new things at the same time.

— Sharon Harrelson

The Silver Streak Staff is thankful that Silver Frogs is made up of such interesting and inspiring people, who so willingly share their stories in each issue of our newsletter.

Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

National Day of Giving

In 2012, the National Day of Giving was created to bring focus to the charitable season. Following the commercialism of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday, this year on November 27, is a global effort to celebrate generosity, engaging the power of social media ([#GivingTuesday](#)). It's evident that Silver Frogs are a giving group. Use this day to champion your causes via Facebook, or to invite a friend or neighbor to join you in your service to others. 

Thanksgiving Proclamation

Governor William Bradford of Massachusetts made this first Thanksgiving Proclamation in 1623, three years after the Pilgrims settled at Plymouth:

Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as He has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience.

Now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the daytime, on Thursday, November 29th, of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty three and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.

William Bradford

Ye Governor of Ye Colony

Reads That Illustrate a Spirit of Giving by Shari Barnes



Booker T. Washington said, "Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others."

Some of our best literature guides us toward that happiness to which Dr. Washington refers. Books can inspire us to lose ourselves in the pursuit of the Golden Rule. The following tomes are recommended to jumpstart your giving motivation:

The Words of Mahatma Gandhi (1982) selected and introduced by Richard Attenborough. Gandhi spent his life pursuing peace. He said, "The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others." This great 20th century prophet has much to say to the 21st century. In an era of violence, Gandhi's life provides a vision for nonviolence and giving to others.

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (1950) by C. S. Lewis. "You have a traitor there," said the Witch. And everyone knew it was Edmund, even his brother and sisters. But the magnificent lion Aslan was willing to give his life to save renegade Edmund. This is a beautiful symbolic book in the Chronicles of Narnia series. If you have children in your life, consider reading it with them; it's a creative way to introduce them to the concept of giving oneself.

Gilead (2004) by Marilynne Robinson tells the story of aging minister John Ames who has spent his life giving to his congregation. Knowing that he is dying, Ames

wants to give his life and his story to his young son. Mark Twain said, "To get the full value of joy, you must have someone to divide it with." Robinson writes movingly of a man who chooses to multiply his joy by dividing and sharing with his immediate and extended family.

The Giving Tree (1964) by Shel Silverstein tells the tale of a tree who finds its life in giving to a boy. "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give," said Sir Winston Churchill. The tree's life consists of unselfish acts of kindness to a frequently thoughtless child who expects more and more from the tree. This is another excellent work to share with younger people in your life. While it contains sad moments, it provides opportunities for dialog about the meaning of giving.

To Kill a Mockingbird (1960) by Harper Lee portrays Atticus Finch as the ultimate giver. Not only is he the consummate father who provides love, learning, and independence for Scout and Jem, he is a lawyer who gives himself to what he is certain is a lost cause. By defending Tom Robinson, Atticus demonstrates Francis Assisi's famous quote, "For it is in giving that we receive."

Reading does more than entertain. It can energize us to find our better selves and give beyond the confines of our sometimes self-serving natures. It can increase our sense of thanksgiving and make us grateful for our blessings.



What Are You Reading?

For each issue, we ask Silver Streak readers to share what they've been reading.

For more recommendations, you may want to check out PBS' *Great American Read* on Channel 13, online or on Facebook.

[Share what you're reading for the December issue!](#)

I just finished **Stone Song: A Novel of the Life of Crazy Horse** by Win Blevins. The book was a nominee for the Pulitzer Prize in 1995. From the Dallas Morning News: "'Stone Song' is a deeply spiritual story about the soul journey of a great and mysterious American hero."

— Judy Soriano

The Leavers by Lisa Ko. This is a compelling story about a woman's life in China and the United States from her point of view. It also tells the story of her son's life, from his point of view. Combined with a few other elements it presents an insightful look into immigration in this century.

— Tim Runkle

All Quiet on the Western Front by Eric Maria Remarque. I signed up for the TCU Lecture this semester knowing it was a presentation done in character. I had not read the book so I took the time to read before the lecture. The vivid depiction of war and its impact on the soldiers is a reality that still exists today. The lecture presentation was extraordinary!

—Vickie Gall

Claudia Roth Pierpont's **Passionate Minds: Women Rewriting the World** (Knopf 2001). It features the literary achievements of 12 modern women writers, including Eudora Welty, Zora Neale Hurston, and Doris Lessing. There are surprises.

— Mahala Stripling

Netflix: The Haunting of Hill House



The Netflix series *The Haunting of Hill House* is a well-crafted retelling of my all-time favorite horror movie. Although it has very little to do with the original film, or the Shirley Jackson novel it is based on, it does retain the original character names.

In this incarnation, the characters are all related to one another in a slightly dysfunctional family living in a highly dysfunctional house. Although more violent than the original film/novel, this production is not overly excessive and contains some of the subtle terrors of the original, amped up for our more current jaded sensibilities.

The casting is uniformly good (the one exception being the striking dissimilarity of the younger Hugh Crain character, played by Henry Thomas (Elliott in ET) and his modern grown manifestation, played by Timothy Hutton).

Like many contemporary serialized dramas, the revelations appear random and unrelated at the beginning, but are skillfully woven together by the 10th episode of the series. Although I enjoyed the series very much, I'd prefer not seeing a sequel. It stands alone very well as a complete, self-contained work. It raises interesting questions about parental love, what it means to be safe in this world, and the cascading consequences of fear and guilt.

If you do choose to watch, keep your eyes on the background of each scene. There are endless apparitions, some obvious and some so subtle you'll think them to be a transient illusion.

— Dan Calvin

Grisham: The Reckoning



I'm not sure why I pre-order an ebook when there is no danger of running out of copies, but pre-ordering feels powerful when you are anxious to read a hot-off-the-press Grisham novel.

John Grisham's latest, *The Reckoning*, as suggested by the title, follows a familiar Grisham formula, fleshed out with vibrant character development and meticulous research, in this settlement-of-accounts novel, set in the south of the 1940's. The Reckoning is a tragedy in three acts.

What appears to be a senseless deed by a hero of the infamous Bataan death March draws the reader into the life of a man returned from the horrors of the Pacific War in the Philippines. Pete Banning, the WWII vet, has returned from a harrowing three years in the Philippines during the Japanese occupation. For no apparent reason he commits a murder. Why? What was the motive?

Grisham takes the reader through the Bataan peninsula to Corregidor, the occupation of the Philippines and the surrender of over 70,000 US soldiers. Banning is a prisoner who escapes and becomes a resistance fighter. He returns home to resume life as a Mississippi landowner-cotton farmer.

The betrayal becomes the final act in this story of love, physical and psychological pain with terrible consequences.

This novel has its light moments but by and large it is a somber and dark story. This being said, I couldn't put it down -- it is a fast-paced novel that will hook you from page one!

Since publishing his first novel, *A Time to Kill*, in 1988, John Grisham has written a novel each year with over 300 million copies of his books sold.

— Richard Ranc

Tell Us...Your Favorite Sounds of the Season



You may have already seen and heard the not-so-subtle signs that Christmas is on the way...one of the first is when you hear jingle bells and carols on the radio or being played almost everywhere you go. That festive music can take you back into your holiday history instantly! We want to know what your favorite Christmas album is (that's right, we ALL know what albums are, even if our kids and grandkids don't).

[Click here](#) to tell us — is it Ray Conniff, Steve & Eydie, or maybe Nat King Cole? Maybe something more recent? Any Christmas album counts, as long as it doesn't feature any unfortunate incidents involving Grandma and a reindeer.

On One Tank of Gas: Oakwood Cemetery by Polly Hooper

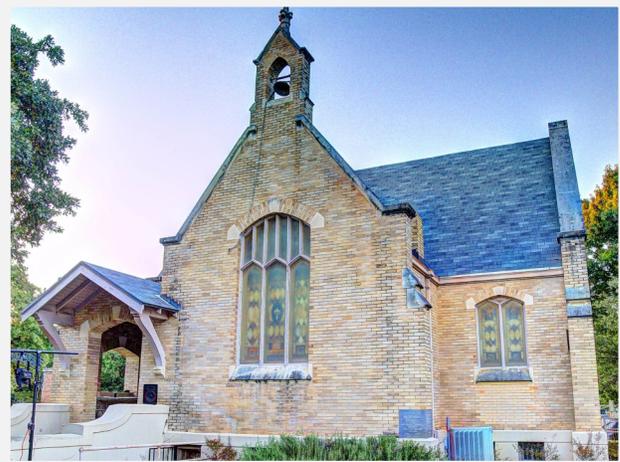


Under mighty live oaks in the shadow of downtown Fort Worth lies a true city treasure. Save your gas for our next trip because this one is close to home.

The Oakwood Cemetery Saints and Sinners tour is offered over two days only once a year in late October. The tickets sell out in just a few hours for the twilight tour so mark your calendar for August of 2019 so you can be a part of this wonderful experience.

The cemetery was founded in 1879 by John Peter Smith. It is the final resting place for many historical Fort Worth folks of fame and notoriety. Once a year, the Fort Worth Historical Society conducts tours of this beautiful place. Their website says it best: "Cattle barons, oilmen, politicians, bartenders, bankers and gamblers are here. Some were giants of Texas and Fort Worth history, some were planners, some were dreamers." Their stories are spelled out on monuments and historical markers. They bring the people back to life through actors portraying them in front of the large crypts. You learn about ordinary people buried there as well as people who shaped our history in significant ways. The characters vary from year to year. This year we heard from one of the bartenders in Hell's Half Acre, a murdered young lady along with her murderer in a love triangle as well as Khleber Miller (K.M.) Van Zandt.

Van Zandt helped found Fort Worth National Bank after moving to the city when it only had 250 citizens. He



built a home for his family near what is now Trinity Park and his cottage still stands there today, the oldest home in Fort Worth still on its original foundation. We

heard about his many marriages, his multiple business ventures and a funny story about a business transaction during the flooding of the Trinity River when he couldn't cross on horseback to get to work. He threw a rock tied up in cloth across the Trinity to his business partner with the combination to the safe so the bank could conduct business without him being there.



At the end of the tour we

were ushered into the lovely chapel on site to be entertained by a three piece gospel band. They harmonized beautifully and the audience showed their enjoyment by clapping and tapping to the rhythms and even singing along. The highlight of the evening had to be the costumed bagpipe player who entered the chapel, wound around the pews and then exited into the night playing Amazing Grace. It sent chills up my spine and there was complete silence as the beautiful sounds drifted away.

If you would like to experience this wonderful piece of city history before next October rolls around you can print out a map and do a self guided tour. The gates are open from 8:00am to 7:00pm daily. Although the twilight tour tickets sell out quickly at \$20 you can also do a walking tour with the same characters during the day on the same dates in October for only \$10 and space is not limited. The only difference is you will not have the chapel concert at the end.



Educational Savings Plans Update by Richard Ranc



You value education; if you didn't, you probably wouldn't be involved with TCU Silver Frogs or reading this edition of the Silver Streak. Here is a way to help your grandchild, niece, nephew or any youngster that you know could use an assist with *their* education. Educational Savings Plans, also known as 529 plans, are designed specifically to fund educational expenses.

Established in 1996, 529 plans may or may not be specific to a particular state. Generally, an investment company sponsors and administers the 529 plan. The location or situs of the 529 may be, for example, Texas but the program may be used at any educational institution in Texas or other state. The program is not limited to state schools. Beginning in 2018, 529 plans may be used for tuition at private schools grades K-12 but with a limit of \$10,000 per year for tuition.

Here's how it works. A grandparent, for the benefit of a grandchild, establishes the plan, for example. The grandparent is the plan's owner and the child is the beneficiary. The plan may also have a successor owner. Once established,

anyone may donate to the plan. In Texas, 529 plans have a **donation limit of \$300,000.**

All monies deposited to the plan are after tax dollars and are not deductible to the donor. BUT, all the funds in the plan grow tax-free and when used for educational purposes are tax -exempt to the recipient. These funds can be used for the beneficiary, and the beneficiary may be changed if circumstances warrant this.

What can the funds be used for? Books, tuition, dorm or apartment rent, food when attending college or a trade school, pre-kindergarten, private schools-anything associated with costs related to education.

Many establish plans and provide an incentive by matching donations made to the plan. The 529 Program is a wonderful tool for helping to fund educational costs. Contact your broker or a financial planner, CFP, if you want specific information about establishing an educational savings plan.

The legacy of an education is a lifetime gift which will never be forgotten.



After Violent Storms, Giving Provides Relief by Buddy McIntyre



As a meteorologist, I have special compassion for people affected by weather disasters. During my career with the National Weather Service I sometimes visited areas devastated by tornadoes, talking with survivors searching through rubble for their belongings and trying to piece their lives back together. As far as weather disasters go, it has been a crazy late summer and fall with hurricanes.

Hurricane Florence made landfall on September 14 in North Carolina, the second wettest US storm in almost 70 years, following only Harvey which deluged the Texas and Louisiana coasts in 2017. The heavy rainfall and severe flooding were the big stories with Florence, with the death toll currently standing at 51.

A rapidly-intensifying Hurricane Michael struck the Florida Panhandle on October 10 with wind speeds near 150 mph. It was the fourth-strongest hurricane based on wind speed to make landfall in the United States. A storm surge of 9 to 14 feet likely occurred with Michael. The death toll currently stands at 39.

Then on October 24 in the Pacific Ocean, Super Typhoon Yutu devastated the Northern Mariana Islands, a US territory, with winds near 180 mph. As of this writing, we do not yet know the extent of damage or casualties. Typhoons are the same weather phenomenon as hurricanes. Typhoon is the name given to the phenomenon when it originates in the Northwest Pacific Ocean.



Satellite image of Hurricane Michael

Although it is difficult to tie any specific weather event to climate change, more intense hurricanes/typhoons with heavier rainfall and higher storm surges are expected in a warming world. Ominously, according to preliminary data, seven of the ten strongest landfalling tropical systems have occurred since 2006.

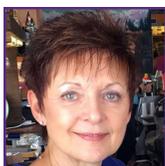
There are a number of charities which help support relief from storms. [Charity Navigator](#) evaluates charities and under the heading "Hot Topics" includes a link to charities supporting recent weather disasters. If you are so moved, take a look at these charities and join me in giving to support relief for victims of these weather disasters.



Thank you, Silver Streak Contributors!



Shari Barnes (*Spirit of Giving*) 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.



Linda Eastwick (*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.



Suzanne Folsche (*Newsletter Staff*) arrived in Fort Worth following 15 moves! TCC, UTA and TCU prepared her to work for 21+ years at GD / Lockheed Martin in the software community. Now, she loves to spend time with family, travel, read and enjoy the wonderful live theater available in Fort Worth.



Sharon Harrelson (*Luncheon Lecture, Membership, Editor*) is a Fort Worth native who has been editing various publications for work and fun since middle school. She's currently the Advisory Board vice president; she also enjoys cooking/baking, gardening, photography and being a band mom to twin sons.



Polly Hooper (*On One Tank of Gas, , Instructor Spotlight, Newsletter Staff*) is a native Texan and is passionate about all types of photography. Her hobbies include travel and reading. She also loves to play games and is in a neighborhood book club. Her grandsons keep her very busy as well.



Buddy McIntyre (*Violent Storms*) worked for 30 years as a meteorologist with the National Weather Service (NWS), where he gained considerable experience studying and warning for severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. Buddy is a graduate of TCU and has an MS in meteorology from Utah State University.



Rick Price (*Prison Entrepreneurship*) is a native Texan and a graduate of Texas Tech. He was a US Postal Inspector for almost 32 years, and later taught in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at UTA. He enjoys traveling, especially by train.



Richard Ranc (*529, Reckoning, 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 (*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.



Carolyn Stephens (*Room in the Inn, Newsletter Staff*) came to Silver Frogs two years ago after a career in journalism, public relations and crisis communications. She loves the concept of lifelong learning and enjoys reading, cooking, gardening and new adventures.



Lisa Winter (*Topgolf*) 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.

Be part of this semester's last Silver Streak issue!

Our theme is **HOLIDAY TRADITIONS**.

Share your favorite recipes, activities, and traditions for holiday celebrations. Watch for an email requesting your stories, and then share with the Silver Frogs!

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



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Mark Your Calendar



November 12 — Session III Courses/ Lectures begin

November 15 —

***Special Event: Tour of Cowboys' STAR Practice Facility, Frisco**

November 16 — Luncheon Lecture

November 29 — TCU Press Come & Go

December 3 & 4 — Spring Member Registration

December 7 — Silver Streak deadline: "Holiday Traditions" theme

December 7 —

Special Event: White Christmas, Stolen Shakespeare Guild **SOLD OUT*

December 13 —

***Special Event: End of Semester Celebration, All-Church Home catered by Reata**

December 14 — End of Session III

January 9 — Spring Course & Lecture Registration

*Special events require a reservation and there may be a fee to attend. You will see an email when registration opens for special events.