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Newsletter of the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association

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Dewey Browder

Picnic, Mabry musical, Bike Ride begin APSURA year

Your APSURA will be off to a fast start this August with the Convocation Picnic, a new musical production by George Mabry, and rest-stop staffing of the Sunrise Rotary's Century Bike Ride. These will be followed by a workshop on Cloud resources, a luncheon, a train excursion to the DelMonaco Winery, and our yearly signature seminar for new retirees, "Straight Talk about Retirement." Please plan to join in for any or all of these events!

Convocation Picnic, the Red Barn, Wednesday Aug. 19, 10:45 a.m. Your APSURA officers and board will once again be geared up to greet members and old friends at the picnic following the University Convocation on Wednesday, Aug. 19. The picnic has proved to be an ideal venue for an easy get-together for us, and the current faculty and staff always look forward to visiting our tables to say hello. Those approaching retirement are especially interested in finding out about us and what we do. The picnic will again be in the Red Barn, beginning around 10:45. If you can help to set up our signs, please come around 10:30. We'll commandeer the tables just inside the door.

Voices, a musical drama, The Mabry Concert Hall, Friday Sept. 4, 7:30 p.m. This musical production, written by APSURAN George Mabry and directed by Lisa Conklin-Bishop, promises to be another unforgettable event on the order of the Mabry/Gildrie production *Ben and the Virtues* of 2011. The work was inspired by Stark Hunter's *Voices from Clark Cemetery*, and is performed with solo voices, actors, two pianos and other instruments. A pre-performance conversation with Mabry, Hunter and others will begin at 6:30 in a room adjoining the hall. See the detailed description by George Mabry beginning on page 3. We predict that the hall will be filled to capacity for this event, so plan to arrive early. Admission will be \$10, with tickets available at the Music Dept. office around August 26.

AP45/8-15/400
Austin Peay State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or any other legally protected class with respect to all employment, programs and activities sponsored by APSU. <http://www.apsu.edu/files/policy/5002.pdf>.

Sunrise Century Bike Ride, Saturday Sept. 5. We will again be staffing rest stops for the Sunrise Rotary Century Bike Ride on Saturday, Sept. 5. You might be surprised at how enjoyable this event is. Just watching hundreds of bikers in their finery coming around the bend on Webb Road and threading through Guthrie is a remarkable experience. You might think you were at the Tour de France. The Rotary club provides all of the food and drink and usually a canopy, and we keep the tables and the drink coolers full. APSURA usually receives an honorarium for participating. If you can join in, please notify David Kanervo at kanervod@apsu.edu by Aug. 15.

Workshop on Cloud resources, Montgomery Co. Library, Wednesday Oct. 7, 3:30 p.m. This workshop will be another in our series of workshops on electronics, concentrating on Cloud storage, backup, device accessibility and Cloud packages available from various vendors. It will be led by Bob Privett and will be interactive, so feel free to bring your notebooks, pads and smart phones for some one-on-one advice and help.

Fall Luncheon, October. The exact date, location and speaker have not yet been set, but we will notify you as this information becomes available. The luncheon is always well attended and enjoyable, and we will look forward to seeing many of you there.

Muddy Roots Train Excursion, Saturday, Nov. 7, 9.5 hours. This trip will begin at the Tennessee Central Railway Museum, 220 Willow St., Nashville, at 8 a.m. and travel to the Del-Monaco Winery close to Cookeville. The trip features wine tasting and music on board, and a tour and wine-tasting at the winery. Participants are encouraged but not required to wear "vintage clothing." "Vintage" is defined as "circa 1954," which we suppose just means that we can wear our older jeans! Lunch will be available at the winery. Cost is \$93.20, payable to APSURA, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044 by Aug. 30. Participants must be 21 or older.

"Straight Talk about Retirement" seminar, Wednesday Nov. 18, MUC, 3-5 p.m. Our APSURA signature event, this yearly seminar drew over 60 attendees last fall. Faculty and staff contemplating retirement are urged to come, and also other current and new employees who want to get a good look ahead at issues they will confront as the years go by. APSURANS are urged to attend to give moral support to new retirees, and to update their own knowledge of new developments. Presenters will again be Drs. John and LuAnnette Butler, Angie Judish of HR, and representatives from TCRS, TIAA-Cref, Great West and Social Security.



Voices is presented by the APSU Department of Music and the Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts, with music by George L. Mabry and poems by Stark Hunter. There will be one performance only, at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 4, 2015, in the George and Sharon Mabry Concert Hall, Music/Mass Communications Building, APSU. Admission is \$10, free for students with ID. A conversation about the work with Mabry, Hunter, and others will begin at 6:30 in a room adjacent to the Hall.

About Voices

George Mabry

Voices is a musical drama written for seven solo voices, two actors, two pianos, one clarinet, one cello and one percussionist. Inspired by the work of Stark Hunter entitled *Voices from Clark Cemetery*, *Voices* incorporates 15 of the epitaphs from Hunter's book (from a total of 73) along with freely adapted text to produce a one hour and 15 minute musical drama. Hunter and his family will be here for the premier of *Voices* on Sept. 4. Clark Cemetery is located in the town of Whittier, California, 16 miles east of Los Angeles. Midwest Quakers settled Whittier, named after the poet John Greenleaf Whittier, around 1887, in search of a suitable home for their religious colony.

Hunter grew up in Whittier, and as an 11-year-old boy in 1963 became fascinated by "this neglected, rather eerie looking place" which gave him the creeps whenever he walked by. In the poet's words, "I truly felt bad for the dead inside and couldn't understand why this quiet final resting place, a place that should be held sacred by the town, had become the decayed mess that it was." For many years, Hunter ideated on the myriad possibilities that life might have held for those "names that were etched carefully and largely in the thick ponderous gravestones."

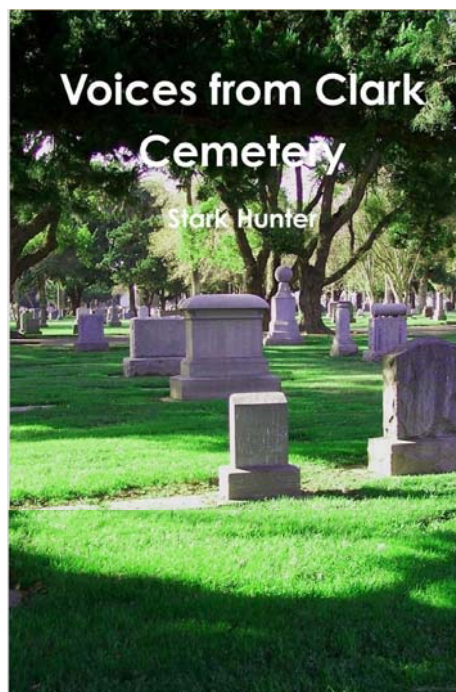
The poems in Hunter's collection are all first-person epitaphs from Whittier's residents who lived during the last two decades of the 19th century through the first two decades of the 20th century. Though the names of the characters and their dates are all factual, the poetic manifestations of their lives are derived from the creative mind of the poet.

Each epitaph reflects the unique qualities of the life led by its name-sake; running the gamut of experiences from simple homespun pleasures to exhilarating joy; from monumental aspirations and successes to mournful regrets, dismal failures, or utter despondency; from adolescent flirtations, sexual experimentation or illicit affairs resulting in broken hearts, to fulfilling marital relationships evidenced by bountiful families nourished with love's unbridled happiness.

These great souls, who founded, lived and thrived in the small town of Whittier, were connected by a common religion and shared beliefs. They shared the gossip central to human nature and knew the intimate details of their neighbors' existence, and they relied on one another for their daily sustenance, their social contacts and endearing, lasting friendships.

In other words, the folks in Whittier formed a microcosm of late 19th century small town America. These good folks shared the common questions of why and how fate or "Fortuna" would determine the pathways toward their destiny. Some dealt with the complexities of life with great humor, some with stoic acceptance or austere self-discipline, while others concluded, out of desperation, that life was just too complex to continue the journey and opted out. And finally, they pondered the inevitable Question: *What is the ultimate meaning of life on this earth; what is the truth, my friend?* As one of the characters in the drama concludes, "In life you find out who you want to be, and in death, you find out who you are."

I have attempted to create a marriage between the music and the poetic texts to form a dramatic musical narrative with a heightened sense of emotion. From this union is derived an art form that many composers before me have labeled, "opera." The term opera usually refers to a dramatic work involving continuous music. *Voices* involves both singing and speaking; therefore, "musical drama" seems a more appropriate descriptive term.



Heidelberg



The wines of Germany and France: A journey worth taking Dewey Browder

*I love everything that is old; old friends, old times, old manners, old books and old wines. - Oliver Goldsmith-
Wine improves with age. The older I get, the better I like it. - Anonymous-*

If you can identify with either of these quotations, the APSU Alumni Association has just the trip for you. From July 6-17, 2016, we will be sampling the wines of Germany and France in situ with discussions on wine production and pairing with foods. Along the way, we will see some fantastic scenery, enjoy stops at historic sites and indulge in local cuisine. All ground travel will be by private coach.

Burg Etz

Our culinary journey will begin in the romantic old German city of Heidelberg where the university has dominated local life since 1386. Our welcome dinner will be in a local brewpub called Vetter, where besides good local wines we will also find the strongest beer in the world. It comes in at just about 12 percent.

Beer is not the point of our trip, but it is important in German culture, so you might want to give this one a try. Martin Luther said "God made wine, but man made beer."

It is earthy! Our stay in Heidelberg will include a walking tour of the old city with visits to the student prison, the *Karzer*, and the old castle. Mark Twain called the Heidelberg castle the "most beautiful ruins north of the Alps."



All the while we are in Heidelberg, the wines of Franken will be calling us, so after recovering from the trans-Atlantic flight, we will board our bus and head for Escherndorf and Nurnberg to try "the manliest of all wines," the strong, dry, robust but fruity Mueller-Thurgau and Silvaner white wines. The wines of Franken come in distinctive, fat-bellied flagons called "Bocksbeutel." We will spend one night in Nurnberg with its medieval castle and walls. There will be free time to just walk and shop or visit either of the two Documentation Centers that tell the story of the Third Reich and the Nurnberg War Crimes Trial. You will want to try the traditional Nurnberger Bratwurst.

After Nurnberg, we will visit the delightful, old walled city of Rothenburg and then have dinner and spend the night in a medieval castle that has been turned into a restaurant and hotel—Burg Colmberg. You will remember this place for the rest of your life. It is fantastic.

Upon departing Franken, which incidentally is so named for the Franks, the same folks who gave France its name, we will bus southward to the city of Stuttgart. Stuttgart is home to both the Mercedes and Porsche factories, and it is also the home of the German Wine Growers Museum. We will visit and taste there.

Three of the most popular red wines in the region are: the Spatburgunder, the Trollinger and the Lemberger. There are blended versions too.

Next, our bus will head even farther south and westward to Strasbourg, France. Enroute, we will visit a winery in Sasbachwalden, a place too tiny for maps, but with elegant wines that thrill the palate.



Burg Colmburg

We will move on *with happy palates* to spend two nights in the APSU campus/chateau, Chateau de Pourtales, in Strasbourg. In Strasbourg, we will sample the wines of Alsace, the wonderful Riesling, the charming and versatile Pinot Grigio and the mysterious Gewurztraminer that is sweet, dry and spicy all at the same time. Our chateau,

Chateau de Pourtales is an Enlightenment era chateau (built in 1750) inspired by Versailles. Here we will participate in a discussion of regional wines and traditional food choices and sample the wines as well. The city of Strasbourg is truly a European city with the European Parliament, the Council of Europe and the Court of Human Rights. The old city is built along canals and features a majestic Gothic cathedral. We will tour the city on foot and by boat.



The Maginot Line ran through this area, and after Strasbourg we will pay a visit to Schoenenburg, one of the best-preserved forts on our way to Trier. Close to Trier is, perhaps, the most picturesque castle in Europe—Burg Eltz. We will see this castle and taste the wines from the Mosel River region.

Rothenburg

The modern state of Rheinland-Pfalz is a major wine-producing area. Mainz is where Gutenberg built and operated the first printing press with movable type. The museum is definitely worth a visit. We will take full advantage of our location and try wines from the German Weinstrasse (Wine Street), the Nahe and Rhein River regions.

The wines from here are mostly white and lively, fruity and fragrant. The German Wine Institute will be an interesting stop for all of us. Of course we will take a cruise on the Rhein River, and then we will close out our trip with a farewell dinner at a local restaurant in Mainz—with wine, of course. Zum Wohl and Bon Appetit!

Thank you for renewing your APSURA membership

Jim Clemmer

A big Thank You to those who have renewed your memberships for 2015-16! The officers and Board appreciate your continued help and support as we head into another year with this good organization. For those who have not yet joined or renewed, remember that dues of \$25 are due as of July 1 each year. New retirees are provided free memberships for the full first fiscal year following retirement, though they have to register for membership by filling out and sending to us the form, or a copy, on the last page of this newsletter.

Other possibilities for payment are our new five-years-for-\$100 option, and the lifetime membership at \$500. Some have already taken advantage of the 5/100 option as a simpler alternative to yearly payments. Please send to APSURA, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044.

Several new retirees have asked what benefits membership in APSURA provides over and above those given all retirees by the University. Probably the best answer is that belonging to APSURA affirms a desire to stay in contact with our colleagues and friends, and our institution, within a visible and communal venue. We might give to the Foundation, belong to the Govs Club, go to departmental functions and attend ball games, but those are not quite the same as knowing we belong to a group that has "been there and done that" yet still maintains an official status and capacity within the university structure. We are looked up to, visible and identifiable at university functions, and our counsel and advice are sought. It really means something to be an APSURAN!

APSURANS also receive additional timely information on upcoming activities and events via email notices, letters

and our monthly NewsNotes, which often fill in the time-sensitive gaps between newsletters. Open meetings of our board of directors and members meetings also provide discussion of new directions we might pursue, and help us keep in touch with the activities of other retiree groups, especially those affiliated with THERA and AROHE, the state and national associations of university retirees.

A final note on something of which all should be aware: It is not always easy to keep a group such as ours going. In most universities, organizations other than retiree groups have more established and easier-to-maintain identities. Alumni associations, athletics clubs, academic groups, all have well-established roles and a built-in momentum which often means they can coast along, assured of their place in the university scheme of things. Until recently, few retiree groups have had this luxury. They, and we, have had to work to gain and keep recognition. Only in a few of the largest universities have retirees found permanent and dependable homes equal to those of the more familiar campus associations. Please remember this the next time you see our APSURA signs and hear us talking up this organization! Success is not automatic.

Again, thank you for joining and renewing your memberships in APSURA. Be assured that your officers and board very much appreciate your support.



*Your officers,
board,
and other
members,
May 2015*

Sharon Mabry produces new CD of art songs

A new CD entitled “Modern American Art Song” featuring Sharon Mabry and pianist Patsy Wade has just been released and is now available from Amazon and other vendors. The production of this CD is just the latest in a long career of major accomplishments by Sharon, with which many of us are familiar, and the CD provides still further examples of the work of contemporary composers to which Sharon has devoted much of her life. Pianist Patsy Wade has been Sharon’s chief collaborator for decades.

Four composers are featured: George Mabry, Kenton Coe, Brian Peterson and Persis Vehar, and most of their songs on this CD set texts from familiar authors. The songs by Mabry, from his *Songs of Reflection* and *Three Cabaret Songs*, set texts by Coleridge, Edna St. Vincent Millay and the often-acerbic Dorothy Parker, while Peterson’s *Moon Songs* provide settings of poems by E. E. Cummings.

Coe’s songs are from *A Family Gathering*, setting poetry by Georgianna Orsini, and Vehar set texts by May Swenson and Barbara Greenberg for her cycle titled *Women, Women*.



Publication Information

The APSURA Newsletter is published quarterly by the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association. A supplement to the Newsletter, the APSURA NewsNotes, is published occasionally to update APSURA members on time-sensitive coming activities and events, both those in which APSURA is participating officially and others recommended by APSURA members. Both the Newsletter and Newsnotes are available at apsu.edu/retirees-association.

We invite APSU retirees to send us specific information about coming activities and events you believe will be of interest to APSU retirees. Please send to Barbara Wilbur at 8wi18ur@charter.net, to Jim Clemmer at clemmerj@apsu.edu or to APSURA at the physical address below, and include exact dates, times, locations, deadlines, costs, etc. We also welcome the submission of original articles for possible publication in the newsletter, especially descriptions of your accomplishments, travels, discoveries, and other experiences as APSU retirees.

Submissions are limited to 500 words and a maximum of three high-resolution photographs. Send texts as regular email (no tabs) or Word attachments to Jim Clemmer at clemmerj@apsu.edu with photographs sent individually as separate .jpg files. Or you may submit typed manuscripts and good-quality photo prints to APSU Retirees Association, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044.

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*Jim Clemmer
clemmerj@apsu.edu*

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On the Web

apsu.edu/retirees-association

See our website for current and past issues of our Newsletter and NewsNotes, a retirement checklist, and information on retiree benefits.



APSU Retirees Association
Box 4426
Clarksville, TN 37044

APSURA New Members Registration Form

Retired faculty or staff

Associate member

Check both of the above boxes if your spouse or partner is joining as an associate member as well.

Dr. ___ Mr. ___ Ms ___ Mrs. ___ Other preferred title _____

Name of member: _____
Last First Middle

Name of spouse/partner: _____
Last First Middle

Address: _____
Number and Street (Apartment Number)

_____ City State Zip Code

Telephones: _____ E-mail addresses: _____

Former department: _____ Years of service _____ Year you retired _____

Activities in which you would like the APSURA to be involved (check all that apply): Group travel; Athletic events; Cultural events; Social events; Scholarship activities; Seminars; Community work; Other _____

Annual Dues for Austin Peay State University Retirees Association are:

Regular (APSU Retiree) Membership \$25.00 Please send to APSURA, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044
Associate Membership \$25.00 5 years for \$100
Additional donation for Scholarship Fund _____ Lifetime Membership \$500