

Bethany Mayor to Address Academy of Senior Professionals

By Milton Sonnevik

The Academy of Senior Professionals welcomes Bethany's distinguished mayor, Mayor J. D. Johnston, to its podium on Monday, January 8, 2001.

Mayor Johnston is a lifelong resident of Bethany.



His career began as a police officer for the Bethany Police Department, where he served for eleven years. Following his service in Bethany, he went to the Oklahoma City Police Department, where he served another eleven years as a motorcycle officer. He left the Oklahoma City Police Department to work with the Putnam City School District to set up the Putnam City Campus Police Department.

He was the first chief of the Campus Police and served in that capacity for four years.

With over 25 years of public service, Johnston left law enforcement and began his own oilfield service business. His business was stable, survived the oil bust, and has continued to grow. Today Johnston Oilfield Equipment is a growing business with J. D. traveling to serve his customers in Texas, Arkansas, Kansas and Oklahoma. His business has also expanded to Bogota, Colombia, and Lima, Peru.

Elected to the City Council in 1996, J. D. Johnston, along with several newly elected Council members, set out to revive the City of Bethany with increased service to the public, a more open government and a "citizen friendly" City Hall. The goals included:

1. An open door policy at City Hall administration offices with faster, friendlier response to citizen needs.
2. A revitalized Police Department with greater neighborhood involvement, new citizen-oriented programs and improved business and residential patrol.
3. Improved efficiency in service delivery through interdepartmental cooperation.

In 1998 Councilman Johnston resigned his Council seat and filed for the mayoral post. He was elected by a significant margin as mayor of Bethany in the spring of 1998.

Mayor Johnston's accomplishments are far too numerous to list in this short biographical sketch. Since becoming mayor, J. D. Johnston has encouraged more frequent and open communication among Council members, City Manager and department heads. The sharing and open working relationship has made work for everyone more enjoyable, and projects seem to move at a faster pace.

Overall, Mayor Johnston has instilled a positive "can-do" attitude with everyone at City Hall. His forward and positive thinking and actions are strong motivators to make our City the best it can be.

Mayor Johnston's address is entitled "The State of the City of Bethany in the Year 2001."





Your president's point of view:
by Jack David Arnold

Retirement Housing Marketing To the Silent Generation

*One generation passeth away, and another cometh,
But the earth abideth forever.*

—Ecclesiastes 1:4

While researching retirement housing options, I discovered that I am a prime prospect for the retirement community business (RCB) because my birth in 1928 makes me a member of the Silent Generation.

In the Article "Marketing to a New Generation" in the summer 1996 issue of Retirement Business Community, Sharon Brooks and Don Husi point out that "since their competition offers numerous options that allow seniors to stay in their own homes, the RCB must find new ways to compete with these options in order to attract new prospects (12)."

The Brooks and Husi article led me to the book, Generations: The History of America's Future, 1584-2069, written by William Strauss and Neil Howe. They offer a paradigm for understanding how events in the lives of new retirees shaped their attitudes and caused a change in values from the generations before and after them. This book illustrates a basic truth: **our past shapes who we are today.**

RCB providers look to the past and analyze the experiences that shaped the Silent Generation, often referred to as Silents. They look as the state of society during our youth, and the key events that shaped our attitudes toward retirement. These factors are shaping the direction of RCB.

Strauss and Howe predicted what is happening now to the Silents: "Armies of merchandisers and seniors-only condo salesmen will pounce on these new young-oldsters as they complete a stunning two-generation rags-to-riches transformation of American elderhood (389)."

In 1974 historian William Manchester coined the phrase, "Silent Generation," for any American born between 1925 and 1942, when he wrote, "Never had American youth been so withdrawn, cautious, unimaginative, indifferent, unadventurous—and silent" (quoted in Strauss and Howe, 279). I don't like the label of "Silent Generation," but I know it fits.

By taking a look at my generation's basic beliefs and spending patterns, the RCB is now making changes in retirement communities to better serve the Silents.

- Because our educational level has increased significantly over previous generations, **life-long learning and activity programs are going to have to change to meet the needs of our more intellectual group of individuals.**
- Since Silents enjoy taking care of themselves in a personal way, **more dining choices, more nutritious choices in meal plans will be provided.** The RCB promises not to take away the desserts and coffee!
- Because we are less likely to rely on family or friends for support or care in our older years, **a campus of socialization will be created to make Silents feel a part of the retirement community.**

Continued on Page 6: Arnold



"Sharing a Continuous Flight"

The Academy Perspective

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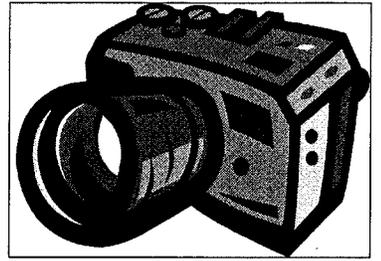


- An executive is one who never puts off until tomorrow what he can get someone else to do today.
- And then there was the young man who took a job-aptitude test—he was found to be suited for retirement.
- Some people's idea of keeping a secret is not to tell who told them.
- It's easier to follow the leader than to lead the followers.
- With today's transportation, there's no such thing as a distant relative.
- It's trying to live comfortably that makes life rough.



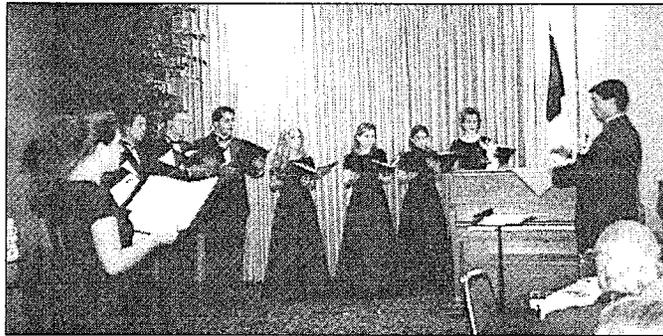
ASP PICS

PICTURES BY EDITH SONNEVIK PAYNE



Carol Spencer discusses activities of the Memoir Writing Group

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Dr. Brent Ballweg and the SNU Chamber Chorale present a program of Christmas music.

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Marilyn Bergman, SNU Alumni Director, talked about remaining alumni activities for 2000-2001.



Dr. Frank and Mary Ann Ellis, long-distance ASP members from Rockville, MD, enjoy an infrequent visit to the Academy luncheon.



Margaret Greenwood, Marriott caterer, presents some of her lovely Christmas decorations she arranged for the December luncheon.



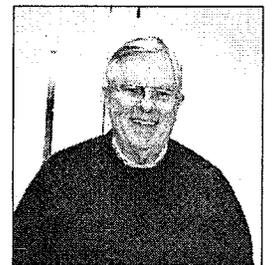
Milton Sonnevik, ASP Program Planner, introduces the SNU Chamber Chorale.



Lecil Brown, enjoying the December luncheon, is one of the ASP outstanding members.



B. Kaye Stearman is co-chairman of the Membership Committee. She is standing with one of the new Academy signs provided by Dr. Robert Griffin.



Dr. Tom Barnard (and wife Madelyn) have returned to Bethany following his retirement from Eastern Nazarene University. They are new members of the Academy. Welcome!

Russia by Waterways

By James R. (Bob) Emmel

[The first part of this article appeared in the December, 2000 issue of *The Academy Perspective*. The concluding part appears in this issue.]

Finally, after almost two thousand miles of waterways, we concluded our travel in the city of Moscow between the banks of the Volga and Oka rivers. Volumes have been written about his city and its survival as the capital of the Russian Empire. The writer is inadequate to give a meaningful picture of Moscow and will resort to only a very few of the highlights. The first-time visitor and lifelong Muscovites easily overlook evidence of the city's rocky history of establishing it as the capital city of Russia, so extraordinary and diverse are its intrinsic attributes. It appeared to our traveling group that Moscow, with architecture that defies comparison, is "neck to neck" with all of the other great cities of the world. The city appears clean, well-groomed, and is the pride of the Russian people. Fortunately, in the Kremlin and Red Square all of those onion-domed cathedrals and buildings were left almost untouched by the Soviets and the wars of the past. Visiting Moscow and the Kremlin brought the socialist revolution of this country into greater reality, and the astounding negative sores of Communism foisted upon Russia are beginning to heal.

In the Kremlin towers of every form—round, square and with pointed roofs, belfries, donjons, turrets, spires, sentry boxes, steeples of every height, style and color, palaces, domes, watchtowers, walls, embattlements pierced with loopholes, ramparts, fortifications of every species, and incomprehensible devices—created the initial impression of the Moscow Kremlin. In the famous Red Square just outside the walls of the Kremlin, rests Lenin's mausoleum, which is still visited by some to view his remains. Many Russians declare that it is not the body of Lenin, only a wax imposter. The younger generations seem to have little regard for any of the leadership from Lenin until the Gorbachev regime, for he and his lovely wife, Raisa, brought a new dimension to Russia that has continued to the present day.

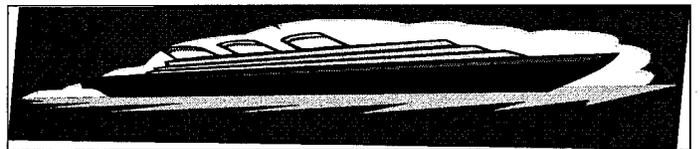
In the Red Square we observed the orgy of multi-colored onion domes of St. Basil's Cathedral, the State Historical Museum, the cobblestone thoroughfare of the famous Arbat Street, which is full of

shops and a wonderful shopping mall. This is a present-day, capsulated view which gives a few of the wonders of Moscow.

Stalin, the mustachioed monster, virtually robbed the Russian people of much of what they held in high esteem; their artistic heritage, their religious treasures, their architectural wonders, and a great deal of their intellectualism.

Russians are very involved in industrial and commercial development and are slowly beginning to think of pollution and negative environmental factors. Russia has its own character, with its rocky years of development and restoration from Communist rule, but Russia will come back into its own as a country. From our perspective never again will this unique empire return to a Soviet rule and Communism.

After a short visit to Helsinki, Finland and London, it was home again to America where "the land is full of sunshine and the flag is full of stars."



Partners in Research: An Update

By Sue Anne Lively

These have been very busy months of working on my dissertation! I have spent many hours interviewing members of the Academy, reading memoirs and articles written by Academy members, reviewing Academy documents, visiting the activities of the Academy, thinking, rethinking, rethinking again, bugging friends with new ideas, and being a nuisance to both my family and colleagues. As the days have progressed, I have also been able to begin to put together the structure of the dissertation, which is a wonderful place to be in this whole process.

In this type of research, I am looking for patterns, trends, and common stories that weave throughout all of the data. I am hearing wonderful, rich stories of lifetime commitments to learning. Academy members are keenly aware of the need to remain curious about life around them and to actively be engaged in learning projects that are meaningful to them. Furthermore, the Academy members are dedicated to service, to both the Church of the Nazarene and to Southern Nazarene University. These two important characteristics give the members of the Academy a sound foundation and a structure for life-long-learning.

Consequently, I am very interested in hearing your stories about:

- Growing up in the Church during childhood and adolescence.
- Unique or interesting stories about what brought you to (BPC, BNC, SNU).
- Why you choose to be a part of the Academy of Senior Professionals.

I would be thrilled to have any story or memory that you would like to contribute concerning the above!. You can reach me at 491-6662 or my e-mail address is slively@snu.edu.

Again, my heartfelt thanks to the Academy members for their willingness to be partners with me in research!



"If you ask me"
By Vada Lee Barkley

"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son . . ." (John 3:16). Jesus wept over Jerusalem (Matt. 24:17-39). God sends sunshine and rain on the just and the unjust alike. Yet Jesus spoke some of the most blistering words of condemnation to and about the Scribes and Pharisees. Once, He drove the money changers from the temple with whips, overturned their tables, and released their sacrificial offerings. On another occasion, Mark says, "He looked round about on them with anger" (Mark 3:5).

In our zeal to convince everyone of God's love, we fail to acknowledge His justice. Thus our society has no fear of God.

A modern scholar rewriting the Bible would have Adam and Eve get a slap on the wrist for disobeying God. No loving God would drive them from the Garden, curse their offspring, and even the earth, for partaking of a piece of fruit. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah was a natural disaster. A loving God could not have done that. Why, even innocent children were killed.

We have abolished—at least, air-conditioned hell. We don't use the word except in profanity or to describe a miserable condition we live in. Yet Jesus had a lot to say about it.

Despite His attribute of justice, "The Lord . . . is not willing that any should perish, but that all come to repentance." (II Peter 3:9).

He requires the same spirit of us.



RIG'S Ongoing Efforts for Seniors

By Bea Flinger

The Research Interest Group (RIG) is concerned with locating information of importance to senior adults. The possible topics to be considered and researched are legion—too extensive to list. However, in utilizing the internet, many of these subjects containing valuable information are discovered.

Have you ever thought of such topics as *gerontology; information for older persons and their families; potential health dangers and legal issues related to specific drugs and their possible effects on the body; important information about veteran issues; help from the Administration on Aging; The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP); disability problems faced by many senior adults; disaster preparedness such as safety; pain management; discrimination related to aging—(yes, it does exist); Care-giving; and other ethical issues dealing with the aging process?*

The above topics are only a small part of the issues and problems which some senior adults may face. Through the wonderful medium of research, answers of help may be obtained for those who have questions about situations that can affect much of the senior population. For that reason, we would like to hear from you about subjects that may be of concern to your present or future.



A look at a book
By Wini Howard

Treasures In a Cornfield by Greg Hawley

Does the term "buried treasure" intrigue you? If so, you would, very probably, enjoy *Treasures in a Cornfield*.

Many steamboats going up the Missouri River in the 1800's were sunk and never rediscovered. The *Arabia* was one of them. In September of 1856 it was going up the river on its way to the frontier with 130 passengers and 220 tons of precious cargo. An underwater walnut tree pierced through the hull and sank the boat near Parkville, Missouri. All the cargo was lost, plus a tethered mule. (Its skeleton was found in 1988.)

The interesting fact is that the river changed its course over the years. The *Arabia* finally rested under a cornfield. Many adventuresome people tried to uncover the treasure that they were sure the *Arabia* cargo held, but all were unsuccessful.

However, in 1988 Greg Hawley, with three other men, decided to take on the project of uncovering the "buried treasure." It is hard to imagine the magnitude of such a task. This book is a detailed, and I'm sure accurate, account of the tremendous task.

Finding the exact location of the boat was the first challenge. There were deep probes into the cornfield. The biggest job was pumping out the water from the wet soil, and it continued to be a problem unto the very end of the endeavor.

The cargo was amazing in its variety. Almost everything needed for frontier living was there: clothing, shoes and boots, dishes, cookware, tools, processed fruits, firearms, and much more. As they were discovered, the many items were cleaned and stored very carefully—a big job. Despite the tedious hard work, the author assures us that it was a very exciting time for all of them.

The final decision was to open a museum in Kansas City and display all the wonderful things from the *Arabia*.

Greg Hawley has written a most interesting account of what was a great adventure for all those involved.

Barnes and Noble will order this book for you.



Resolutions When I Come to be Old

Written in 1699*

- Not to be peevish, or morose, or suspicious.
- Not to tell the same story over and over to the same people.
- Not to be over severe with young people, but give allowances for their youthful follies and weaknesses.
- Not to be too free of advice, or trouble any but those who desire it.
- Not to talk much, nor of myself.
- **Not to set for observing all these rules, for fear I should observe none.**

*Source: *The New Joy of Words*. Chicago: J.G. Ferguson, 1961.

Arnold—Continued from Page 2

- Since Silents seek approval from other generations and are altruistic, the retirement community providers will seek to establish a strong volunteer program, mixed with intergenerational activities, and a planned-giving program in an effort to create the perception of brand loyalty that is associated with an affiliated group.

These four RCB strategies, write Brooks and Husi, are “feeders to increase occupancy between now and the year 2015.” As I continue my research into senior housing, I now have a heightened sense of awareness that RCB providers, who have a new understanding of my generation, are targeting me as a customer as they provide new services to meet my unique needs and special interests as a prospective resident.

*As is the generation of leaves, so too of men;
At one time the wind shakes the leaves to the ground
But then the flourishing woods
Gives birth, and the season of spring comes
Into existence;
So it is with the generations of men, which
Alternately come forth and pass away.*

—Homer, *Iliad*, Sixth Book

Like Homer’s “leaves,” each generation has its one endowment agenda. This makes the cycle of generations a powerful force for rejuvenation, a balance wheel for human progress, and—if the Silent Generation plays its role well—it will contribute to the American Dream.



ASP Calendar & News Briefs

- 9:00-10:15 a.m. Strategic Planning Committee
General Conference Room (Commons)
- 10:15-11:15 a.m. Memoir Writing Workshop
Faculty Lounge/Commons
- 10:45-11:15 a.m. Shuttle from BFC West Parking Lot to Commons
- 11:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Luncheon Meeting—Heritage Room/Commons
- 1:00-1:30 p.m. Shuttle from Commons to BFC West Parking Lot
- 1:15-2:15 p.m. Administrative Council—Faculty Lounge/Commons

~ ~ PLEASE NOTE NEW TIMES ~ ~

A Quote Worthy of Note*

Youth is a gift of nature — Age is a work of art.
—Hugh Downs

*Quoted by Dr. George Coulter in his Valedictory General Assembly address marking his retirement.



Good Advice for the New Year

Slow Dance

Have you ever watched kids on a merry-go-round
Or listened to the rain slapping on the ground?

Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight
Or gazed at the sun into the fading night?

You'd better slow down, don't dance so fast,
Time is short, the music won't last.

Do you run through each day on the fly?
When you ask, "How are you?" do you hear the reply?

When the day is done, do you lie in your bed with
The next hundred chores running through your head?

You'd better slow down, don't dance so fast,
Time is short, the music won't last.

Ever told a child, "We'll do it tomorrow"
And in your haste, not see his sorrow?

Ever lost touch and let a good friendship die
'Cause you never had time to call and say "Hi"?

You'd better slow down, don't dance so fast,
Time is short, the music won't last.

When you run so fast to get somewhere
You miss half the fun of getting there.

When you worry and hurry through your day
It's like an unopened gift...thrown away.

Life's not a race. Do take it slower.
Hear the music before the song is over.

DO take it slower. Hear the music
Before the song is over.

—Anonymous