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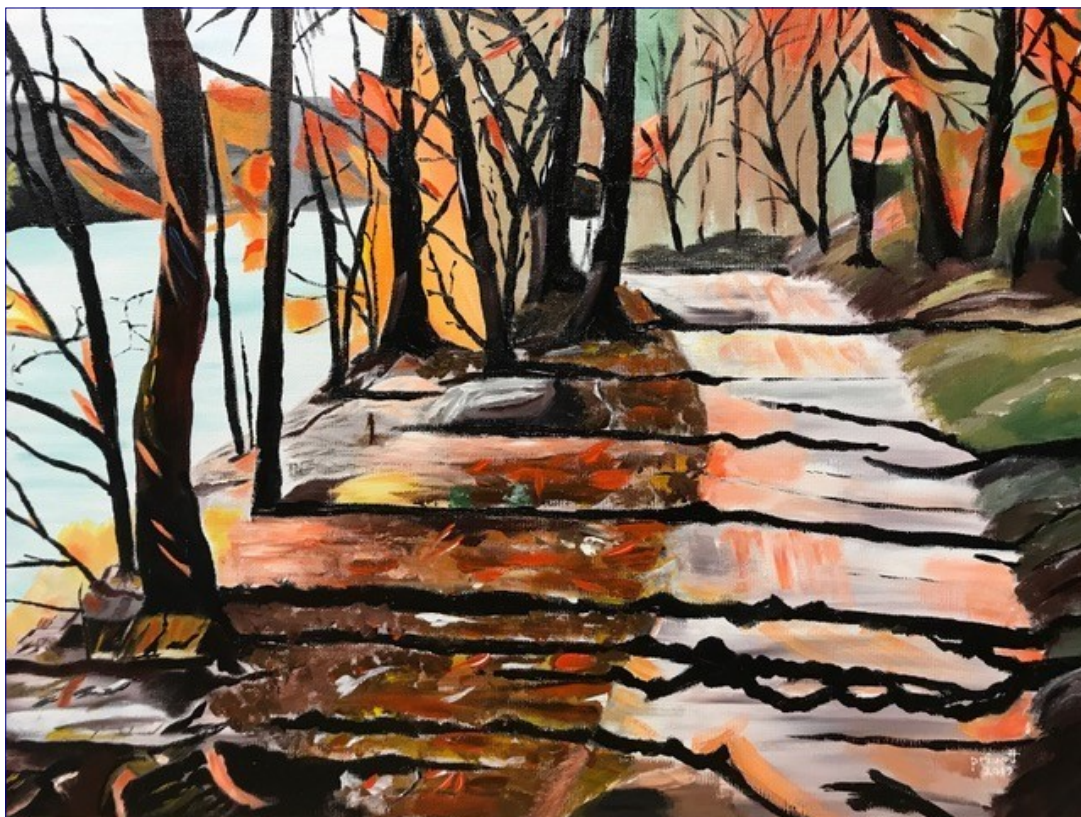
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*Painting: "Fall Creek
Trail," Bob Privett*

AP
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Newsletter of the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association



APSURA to host THERA meeting of state retirees

APSURA will host the thirteenth annual meeting of the Tennessee Higher Education Retirees Association (THERA) at Fall Creek Falls State Park on Nov. 5-6, 2017. Each year in early November the THERA meeting provides an opportunity for representatives of the retiree organizations of state universities to come together to renew friendships and to discuss issues and problems affecting all groups.

Organizations represented usually include those of APSU, UTK, UTC, ETSU, U of M, and sometimes TSU and TTU. Hosting and leadership of the meetings rotate among the associations, each often setting out a special theme or themes as the focus for the meeting. Themes in recent years have included a new, more active vision of retirement, improving the image and outreach of retiree organizations, and participation in national retiree organizations.

APSURA's focus in this meeting will be on "deepening sensibilities and broadening horizons." We will discuss the insights to other lives and other cultures APSURA members are providing in their Connections presentations, and the ways our Straight Talk about Retirement (STAR) seminars are providing retiring employees both essential information and empathy with their uncertainties and fears.

Our two main presenters will be APSURAN Ted Jones, who will reprise his entire Connections event "Playing with Light and Shadow," and HR Benefits Manager Angie Judish, who will discuss the genesis and growth of the STAR program, co-developed by HR and APSURA, and its many contributions to those retiring.

We hope APSURANS and other retirees will join us for the meeting. Many bring their families, and sometimes their dogs, for walks by the lake and to the falls. The meeting begins at 4 p.m.

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday, Nov. 5, and concludes on Monday, Nov. 6, at noon. There is no registration fee, but those attending should register with APSURA before October 20 by sending your name(s), email address and year of retirement from APSU to clemmerj@apsu.edu. That let us know how many to expect.

Room reservation is on your own at the FCF Inn, 800-250-8610 or 423-881-5241. When calling to register, it is best not to mention you are attending a meeting, as the clerk might think you should be charged the convention rate. You will be registering independently as a state retiree, and as such your room rate should include a 25% discount if you register after Oct. 5. Your rate then will be \$78.81 including tax. The rate for a pet will be \$19.95 including tax. All meals will be in the Inn cafeteria.

A THERA gathering from the past. Two THERA pioneers, Sheryl Maxwell of UMAR and Betty Tester of ETSU.



A greeting from your new treasurer

Sharon Silva

Greetings fellow retirees! I am pleased to serve as treasurer of the APSU Retirees Association, my three-year term beginning on July 1 of this year. I retired from Austin Peay in the spring of 2015 after 31 years of service. I was in the Advancement Office (aka Development Office) from 1984 until 2009 and in the Department of Athletics from 2009 until 2015. It was a privilege to work in both of these areas and I am very grateful to have had a long career at such a wonderful institution.

If you have not already done so, please consider joining APSURA or renewing your membership today. Recently the board extended the membership grace period to run through October 1 of each year, so if you haven't yet renewed your membership it is not too late! Keep in mind that there are a few different levels of membership to consider: yearly for \$25 per year, 5-yr for \$100, and Lifetime for \$500, as described on the membership form. Even if you are just renewing, please fill out the form and send it along with your dues, so we can double-check our current records for accuracy of your email address, etc. Send to APSURA Treasurer, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044.

Full membership is open to both faculty and staff retirees. Associate Membership is open to spouses and partners of retirees, retirees from other institutions who have been closely associated with APSU, and to current APSU employees. Associate Membership is \$25 per year. Becoming an active member or associate member is a great way to become acquainted or reacquainted with fellow retirees and maintain a connection with the University.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call or e-mail me at 931-624-8799 or silvas@apsu.edu. I also maintain the APSURA web pages at www.apsu.edu/retirees-association. Check out our web pages when you have a chance.

Thank you very much for your support of APSURA.

Connections for 2017-2018

The 2017-2018 Connections series of presentations is off to a remarkable start this season, with the moving August performance by APSURAN Ted Jones of his one-man show "Playing with Light and Shadow" and the wonderfully creative September exploration of the political world of Webster, Clay, and Calhoun by APSURANS Richard Gildrie and George Mabry. The next Connections event will be on Tuesday, Oct. 24, with APSURAN Eloise Weatherspoon discussing Martin Luther and the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation.

The main purpose of the Connections series is to provide APSURANS and their guests an opportunity to share their knowledge, wide experience and skills for the benefit of each other, APSU, and the wider community. Presentations are designed for both expert and lay-but-curious audiences interested in exploring the frontiers of life and knowledge, with emphasis on new and often surprising information about connections between the old and the new, the familiar and the unfamiliar, the ordinary and the bizarre. Presentations are expected to be of the highest quality, comparable to the best of the Lyceum traditions and such contemporary media as the TED talks.

APSURANS are invited to send proposals for a presentation to APSURA president David Kanervo at kanervod@apsu.edu. Connections events are usually held on the last Tuesday of each month, from 7-8:15 p.m., most often in MMCS 242.

Connections begins year with "Light and Shadow"

Jim Clemmer

APSURAN Ted Jones began our Connections season on Aug. 26 with his one-man show "Playing with Light and Shadow," presented before a sold-out Roxy audience partly as a benefit for the 2017-18 program of the Roxy Regional Theatre.

Ted's show was a meticulous blend of literal and symbolic content, the literal being his autobiographical story of difficulties and counterbalancing joys, the "shadow" and the "light," he has experienced across the decades. The difficulties he recounted arose largely from his trying to find his place as a gay man in a place and age not yet ready for gay people, Clarksville in the early '70s, and traveling to a place that was ready for gay folks, NYC, only to run in the early '80s headlong into the plague of AIDS that was killing people off by the thousands. Then upon returning to Clarksville, he found he could no longer pretend to be someone he wasn't.



The joys he relates were those of making and working with a great many friends in the artistic and musical communities of like souls he found in New York, in the years before many of them suddenly began dying in front of his eyes. Then, after returning to the alien dimensions of Clarksville, the joy of striking out on his own to create and find intellectual and spiritual realities within which he could live, grow, and contribute to his community. He earned a Ph. D. in communication, taught communication and musical theater as a full professor at APSU, and he became a proficient harpist, finally making the harp his main vehicle for communicating his visions of grace and love.

The symbolic and artistic components of Ted's performance reflected and amplified the literal story in a hauntingly beautiful way. He used an electric harp, a real but non-acoustic harp custom fitted with sophisticated electronics that allowed Ted to create the effect that the

harp was a spiritual entity engaging in a duet with him. Ted would take his hands away, and the harp would continue playing. Or Ted would set a loop into motion, then build on top of it. The effect was sometimes profound, saying things the literal story could not.

Ted's performance was stellar in every respect, carefully planned and beautifully executed, with an ideal mix of seriousness and humor. It was evocative of the life experiences of every older person, however dissimilar his or her particular odyssey might have been.

Ted's custom harp for this occasion was the DHC 32 Light, designed and developed by Ted's mentor, harpist Deborah Henson-Conant. It requires an amplifier and incorporates a looper pedal for musical sequences.

Mabry and Gildrie present an elegant Connections evening

On Sept. 26 APSURANS George Mabry and Richard Gildrie delivered the second Connections presentation of the season, a sophisticated distillation of key political personages and concepts from the 19th Century brought to life in ways illustrating their relevance to the political quandaries of our time.

The presentation featured “The Great Triumvirate” of Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, and John C. Calhoun who dominated American politics during the first half of the 19th Century, representing generally the three primary political and regional constituencies of the country at that time. Webster of Massachusetts was the Northerner, representing Northern nationalistic and business interests; Clay of Kentucky represented the Western pioneer spirit; Calhoun of South Carolina represented white Southern interests, defending slavery, states’ rights, and finally advocating secession from the Union.

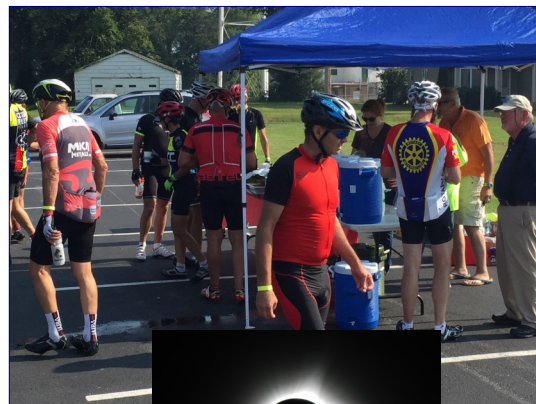
Mabry and Gildrie gave the audience a preview of their new musical drama about the three, “An Elegant Obsession,” book by George and Richard, music and lyrics by George. The work brings to the fore the violent clash of temperaments, wills and beliefs as well as the supreme erudition of these powerful men, as revealed by their brilliant and heated debates. Gildrie and Mabry concentrate for the theme of the drama on the Triumvirate’s hard-won realization that the only hope for the survival of the country in the face of their seemingly insurmountable differences must lie in compromise—the “Elegant Obsession.” This new musical drama promises to equal the brilliance of other Mabry works, inviting comparison especially to the Mabry/Gildrie “Ben and the Virtues.”

Gildrie further explored the theme of compromise by distinguishing among concepts around which the arguments of these men often swirled, especially “Natural Rights” and “Civil Rights.” The sometimes-subtle distinctions among these gave rise to spirited debate among the audience following the presentation.

The most obvious message the presentation conveyed to the audience was never stated, and did not need to be: The world of rational and colorful discourse about political ideas and events represented both by the 19th-century politicians and by the meticulous thinking and craftsmanship of Mabry and Gildrie is a far cry from the shrill cacophony of inane tweets, temper tantrums and threats that passes for political discourse today.

APSURANS
Sharon Silva
and Barbara
Blackston at
the Rotary
Sunrise Cen-
tury Bike
Ride on
Sept. 16

Watching
the eclipse
on Aug. 21



Breakfast with the ROMEOS

Jim Clemmer

Their conversation is in some ways typical of what one hears in other congregations of APSU retirees: some pleasantries, some information, much talk of family and friends, lots of gossip. The big difference is that much of it dates from the '50s, '40s, and occasionally even from the '30s. There is mention of Harvills, Morgans, Woodward, Claxtons, Givens, Sara Wood, who we hear has recently passed away in Oak Ridge. Anything from 1990 on is a current event, still up for debate as to its authenticity and lasting value. And anyone under 80 who attends is regarded as not quite ripe.

ROMEO stands for Retired Old Men Eating Out, founded in 1997 by Ed Irwin and Ken Wibking. I interviewed Ed in the spring of 2012: "Soon after I retired in 1997, I had a phone call from Ken Wibking, who wanted to know whether I had any interest in helping to start up a group of retirees to meet on some kind of regular basis. I replied yes. We called several



Dot Smith and John Butler

others, and the ultimate result was to set up a breakfast get-together at Shoney's for the first Thursday of each month." ROMEO soon proved popular with women as well as men. Ed said, "Dot Smith was an early member, rendering meaningless the gender declaration of the group's title."



Wayne Chester and David Till

That is how ROMEO began, and that is how it remains. They meet, they eat, they enjoy each other's company, they go home. Or off to other adventures.

There are no bylaws,

no officers, agendas, dues, members, "meetings." And they are very proud of that freedom from organizational claptrap. An obvious downside is that there is no mechanism for the preservation of ROMEO as members leave town or die. And maybe that is the way it should be. Don Lambert passed away just this week.



Virginia Tenney and Hazel Irwin

But some of us green ROMEO acolytes worry about that. It is sad to think that this venerable non-institution might pass into oblivion. We wouldn't presume to advocate, proselytize, advertise, or otherwise actively encourage anyone to attend ROMEO. That would violate the spirit and non-letter of the non-group. But sometimes, as in this article, we point to ROMEO and think out loud to ourselves that someone out there might just notice ROMEO and consider infiltrating. BTW, many of the ROMEOS are also APSURANS. We wish all of them were. They wouldn't have to come to meetings or anything. But we would be mighty proud to have them as members.



David Till
Durward Harris
Wayne Chester
Bob Privett

Dot Smith
John Butler
Ken Wibking

Wibking's son

Carl Stedman



Dot Smith, Aaron Hutcheson, Durward Harris

Mary Jane: A clinical investigation

Jim Thompson

[Editor's note: this APSURA report is my synopsis of Thompson's full scientific report. The experiments recounted took place entirely in Colorado, where recreational use of marijuana is legal.]

I bought my first samples of legal Colorado weed in chocolate candy form in Denver on July 10, 2017, from a vendor/coach named Andy. Andy told me what to expect and when to expect it, and my wife Linda watched to provide additional notes, finally joining the experiment.

The following are my subjective experiences reported as objectively as possible. I am, after all, a living human being with vulnerabilities and feelings who also just happens to be a Ph.D. biologist/Medical Technologist. I don't think I have run totally amok. I am not Cheech & Chong.

My first experiment, that night, with one chocolate taffy dose of Centennial State Cheeba, proved clinically significant. My wife giggled at my FB posts, and I knocked my mouse off the table, but nothing unusual about that. Nothing else happened for three hours.

Experimental note #5 part a at 180 minutes: "Subject showed modest change in balance, some time-dilation and clouding of mental processes. Subject reported not enjoying sense of loss of full autonomy since subject is self-report control freak. Subject did note some relief of arthritic pain. Subject's wife reported that subject forgot to lower commode lid."

Experimental note #5 part b at 240 minutes: "Subject's desired hypnotic effect upon whole body supination did not arrive. Instead, mental agitation and mild anxiety predominated, followed by spectacular visual hallucination. Subject experienced vivid internal fireworks display with large red and smaller multicolored optical phosphenes with 3D swirling and other motions. Subject experienced no aural hallucinations, but external sounds were louder and more intrusive. Especially when subject's wife coughed.

"Subject experienced unpleasant vertigo not unlike the feelings subject associates with acute ethanol overconsumption. Subject believes he had cleared 0.25 L con-prandial margarita ethanol before experiment began, but cannot remove conflation of any impact from daily 100 mg Lyrica dose just before experiment began. Subject again noted relief of arthritic pain. Subject's wife is contemplating a half dose experiment tomorrow."

July 12, Experiment #3, the conjugal double experiment, Subject J and Subject L. "Two subjects, spouses, each consume one half of one chocolate taffy dose of Chocopot, in pursuit of science, at 9 p.m. MDT, anticipating liftoff around 11 p.m., just prior to supination. Subject L reported mild sparkling and twirling of multi-colored optical phosphenes and perception of waves in the bathtub (non-whirlpool), precipitating giggles, in itself perhaps a symptom of Chocopot.

Conclusion: Though a limited study involving only two subjects and one strain of *Cannabis* over four days, our tentative conclusion is that the active ingredient in legal recreational marijuana can provide beneficial hypnotic and analgesic effects for persons with chronic arthritic joint pain. It can also provide some fun.

Linda and Jim at the Convocation picnic draped in greenery presumably left over from Denver.



MEMBERS AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2017

Your officers and board appreciate each and every one of you. For questions about your membership status, write Membership Director Nancy Smithfield at smithfieldn@apsu.edu or Treasurer Sharon Silva at silvas@apsu.edu.

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*=5 yr **= Lifetime

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On the Web

apsu.edu/retirees-association

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

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 will soon be available again 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 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.

Please let us know of retirees who for some reason are not receiving the Newsletter, and of errors or needed changes in your own name and address. If you would prefer not to receive the printed copy of the Newsletter, please notify Membership Director Nancy Smithfield (smithfieldn@apsu.edu). If you are not a member of APSURA but would like to receive the Newsletter via email, please notify Nancy Smithfield and provide her your email address.

APSURA Members Registration Form

☐ New member ☐ Renewing member ☐ Retired faculty or staff ☐ Associate member

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

Dr.____ Mr.____ Ms____ Mrs.____ Date_____

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:

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

